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Project Information Form

Project Title:	Evaluation of Sketch-Level Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Quantification Tools
University:	University of California, Davis
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Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization):	California Department of Conservation (DOC), Strategic Growth Council - $150,000.15
Total Project Cost:	$150,000.15
Agency ID or Contract Number:	DOC Agreement #3014-368 Project # UCD-SGC-201
Start and End Dates:	June 29, 2015 - June 30, 2017
Brief Description of Research Project:	The State of California has enacted ambitious policies that aim to reduce the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Some of these policies focus on reducing the amount of driving throughout the state, measured in vehicle miles traveled (VMT), given that transportation, primarily automobile use, is the largest single source of California's GHG emissions. To encourage local plans and projects that reduce VMT, California has established several grant programs to which local jurisdictions may apply. These grant programs have generated a need for methods to estimate the potential VMT – and thus GHG – impacts of proposed planning efforts, land development projects, and transportation projects. Many VMT estimation methods are available today, ranging from regional travel demand models to spreadsheet-based calculations. The simpler "sketch" models have emerged to assist local jurisdictions and planning departments in measuring the VMT effects of land use decisions, and vary in their approach and appropriateness for the breadth of potential development projects and project locations. This has left practitioners with an open question as to which method to use for a particular project and little empirical information to guide their decision. In this report, the researchers compare and evaluate VMT estimation tools across a sample of land use projects. They compare the results from

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	different tools for each project, consider the applicability of methods in particular contexts and for different types of projects, and assess data needs, relative ease of use, and other practical considerations.
Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented): Place any photos here	
Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated):	The results of this project will provide technical assistance to build the capacity of potential Sustainable Communities Planning Grants and Incentives Program applicants, and others wishing to gain better understanding of these VMT quantification tools.
Web Links • Reports • Project website	https://ncst.ucdavis.edu/project/evaluation-of-sketch-level-vehicle-miles-traveled-vmt-quantification-tools/