LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) FOR MULTILANE HIGHWAY AND ROAD ACCIDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT OF BATU PAHAT AREA

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my lovely wife,

Ida Aryanie Bte Bahrudin

my loving parents,

Tn Hj Abdullah Bin Suramin and Pn Hjh Zabedah Bte Ismail,

my brothers and sister

Mohd Ezath, Herdayanty and Mohd Ezar

and last but not least, my nieces,

Nurul Balqis and Nurul Farah Fisha.

Thank you for all the love, spirit, sacrifices and for having your faith in me.

May Allah S.W.T bless you in possible way.

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, the advance of Database Management System (DBMS) and Software Tools as an information system which can store and analyses various types of data efficiently had prompted many users to exploit its advantages for their respective fields. In Malaysia, the original products of DBMS and Software Tools have been widely used in fields like urban planning, land management and property valuation. As for traffic engineering users, it is still at the beginning stage. Therefore, to enhance this technology into the traffic engineering fields, the Level of Service (LOS) for Multilane Highway and Road Accident Information System (LORIS) is developed. The main function of LORIS is to analyse LOS which is very important issue for traffic engineer because it describes the traffic operational conditions within a traffic stream. Besides that, road accident data and basic highway information was also included in this system. In this study, the potential of using this system in traffic and accident analysis were conducted only at Batu Pahat area, which is among the highest road accident rate in Malaysia. The objectives are to develop a database and information system to determine the LOS, road accident information and basic highway information. To achieve this, Microsoft Access 2003 was utilised incorporating with Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0. As the results, an effective computerised LOS calculation system had been developed together with road accident and highway information system. The system has been calibrated and validated to obtain reliable results.

ABSTRAK

Kebelakangan ini, kelebihan Sistem Pengurusan Pangkalan Data (DBMS) dan Perkakasan Perisian sebagai sistem maklumat yang boleh menyimpan dan menganalisa pelbagai data secara berkesan telah menggalakkan ramai pengguna mempraktikkannya dalam bidang yang mereka ceburi. Di Malaysia, produk yang dihasilkan daripada DBMS dan Perkakasan Perisian telah digunakan secara meluas dalam bidang seperti perancangan bandar, pengurusan tanah dan penilaian harta. Manakala penggunaannya dalam bidang kejuruteraan lalulintas masih pada peringkat awal. Oleh itu, untuk mengaplikasikan teknologi ini dalam kejuruteraan lalulintas. sistem Tahap Perkhidmatan untuk Lebuhraya Berbilang Lorong dan Maklumat Kemalangan Jalanraya (LORIS) telah diperkenalkan. Fungsi utama LORIS adalah untuk menganalisa tahap perkhidmatan jalan (LOS) bagi mengenalpasti keadaan aliran bagi sesuatu lalulintas. Selain itu, maklumat kemalangan jalanraya dan maklumat asas jalanraya juga disertakan dalam sistem ini. Kawasan kajian bagi mengukur kebolehan sistem ini adalah di daerah Batu Pahat yang merupakan antara kawasan yang mempunyai kadar kemalangan yang tertinggi di Malaysia. Objektif bagi kajian ini adalah untuk membina pangkalan data dan sistem maklumat bagi menentukan LOS, menyimpan maklumat kemalangan jalanraya dan maklumat asas jalanraya. Bagi merealisasikannya, kombinasi Microsoft Access 2003 dan Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0 telah digunakan. Hasilnya, sebuah sistem berkomputer yang efektif melibatkan pengiraan LOS yang digabungkan dengan sistem maklumat asas jalanraya dan juga sistem maklumat kemalangan jalanraya. Sistem ini juga telah diuji dan disahkan bagi mendapatkan keputusan yang tepat.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGES
	THESIS VALIDATION	
	SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION	
	TITLE	i
	DECLARATION	ii
	DEDICATION	iii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
	ABSTRACT	v
	ABSTRAK	vi
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
	LIST OF TABLES	xi
	LIST OF FIGURES	xii
	LIST OF SYMBOLS	xiv
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xv

				viii
I	INT	RODUC	TION	1
	1.1	Introd	uction	1
	1.2	Proble	em Statement	2
	1.3	Aim o	of the Research	3
	1.4	Objectives of the Research		3
	1.5	Scope	of the Research	4
	1.6	Limita	ation of the Research	4
	1.7	Resea	rch's Importance and Contributions	5
	1.8	Metho	odology of the Dissertation	6
II	LITI	ERATUI	RE REVIEW	8
	2.1	Multil	ane Highway Capacity	8
		2.1.1	Definitions and Characteristics	8
		2.1.2		11
		2.1.3		16
			2.1.3.1 Determination of free-flow speed	16
			2.1.3.2 Determination of Flow Rate	24
			2.1.3.3 Determination of level of service	30
	2.2	Road	Accident Studies in Malaysia	32
	55	2.2.1	Background of Road Accident	32
			2.2.1.1 The driver	33
			2.2.1.2 The Vehicle	34
			2.2.1.3 The Environment	34
			2.2.1.4 The Roadway	34
		2.2.2	·	35
		2.2.3	Production of the accident database	39
	2.3		on the Background and Usage Software	46
	2,3	2.3.1		46
			Database Management System Management Information System	
		2.3.2	Management Information System	48
		2.3.3	Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0	49

				ix
		2.3.4	Microsoft Access 2003	52
		2.3.5	Study on the Existing Software	54
			2.3.5.1 HCS-Multilane	54
			2.2.5.2 HIGHPLAN	54
Ш	RES	EARCH	METHODOLOGY	57
	3.1	Introd	uction	57
	3.2	Syster	n Development Life Cycle (SDLC)	58
	3.3	Water	fall Model	59
		3.3.1	Phase I: Feasibility and System Planning	60
		3.3.2	Phase II: Requirement Analysis	60
			3.3.2.1 Requirement Identification	61
			3.3.2.2 Requirement Analysis	62
			3.3.2.3 Determination of Requirement	69
			3.3.2.4 Requirement Specification	69
		3.3.3	Phase III: System Design	69
		3.3.4	Phase IV: Coding	70
		3.3.5	Phase V: Program Testing	71
		3.3.6	Phase VI: Operation and Maintenance	72
IV	RESU	U LTS A	ND ANALYSIS	73
	4.1	Introd	uction	73
	4.2	Main	Interface Display	74
	4.3	Admir	nistrator Part	76
	4.4	The U	ser Part	82

V	FIND	ING A	NALYSIS	84
	5.0	Introd	uction	84
	5.1	Sectio	n A: Administration System Design	85
	5.2	Sectio	n B: Design Presentation	86
	5.3	Sectio	n C: Design Calculation	87
	5.4	Sectio	n D: Design Information	88
	5.5	Section	n E: Overall System Design	89
	5.6	Concl	usions	90
VI	CONC	CLUSIC	ON AND RECOMMENDATION	91
	6.1	Introd	uction	91
	6.2 Comparison of advantages and disadvantages		arison of advantages and disadvantages	
		of the	methodology used	92
		6.2.1	The Advantages of the Waterfall model	
			as SDLC	92
		6.2.2	The Disadvantages of the Waterfall	
			model as SDLC	93
	6.3	Compa	arison of the Advantages and the	
			vantages of LORIS	93
		6.3.1	The Advantages of LORIS	93
		6.3.2	The Disadvantages of LORIS	94
	6.4	Concl	usions	95
	6.5	Recon	nmendations	96
	BIBL	IOGR <i>A</i>	АРНУ	97
	APPE	NDIX		102

LIST OF TABLES

NO.	THLE	PAGES
2.1	LOS Criteria for Multilane Highway	20
2.2	Adjustment for Lane Width	21
2.3	Adjustment for Lateral Clearance	22
2.4	Adjustment for Median Type	22
2.5	Access-Point Density Adjustment	23
2.6	Passenger-Car Equivalent on Extended General Highway	
	Segments	27
2.7	Passenger-Car Equivalents for Truck and Buses on Uniform	
	Upgrades	28
2.8	Passenger-Car Equivalents for RVs on Uniform Upgrades	29
2.9	Passenger-Car Equivalents for Trucks on Downgrades	29
2.10	Worst Ranking by Weightage from 1999 – 2001	38
5.1	Level of Influenced based on Score Min Range	85
5.2	Level of influence in assisting administrator of PWD	86
5.3	Level of influence for presentation design	87
5.4	Level of influence for calculation design	88
5.5	Level of influence for information design	89
5.6	Level of influence of overall system design	90

LIST OF FIGURES

NO.	IIILE	TAGES
1.1	General Methodology for the Dissertation	7
2.1 (a)	Divided multilane highway in a rural environment	9
2.1 (b)	Divided multilane highway in a suburban environment	9
2.1 ©	Undivided multilane highway in a rural environment	10
2.1 (d)	Undivided multilane highway in a suburban environment	10
2.2 (a)	Level of Service A for Multilane Highway	13
2.2 (b)	Level of Service B for Multilane Highway	13
2.2 ©	Level of Service C for Multilane Highway	14
2.2 (d)	Level of Service D for Multilane Highway	14
2.2 (e)	Level of Service E for Multilane Highway	15
2.2 (f)	Level of Service F for Multilane Highway	15
2.3 (a)	Speed-Flow Relationships on Multilane Highways	17
2.3 (b)	Density-Flow Relationships on Multilane Highways	17
2.4	Speed-Flow Curves with LOS Criteria for Multilane	
	Highways	19
2.5	Rear-end collision caused by drivers close-following and	
	looking at aftermath of earlier accident	33
2.6	Fatalities by Road Category	36
2.7	Fatalities by Road User	37
2.8	Production of Malaysian Accident Database	43
2.9	Visual Basic 6 Environment	51
3.1	The Classic Waterfall Model	60

xiii

3.2	Requirement Analysis Process	61
3.3	Main Activities in Requirement Analysis Process	63
3.4	ERD Notations	64
3.5	ERD for LORIS System	65
3.6	Four Basic Symbols in DFD, Meaning and Example	66
3.7	DFD Level 0	67
3.8	DFD Level 1	67
3.9	DFD Level 2	68
3.10	DFD Level 3	68
4.1	Main Interface Display	74
4.2	Login interface for user and administrator	75
4.3	The warning message box for incorrect ID or password	75
4.4	The main menu for administrator	76
4.5	The LOS Calculation interface	77
4.6	The LOS Report interface	78
4.7	The Road Accident Information interface	79
4.8	The Road Accident Information report	79
4.9	The Highway Information interface	80
4.10	The Highway Information report	81
4.11	Map of Batu Pahat interface	82
4.12	Accident Module for user	83
A 15	Highway Information Module for Llear	02

LIST OF SYMBOLS

D - Density (pc/km/ln)

DBMS - Database Management System

DFD - Data Flow Diagram

ERD - Entity Relationship Diagram

GUI - Graphical User Interface

HCM - Highway Capacity Manual

HPU - Highway Planning Unit

MAAP - Microcomputer Accident Analysis Package

MARRIS - Malaysian Road Records Information System

MIS - Management Information System

LORIS - Level of Service for Multilane Highway and Road

Accident Information System

LOS - Level of Service

PDRM - Polis Di-Raja Malaysia PWD - Public Work Department

S - Average passenger-car travel speed (km/h)

SDLC - System Development Life Cycle

SPSS - Statistical Package for Social Science software

TWRTL - Two Way Right Turn Lane
VB 6.0 - Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0

v_p - Flow Rate (pc/h/ln) v/c - Volume / Capacity

LIST OF APPENDIXES

NO.	TITLE	PAGES
A	Questionnaire Form	102
В	Coding	105

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Twenty years ago only a limited number of practitioners had access to the large-frame computers required to use computerised traffic modelling tools. Highway or transportation departments, large metropolitan areas, universities, and large companies were the fortunate few. Others had to use analytical, manual techniques, or pay a high price for commercial computer services.

Now, microcomputers are as commonly available as the electronic calculators of the 70s and, while more expensive than calculators, are easily within the economic reach of virtually every transportation professional in most locations throughout the world.

Developers of computerised traffic tools, such as the universities and private organisations have promulgated a substantial suite of software tools for every phase of transportation planning and engineering in the past decades.

The largest single group of software concerns traffic analysis, road accident and basic highway information. Traffic analysis software tools have a wide range of applications. Some of them provide an alternative to manual applications of widely used highway capacity analysis procedures. Others utilise simulation for evaluation of the impact of changing traffic patterns, geometric designs and control strategies. Also a number of tools have imbedded optimisation capabilities to allow the development of the best control strategies (Sabra, *et al.* 2000).

Despite the abundance of traffic operations software, the lack of understanding of such software among the executive and management levels of the transportation engineering profession has inhibited software applications. Many public and private leaders in the profession do not know what software is available or about its capabilities.

Besides the software tools, databases have been in use since the earliest days of electronic computing in Malaysia, beginning with the custom programs written to access custom databases. Today, modern systems can be applied to widely different databases and needs, these systems were tightly linked to the database in order to gain speed at the price of flexibility. The technology is widely used in many agencies like the City Hall and Town Council as their town information system for territory planning (Keat Leong, 1998).

1.2 Problem Statement

Before this research was done, several analysis on related problems and needs have been identified such as time management for data collecting and data analysing. Problem from time management; some data are stored in different source(s). It is inconvenience if the data are at difference source(s) at the same time. On the analysis side, user(s) have to spend more time on reference table while conducting the LOS analysis.

1.3 Aim of the Research

The aim of the research is to design and develop a computerised system in order to help user in accessing information and analysing LOS data accurately. The system that had been developed will replace the existing manual system used by traffic engineers and the person who involve in the road accident analysing process.

1.4 Objectives of the Research

Based on the stated problem statement, an information storage system is needed to ensure all the data and information are organize. Therefore, the maintenance and traffic system can be done easily. So, the objectives for this research are:

- to develop a database and information system for road accident information and basic highway information,
- ii. to create a user friendly system, i.e. to obtain information from the provided databases, and
- iii. to develop a system, i.e to analyse the LOS for Multilane Highway.

1.5 Scope of the Research

The scope in this research covers the development of database that would be able to determine the level of services (LOS) for a Multilane Highway. The analysis is based on Highway Capacity Manual, HCM 2000. Besides that, development of database and information system for road accident and basic highway information which is based on Malaysian Road Records Information System, MARRIS 2000 Report was also included. The study area used in this study is the Batu Pahat district.

1.6 Limitation of the Research

This research limitation is basically due to the time constraint to perform the study. The problems occur because of the data needed are stored at different government department. The other reasons are the data are manually stored and the existing system is not very user friendly. Hence, the limitations of this research are:

- i. the LOS system, the analysis is for the operational and planning only,
- ii. database development for road accident and highway information system is for expressway, federal and state roads in Batu Pahat only,
- iii. sample of accident data is only from 1st June 2005 to 30th June 2005.

1.7 Research's Importance and Contributions

This research fulfils the need of the person who involves in analyzing and manages the traffic system in Batu Pahat. The existing manual system will be replaced by the computerised system:

Therefore, the contributions of this research are:

- (i) to simplify the management information process,
- (ii) to assist the traffic engineer or traffic analyst to analyse the Level of Service (LOS) easily and accurately,
- (iii) to provide a secured database system with a security protection,
- (iv) to reduce the used of paper in order to create a paperless society in managing and analysing traffic and road accident, and
- (v) to provide automatic information browsing process.

1.8 Methodology of the Study

Generally the methodology for this study is shown in Figure 1.1. During initial stage, work planning process were done to determine the problems in analyses, collecting and management data for Level of Service (LOS) for Multilane Highway and road accident in Batu Pahat. Observations show that the works is done manually.

Based on these problems, methods of analysis were planned and listed. Then, a plan to identify the related data and information that needed for this researched was done. This is to ensure the smooth process in collecting all the sources.

The next process was to analyse the data and information that were collected from the specific agencies and departments. Then the databases and system development was done by using Microsoft Access 2003 and Visual Basic 6.0 There were two types of data in this system which are graphic and non graphic data. The map of Batu Pahat has been used as graphical data while road accident information and basic highway information had been used as non graphical data.

The system has undergone several testing to improve its capability. There were minor and major corrections before the system is completed. Besides that, the system was also tested by samples of users based on the given questionnaire. Lastly, the conclusions and recommendations were made for this researched.

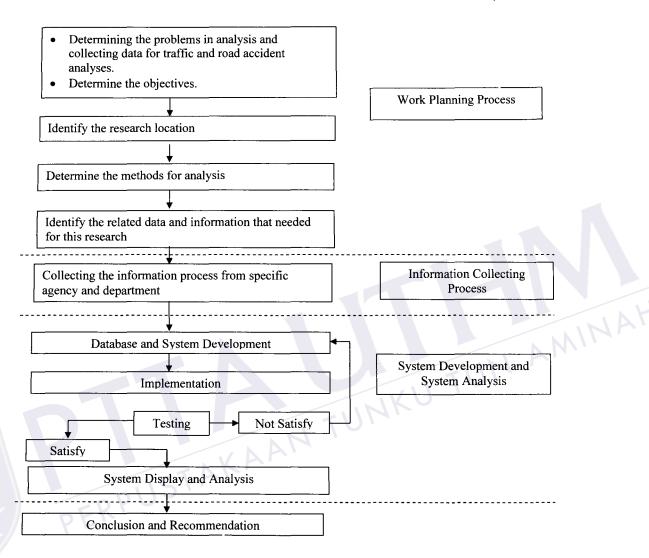


Figure 1.1: General methodology for the dissertation

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

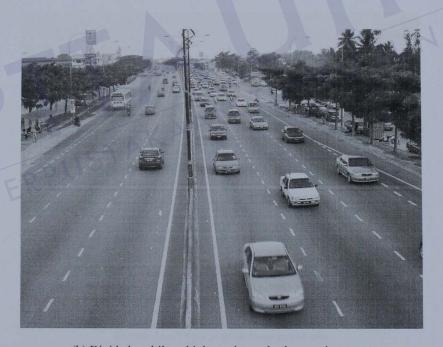
2.1 Multilane Highway Capacity

2.1.1 Definitions and Characteristics

Multilane highways exist in a number of settings, from typical suburban communities leading to central cities or along high-volume rural corridors that connect two cities or significant activities generating a substantial number of daily trips. They generally have posted speed limits of between 60 km/h and 90 km/h. They usually have four or six lanes, often with physical medians or two-way right turn lane (TWRTL), although they may also be undivided. Illustrations of the variety of multilane highway configurations are provided in Figure 2.1.



(a) Divided multilane highway in a rural environment



(b) Divided multilane highway in a suburban environment



(c) Undivided multilane highway in a rural environment



(d) Undivided multilane highway in a suburban environment

Figure 2.1: Typical multilane highways

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