

## **Congestion Maps**

The congestion maps estimate the level of congestion in the year 2040 if no additional transportation projects are implemented. This is often called the No Build Scenario. In this case, the travel demand model puts the trip demand for the 2040 population and 2040 employment on to the current transportation network that might also have a few additional approved projects (e.g., East End Connector) that are close to beginning construction.

The attached maps depict the level of congestion by dividing the traffic volume by the road capacity. So, if the road has 8,000 vehicle trips per hour and the road capacity is 10,000 vehicles; the V/C (volume to capacity value) will be 0.80. Note that the MPO's travel demand model uses a Level of Service (LOS) of "E," or the  $V/C = 1.0$ . Most motorists would experience LOS E as highly congested and the overall travel delay would be great especially in urban areas and those areas with intersections and driveways. Thus, most users of these maps will want to consider a roadway as congested and needing improvements as the V/C approaches 0.85, which is an approximation for the threshold for LOS D.