

## Foreword

**This year's edition of the *Annual Summary Statistics* is substantially different from those published in previous years. There have been many changes made in the procedures used to develop this publication as well as to ensure the integrity of the data. It is necessary to be aware of these changes, as they may affect the use of this data.**

Beginning in July 2002, the Division of Planning initiated the task of identifying DelDOT's federal traffic data reporting requirements and developing a compliance report. From this initiative, recommendations were made to improve compliance with federal requirements, address documentation of procedures, as well as the specific methods used for traffic data collection and reporting. The resulting improvements incorporated into the 2002 edition included: (1) an investigation into the factoring process used to develop Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for each short-duration count location; (2) a review of the Traffic Pattern Group (TPG) assignments for the sections counted during the data year; and (3) the addition of the ATR Location Map.

Since the publication of the 2002 *Annual Summary Statistics*, the Division of Planning has been working diligently to continue to improve the quality and accuracy of the data contained herein. This 2003 edition includes the second annual TPG review for all traffic sections (i.e., roadway segments and milepoints) counted this year. Additionally, the Division of Planning has implemented a new Traffic Count Scheduling process that ensures all sections are counted on a regular cycle. This process provides data collection on an annual cycle for Interstate roadways, a three (3) year cycle for those roadways designated as part of the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS), and a six (6) year cycle for all other roadways in the Road Inventory.

Building on the data quality reviews of previous editions, this year's assessment identified significant variation in traffic sections when compared to the Road Inventory Database. For the 2003 *Annual Summary Statistics*, a "traffic section update" has been performed to correlate the sections in the *Annual Summary Statistics* with those in the Road Inventory Database. Over the past few years, as new roads have been built and old ones removed from the Inventory, the Road Inventory staff has been diligently keeping track of these changes. The "traffic section update" has implemented a process whereby each of the changes to the Road Inventory Database is uploaded into the Traffic Data System (TRADAS) for inclusion in the traffic count sections. As some of these changes are new roadway additions with no historical data, they will show '04' in the 'Year of Last Count' column, denoting that new data will be available for the next edition of the *Annual Summary Statistics*. Apart from these new roadway additions, changes in milepoints have been made in a number of traffic sections based upon the available Road Inventory data. For these sections, where only the milepoints have changed, the historical or currently collected data can still be applied to develop the estimates of AADT published here.