Request for Research Funding for FY 2020-2021			
Requesting Office	Transportation Data and Analytics Office	**Priority**	1 of 1(projects may not have the same ranking – no ties)
Anticipated timeframe for submitting project scope (if approved)			02/2020
Proposed Title			Development of Congestion Factors for Adjusting Traffic Counts During Congested Periods
Justification			Traffic flow during congested periods is characterized by the stop-and-go phenomenon and tailgating. During these periods, volume counts from loop detectors underreport the actual volumes. In addition, vehicles are misclassified as a tailgating vehicle is combined with a lead vehicle and thrown into a wrong category in the F-Scheme. The internal review of the hourly counts collected from the continuous count sites suggests that there is need to quantify the degree of miscounts and misclassifications during congested periods and develop congestion factors to improve the quality of traffic data.
Impact			The results of this research undertaking will have statewide and national impacts given that transportation data disseminated by the Transportation Data and Analytics Office is used by various stakeholders such as FHWA, MPOs, local agencies, and consultants for planning, design, operations, and allocation of resources. Thus, improved quality of volume and classification data is of utmost importance and a core mission activity of FDOT Transportation Data and Analytics Office.
Affected Offices			This proposed project will involve a range of FDOT Offices and stakeholders, including: • FDOT Transportation Data and Analytics Office • FDOT Forecasting & Trends Office • FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations Office • FDOT District Offices • Federal Highway Administration • Metropolitan Planning Organizations • Various local city departments throughout the State of Florida
Existing Work			There is no similar research supported by FDOT in the past or for the fiscal year 2020/2021.
Funding Request	$200,000	**Anticipated Duration**	18 months
Project Manager	Joey Gordon	**Contracting Method**	Direct contract with the Florida State University
Urgency	Score 1		Accurate and high-quality data for decision-making, project selection, and resource allocation is urgently needed by various stakeholders that rely on traffic data put out by the Transportation Data and Analytics Office.
Implementability	Score 1		The congestion factors that will be developed through this research project will be incorporated into the work-flow processes used to develop hourly volume and classification counts, thus they are highly implementable. Rigorous checks and oversight will be put in place to ensure that the congestion factors are properly verified and validated prior to implementation.
Project Benefits (Select all that apply and explain)			
Project Benefits	**Quantifiable Benefits (units, dollars, etc…if applicable)**	**Methodology or Data Sources Used to Determine Quantifiable Benefits. If not applicable, please give justification of project benefits**	
o Materials Enhancement		This project is not material-related.	
o Materials Savings		Not applicable.	
o Time Savings		A reduction in staff time used to analyze and verify traffic counts during the congested periods is expected following the implementation of congestion factors.	

o	Lives Saved/Injuries Prevented		Not applicable.
o	Other (Explain)		Both tangible and intangible benefits of high-quality data are expected resulting in cost-savings, time-savings, and sound programmatic decisions made based on accurate and high-quality traffic data.

*Comments should explain and support urgency, financial benefit, and implementability scores