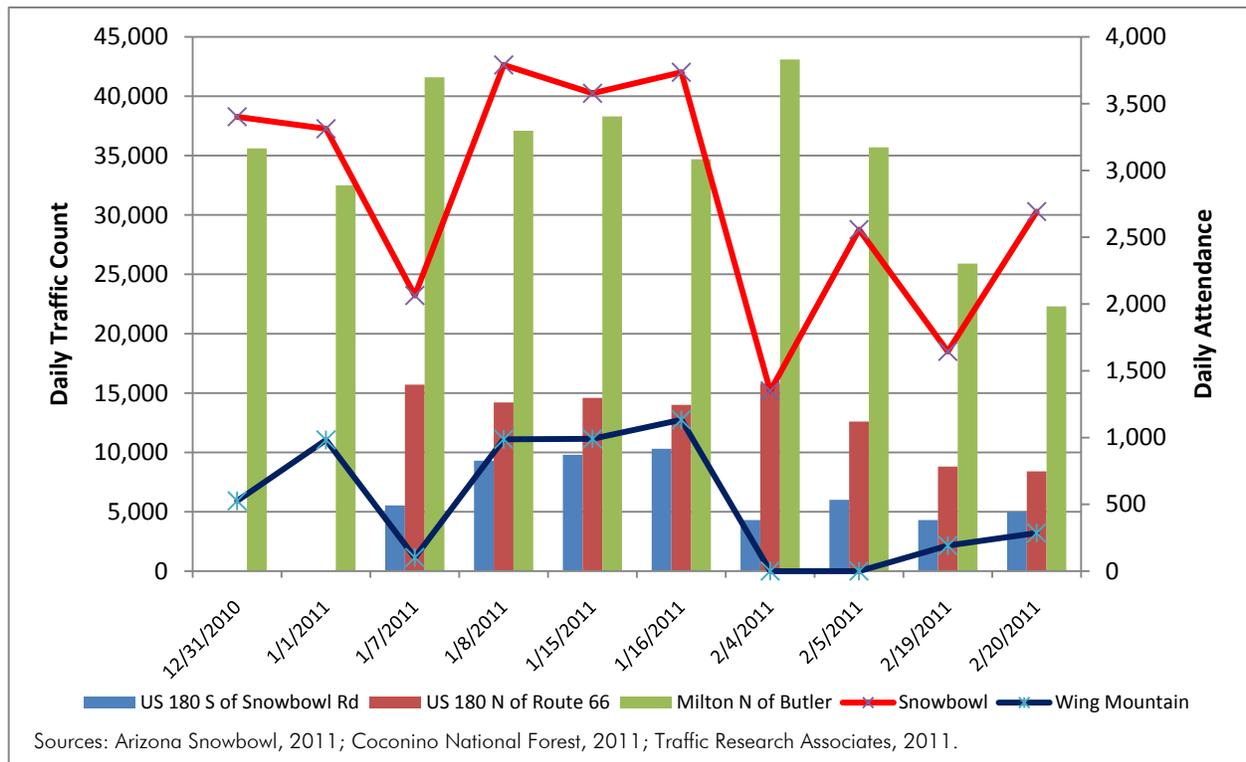


## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – EXISTING CONDITIONS AND DATA REPORT

Traffic data shows that typical weekday traffic operations on U.S. 180 between Snowbowl Road and Business Route 40 are good with motorists experiencing minimal delays on the corridor. Traffic counts taken on the busy 2011 Martin Luther King Day weekend showed daily traffic volumes more than twice the average weekday traffic. The worst traffic occurred in the eastbound direction over a two hour period from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. as Wing Mountain Snow Play Area and Snowbowl closed and visitors returned to Flagstaff.

During this peak period on MLK weekend, average eastbound travel speeds dropped below 20 miles per hour and the average travel time on U.S. 180 from Snowbowl Road to Business Route 40 increased to nearly 30 minutes, about twice the typical weekday travel time. While eastbound U.S. 180 traffic exceeded the directional capacity of the road, ambient traffic was lighter than a typical weekday. While some movements at key intersections experienced queues and long delays from winter traffic, other movements had little or no delay. For example, the southbound movement through the Milton Road / Butler Avenue intersection was heavy during the MLK weekend peak period, however, the intersection functioned better than during a typical weekday afternoon peak period because overall traffic volume was lower.

The data shows a clear relationship between traffic and winter recreation activity on U.S. 180 at Snowbowl Road. However, closer into Flagstaff beginning at Forest Avenue, U.S. 180 winter recreation traffic disperses into background intracity traffic. On Milton Road, shown below, there appears to be little relationship between winter activity and traffic volumes during 2011 winter weekends.



While an analysis of crash data did not reveal winter activity-related safety concerns, emergency service providers did express alarm about the long delays created by the afternoon eastbound traffic. Both the City of Flagstaff and the Summit Fire Department have stations located on U.S. 180. Not only do the queues of winter traffic slow emergency response times, the fire departments said that the slow traffic can block fire station entrances. None of the emergency service providers interviewed reported that any loss of property or life has occurred resulting from the peak winter traffic congestion.

While there is a strong relationship between winter season snowfall and Snowbowl attendance, at the Wing Mountain Snow Play Area this relationship is less clear. This suggests that snow play activity may be more influenced by cycles of warmer winter temperatures. Where Wing Mountain may close for lack of snow during parts of a season, Snowbowl can remain open.

Snowbowl attendance data shows that three day winter holiday weekends are typically the busiest, although Monday attendance is generally lower than Saturday and Sunday. Since 2008, the President's Day holiday in February has had the highest Snowbowl attendance. At Wing Mountain, Christmas Day and New Year's Day typically have the highest attendance.