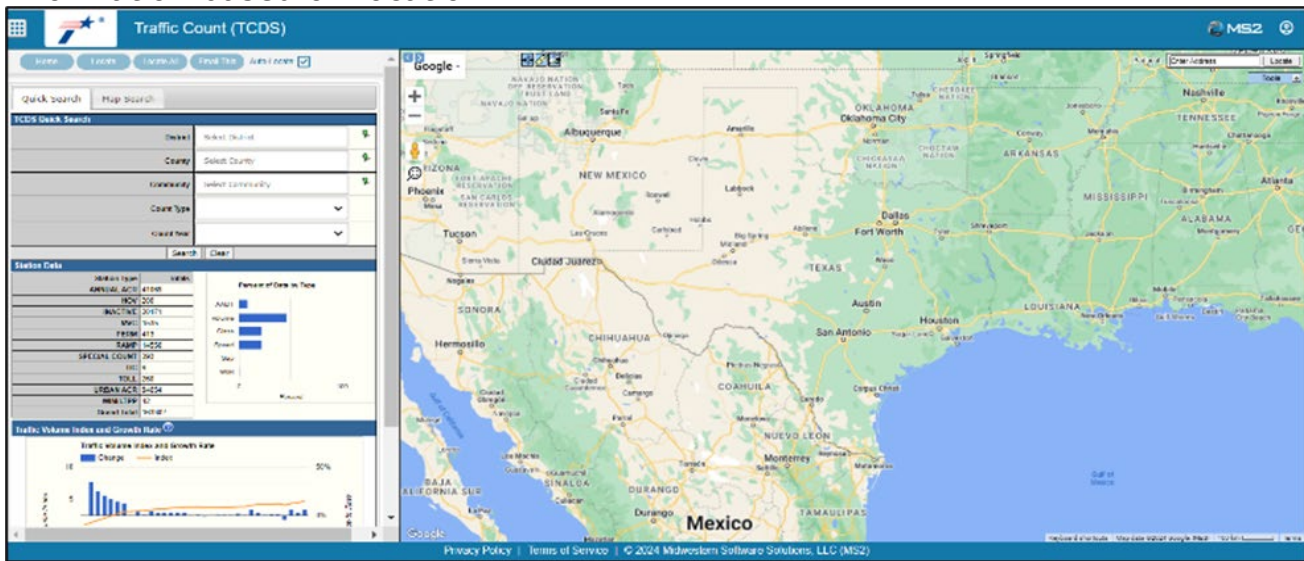


# STARS II User Guide

For use with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) MS2 Traffic Count Data System module.

This guide provides steps to view detailed traffic count data in the TxDOT Statewide Analysis and Reporting System II (STARS II) map view. Please note that the STARS II website is subject to change, and its appearance may differ from the images and guidance in this document.

STARS II provides map-based searching, which allows users to find traffic count information based on location.



**Speed Tip:** Zoom in to an area before turning the station layers on.

**Using Tools:** Features are similar to Google Maps. Additional features include selecting a group of stations by drawing a polygon or buffer around a set of stations.

**TxDOT Map Layers:** In addition to traffic data layers, functional class, railroad, bridge, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Road Network, and TxDOT District layers can also be added for reference.

**System Profiles:** Map Searching is available for all STARS II system users, including public users.

**Pre-Requisite Information:** Familiarity with online maps and different types of TxDOT traffic stations is beneficial for using the map search.

## How to do a Map-Based Search

Access the STARS II Website at <https://txdot.public.ms2soft.com/tcds> The 'Map Search' tab on the left side of the screen provides general information on doing a map-based search.

The screenshot displays the Traffic Count (TCDS) website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the Texas state logo and the text "Traffic Count (TCDS)". Below the header, there are navigation buttons: "Home", "Locate", "Locate All", "Email This", and "Auto-Locate" (with a checked checkbox). The main content area is divided into two sections. On the left, there is a "Quick Search" tab and a "Map Search" tab. Below these tabs, there is a section titled "TCDS Search By Map" with a list of instructions:

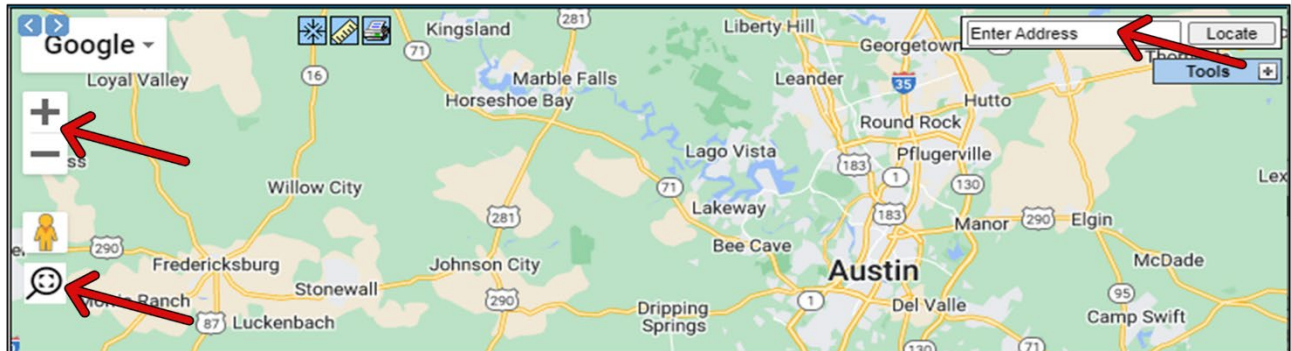
1. Use the Map Tools to zoom to an area for review.
2. Turn on the TCDS Locations/Labels from the Tools/TCDS Menu (if it is not already on.)
3. Select a marker or Select by Polygon to review locations and counts. Markers may not show up until zooming in closer.

On the right side of the interface, there is a Google Maps view showing a map of Texas and surrounding areas. The map includes labels for cities like Amarillo, Lubbock, and San Antonio, and states like TEXAS, CHIHUAHUA, COAHUILA, NUEVO LEON, DURANGO, and TAMAUULIP. The word "Mexico" is prominently displayed at the bottom of the map area. At the bottom of the page, there are links for "Privacy Policy" and "Terms of Service" and a copyright notice "© 2024".

## Step 1: Zoom to an Area of Interest

There are several options for zooming to an area of interest:

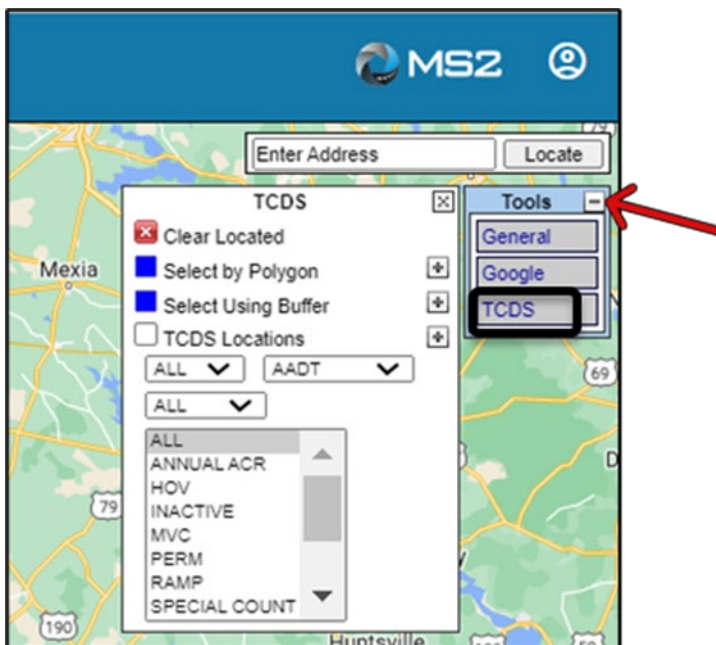
1. Type a city name and state in the address locator on the upper right and click locate (e.g., Abilene, TX).
2. Use the plus and minus buttons on the upper left to zoom in, then pan by clicking the mouse.
3. Use the magnifier on the upper left to select an area by drawing a rectangle.



## Step 2: Open the Map Tools

Click the +/- sign on the upper right to expand the 'Tools' menu.

Click the 'TCDS' (Traffic Count Database System) button at the bottom of the 'Tools' menu. The 'TCDS' menu should open just to the left of the 'Tools' menu.



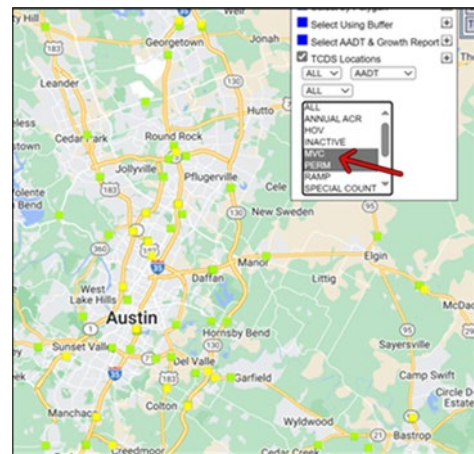
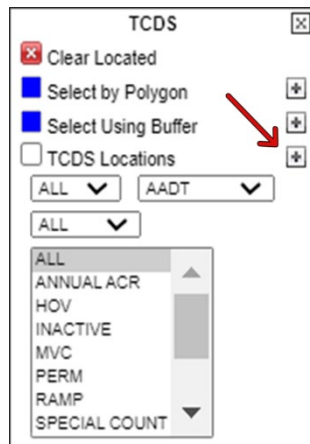
## Step 3: Configure Traffic Stations

**Note:** The location of the menus can vary depending on the user's computer or phone configuration.

Use the drop-down menus at the bottom of the 'TCDS' menu to configure the stations that will display.

The top drop-down menu displays stations by category and defaults to showing all stations. 'Annual ACR' (Accumulative Count Recorders) and 'Urban ACR' are commonly requested station types. 'Annual ACR' will display the annual cycle counts, and 'Urban ACR' will display the 5-year cycle counts.

Click the +/- sign to the right of 'TCDS Locations' for information about the station types:

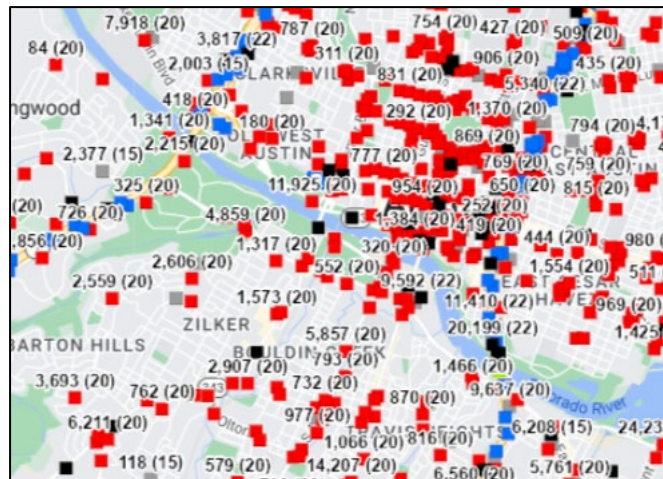
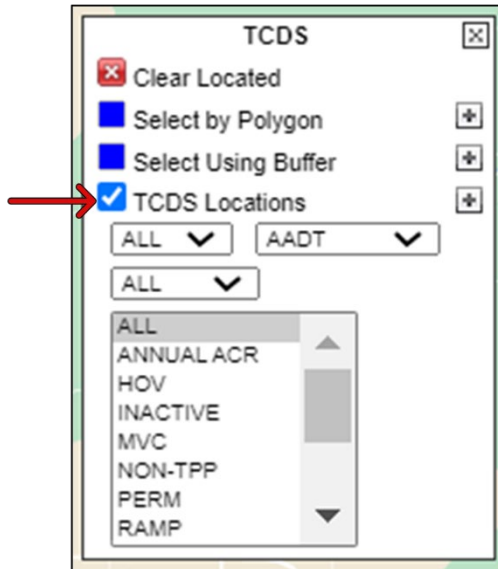


**Note:** You can also select multiple categories by holding the 'Control' key and selecting any combination of categories. Above is an example of selecting only MVC and PERM category stations to display:

- The top left drop-down menu is used to select a specific year and, by default, is set to all years. The most recent count for all stations is displayed when 'all' years are selected. To view a specific prior year, select a year from this drop-down menu.
- The top left drop-down menu is used to select a specific year and, by default, is set to all years. The most recent count for all stations is displayed when 'all' years are selected. To view a specific prior year, select a year from this drop-down menu.
- The 'AADT' drop-down menu toggles between AADT and traffic station ID (Identification) labeling. AADT stands for average annual daily traffic and represents the typical daily traffic count for the traffic stations.
- The bottom drop-down menu is used to toggle on or off 'inactive' stations.

## Step 4: Display Traffic Stations

Click the check box to the left of 'TCDS Locations' to display the stations. The map will update with traffic stations, as in the second image below. The first number is the annual traffic count (AADT), and the second number in parenthesis indicates the count year.



## Step 5: Open a Station Record

Hover your cursor over a station and click to open a pop-up. Click 'View Detail in a New Search':












The traffic count information at the station will appear on the left-hand side of the screen, as shown below:

List View		All DIRs		Report Center	
Record		1 of 1		Goto Record <input type="text"/> go	
Location ID	227HP151	MPO ID	90		
Type	SPOT	HPMS ID	ASSIGNED		
SF Group	STATEWIDE FC 6	Route Type	LS		
AF Group	OFFSYSTEM (Urban) FC 6	Route	0000		
GF Group	AUSTIN FC 5	Active	Yes		
Class Dist Grp	Statewide - FC5	Category	URBAN ACR		
Seas Class Grp	AUSTIN				
WIM Group	Statewide				
QC Group	Volume Group 2				
Funct'l Class	(6)Minor Collector				
Located On	E Live Oak St				
Loc On Alias	258591				
More Detail ▶					

## Step 6: View Detailed Count Data

In the traffic count information screen, scroll down to view a count table. In this example, the 'Volume Count' table is shown. Other count tables may include 'Classification,' 'Speed,' and 'WIM' (Weigh in Motion). Click the 'eye' icon to open the traffic count report.

The 'Volume Count Report' will open as shown below:

VOLUME COUNT			
	Date	Int	Total
	Tue 4/7/2020	15	537
	Wed 9/18/2019	15	1,256
	Mon 9/17/2018	15	1,256
	Mon 11/6/2017	15	1,418
	Mon 8/29/2016	15	1,617
	Mon 3/23/2015	15	1,473
	Mon 8/4/2014	15	1,135
	Mon 8/12/2013	15	1,177
	Wed 11/16/2011	15	1,526

You can view 15-minute and hourly data and related traffic count information on this screen.

Volume Count Report									
LOCATION INFO				INTERVAL:15-MIN					
Location ID	227HP151			15-min Interval		Hourly Count			
Type	SPOT			1st	2nd		3rd	4th	
Funct'l Class	6			0:00-1:00	2	3	4	1	10
Located On	E Live Oak St			1:00-2:00	0	2	1	2	5
Loc On Alias	258591			2:00-3:00	2	0	0	1	3
Direction	1-WAY			3:00-4:00	1	0	0	3	4
County	Travis			4:00-5:00	4	1	0	0	5
Community	Austin			5:00-6:00	0	1	1	2	4
MPO ID	90			6:00-7:00	1	2	2	0	5
HPMS ID	ASSIGNED			7:00-8:00	5	5	5	7	22
Agency	Texas DOT			8:00-9:00	10	3	6	6	25

## Appendix – Traffic Terms

**Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT):** The annual traffic count represents the average number of vehicles per day at a traffic count location. This figure includes considerations for seasonal variation and the vehicle classifications at the count location. AADT is calculated in STARS II using the AASHTO “average of averages” method.

**Traffic Station:** A traffic station is a location where a traffic count is conducted with traffic counting equipment or derived. The STARS II system displays AADTs for the following count station types.

- **Annual ACR:** Annual traffic counts taken on Texas state and national highway system roadways and a small set of additional roadways. These are 24-hour counts factored for seasonal variation and vehicle classifications, which comprise traffic at the count location.
- **HOV:** Traffic volume data for various types of managed lanes, express lanes, toll lanes, and high-occupancy vehicle lanes are provided as they become available.
- **INACTIVE:** Traffic count locations where data collection is discontinued.
- **MVC:** Manual Vehicle Classification counts are annual 24-hour video-based counts of classification data.
- **PERM:** Continuous count locations that collect daily traffic count data.
- **RAMP:** Ramp counts are 24-hour vehicle counts on ramp locations. In the STARS II system, these counts are factored for seasonal variation, which comprises traffic at the count location.
- **TIC:** Travel Information Centers.
- **TOLL:** Traffic volume on a tolled roadway.
- **URBAN ACR:** Urban ACR counts are conducted on a 5-year cycle, typically on local or county roads. These are 24-hour counts, which in the STARS II system are factored for seasonal variation and vehicle classifications that comprise traffic at the count location.
- **WIM/LTPP:** Weigh-in-motion continuous count locations.

