AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

MODEL TO DETERMINE THE EFFECT OF

SPEED ON TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

BY

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Analysis of traffic accidents is of a vital importance to traffic engineers. The tremendous cost of motor vehicle accidents causes not only much suffering and misery but also large economic losses. For instance the average economic losses in Egypt due to fatalities in traffic accidents on Cairo-Alexandria Agricultural Road exceeded one hundred and fifty million Egyptian pounds during 1988 while the costs of the total accidents were about two hundred million Egyptian pounds (see Table 1.1 which shows the total costs due to accidents on the Egyptian Intercity Road Network [1]). The figures included in this table are a part of a study carried out in the early of 1980's on six intercity roads in Egypt as well as the street system in three urban areas in Greater Cairo. A summary of this study will be illustrated in chapter 2.

Table 1.1 reveals that the total cost of accidents in 1988 on the six roads, under study, was about four hundred fifty million pounds of which 44% was incurred on the Cairo-Alexandria Agricultural road (AlxAgr.). This reflects considerable economic losses due to traffic accidents. It is believed that accidents' studies on the Egyptian Highway Network are limited. A comprehensive investigation of this serious problem and its possible remedies has yet to be undertaken. This research represents an attempt towards that end.