Dallas Traffic-Survey Methods and Cost Analysis

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The rapid growth in population of the metropolitan area of Dallas, with the corresponding growth in the traffic of the area, has resulted in the need for information to guide planning for immediate relief and future development. In 1950 and 1951 a comprehensive traffic survey embracing both external and internal traffic surveys of the 215-sq.-mi. metropolitan area supplemented by external origin-and-destination surveys at six outlying incorporated cities, and a parking survey of the central business district of Dallas was undertaken by the city and the state in cooperation with the Bureau of Public Roads. Current land-use data were obtained while selecting the internal sample.

Provision was made for recording detailed costs expressed in work units applicable to future projects of this nature. A brief description of the methods used in the survey with recorded unit and total cost data are expressed.

Application of the findings in the solution of the traffic problem are outlined. Land-use data found a place in planning for future traffic development.

• DURING the latter part of 1950 and early 1951, comprehensive traffic and parking surveys were made in the Dallas metropolitan area. In January 1951 a progress report on these surveys was presented to the Highway Research Board by D. K. Shepard. This paper is a final report, treating of the methods employed in the surveys and devoting major attention to the cost analysis of the project with the thought of furnishing data which may be used for planning and estimating similar undertakings.

Dallas, like many other cities, emerged from the wartime suspension of major street and highway improvements with the realization that drastic and immediate action was advisable to provide for the formation of a new and modern master plan.

By 1950, Dallas had exceeded both the population and vehicle registrations predicted for 1970. The population had increased from 295,000 persons in 1940 to over 430,000 persons in 1950. The area of the city proper had been extended from 50 sq. mi. in 1944 to 122 sq.mi. in 1950, with other annexations planned to bring the area to more than 150 sq. mi. in 1951.

To be able to formulate a new and modern master plan providing for the existing traffic volumes and to be able to plan wisely for future growth, it was evident that current and comprehensive traffic data were needed. The selection of an east-west expressway route was being studied, and this fact added further impetus to the demand for the data. With these demands in mind, the City of Dallas requested and received the cooperation of Dallas County, the Texas Highway Department, and the Bureau of Public Roads in a traffic survey of the entire metropolitan area.

In preliminary conferences, representatives of the Bureau of Public Roads, Texas Highway Department, and the County and City of Dallas outlined the scope of the survey. The extent of the survey was limited to the estimated cost of \$100,000, and all available cost data were brought into use to outline a project which would provide the greatest value within this limit. The need of more extensive cost data was apparent, and it is the intent of this paper to place the information gained in form for such use.

The metropolitan area selected included an area of 215 sq. mi. with a population of 517,035. The area included nine incorporated cities which are completely surrounded by the Dallas incorporation.

In addition to this coverage of the metropolitan area, external origin-destination surveys were conducted at six outlying incorporated cities to obtain data for a county-wide, major thoroughfare plan to supplement the Dallas thoroughfare plan. The population covered in the survey was 517,035 persons in the internal survey and 20,066 persons in the outlying communities, or a total of 537,101 persons - 88 percent of the total population of Dallas County.

The administration of the survey was assigned to the Traffic Section of the Highway Planning Survey, which organization furnished personnel to serve as project manager; supervisors of internal, external, and parking surveys; and chief accountant.

All other personnel were employed locally or borrowed from various city departments. For various phases of the operations, the city traffic engineer and city plan engineer assigned personnel to the survey; however, the unit cost records given in this report reflect this expense based on regular rates of pay for each item of work accomplished. Such personnel as the city furnished free of cost to the project are also reflected in the unit costs at the rates of pay charged for similar work.

The rates of pay for personnel were as follows: \$1 per hour for interviewers, samplers, office clerks and coders; \$1.25 to \$1.50 per hour for crew leaders; supervisors for each phase of the survey were paid on a monthly rate at \$225 to \$250 per month. In general all personnel, other than supervisory, were obtained from the Texas Employment Commission. One exception to this was the manner of obtaining home interviewers. Contact was made with district census director, who furnished a list of names of the census enumerators in the census which had just been completed. Excellent personnel were obtained by this method.

A detailed accounting system was established to be able to determine actual costs and man-hour requirements for each unit of all phases of the survey. Time slips showing actual man-hours used on each phase of the work were submitted daily by each supervisor. These costs, along with material and supply costs, were posted to each operation daily using a control ledger system and accounts journal. This not only kept an accurate record of costs and man-hours for final reports, but made possible periodic summaries of accumulated costs for each unit of operation. The costs reflected include administration and administrative overhead of the field office and field operation. They do not include administrative costs of the higher echelon and should be so interpreted. Excellent weather conditions throughout the period of the field survey served to hold costs to a minimum.

Office space was available for 60 people, and this space was used to the maximum during the peak period of operations.

THE SURVEY

The study was divided into three phases: (1) the internal survey, consisting of (a) sampling, with related land use, (b) home interviews, (c) truck interviews, and (d) taxi interviews: (2) the external survey; and (3) the parking survey.

TABLE I

DALLAS	METROPOL	LITAN	AREA	TRAFI	710	SURVEY
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	Total Man Hours	Total Project Costs
ADMINISTRATION	7192	\$ 11574 22
EXTERNAL SURVEY	14323	17183 82
INTERNAL SURVEY	24089	27714 17
O & D REPORT	3419	6920 62
DALLAS COUNTY O & D	3392	4347 89
PARKING SURVEY	23189	29585 45
GRAND TOTAL	75605	\$ 97326 17

INTERNAL SURVEY

Sampling

A 5-percent sample of dwelling units was used for the entire metropolitan area. In selecting the sample, it was found that the Sanborn maps, in addition to being obsolete, covered a very small portion of the area to be surveyed. The City Plan Department had available land-use maps drawn to scale 1 in. to 400 ft. which had been maintained approximately up to date. It was determined that the most-accurate way of obtaining a sample was to use these land-use maps as a guide and actually travel in the field, checking the land-use maps against actual land use, and at the same time, bringing the maps up to date by notations relative to new occupancy or abandonment of dwelling units or other structures in the area. The samples were selected by twoman teams in automobiles. The driver called the type of occupancy of each dwelling to his recorder, who made the proper notations on the map. The driver kept count of the total dwelling units and called the house number of the sample to his

recorder, who recorded the addresses of the samples on a form provided for this purpose. In this manner, the sample was selected in every instance from a field inspection, and the City Plan Department, at the same time, obtained data for an upto-date land-use map not only of Dallas but of the entire metropolitan area. sample selection required 3, 786 man-hours at a total cost of \$4, 509.80. The unit cost of sample selection was 52 cents per sample for field work and 17 cents for mapping and supplies, or a total of 69 cents per sample.

It is believed that the value of the current land-use information for both present

TABLE 2

DALLAS METROPOLITAN AREA TRAFFIC SURVEY

ADMINISTR	ATIVE	COST	DATA
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ADMINISTRATION	Date Started	Date 2/ Completed	Total Man Hours	Total Costs
OFFICE OPERATIONS				
Supervision Accounting Clerical Typing Drafting Office Supplies Postage & Freight Office Equipment Rental	10-2-50 10-2-50 10-2-50 10-22-50 11-12-50	3-7-51 12-1-51 3-7-51 3-1-51 3-3-51	1617 1100 1118 500 237 - -	\$ 4564.88 1343.45 1246.78 500.00 265.41 603.15 108.92 420.00
Total Office Operations			4572	9052.59
OFFICE BUILDING MAINTENANCE Labor <u>l</u> / Supplies Utilities	10-3-50	3-7-51	2620 - -	1904.30 113.77 503.56
Total Office Bldg. Maintenance			2620	2521.63
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION			7192	11574.22

1/ Night Watchmen and Janitor Service.

2/ Dallas Field Office only.

For this phase of the work the City Plan Department and Traffic Control Department furnished the original personnel to train new men as they were employed. At the peak of this activity seven crews were in the field. It was found that careful selection of personnel for this work was vitally important and required men with good educational background and a thorough knowledge of the city.

The preparation of numerous base maps necessary for this work required 1,081 man-hours at a cost of \$1,425.01. This cost included map reproduction and supplies. In addition, the actual field work of and future planning will be well worth the additional cost, for with these data it will be possible to expand trip information by areas as these areas develop.

In the Truck Study a 10-percent sample of all trucks registered and operated within the metropolitan area was selected from the state's motor-vehicle-registration records. A total of 2, 519 truck samples required 286 man-hours at a unit cost of 12 cents per sample.

A 20-percent sample of all taxis operating in the area was selected from taxicompany records. This required only 10 man-hours and cost 13 cents per sample.

Interviewing

Trip information involving all modes of transportation for each member of the household over 5 yr. of age was obtained at each dwelling unit selected for the sample. Supervisors with crews of 10 interviewers were assigned to census tracts and each tract was completed, except for call backs, before moving into a new area. Call backs were assigned to one interviewer with a car.

The use of census tracts as subareas for

dwelling-unit interviews proved well worthwhile for checking purposes. As soon as a tract was completed, summary data were expanded and compared with pertinent census data.

Interviewers were schooled for 2 days before starting actual field work. Excellent publicity was obtained through newspapers and radio and television stations. Letters explaining the purpose of the study were sent to occupants of all dwelling units selected as samples, as well as to truck owners and taxicab operators.

TABLE 3

DALLAS METROPOLITAN AREA TRAFFIC SURVEY

INTERNAL STUDY UNIT COST DATA

	Date	Date	Units of Work	Total Man	Total	UNIT COST	
INTERNAL SORVEI	Started	Combleted	Accomplianed	Hours	Çost	Field	Total
MAP PREPARATION	10-9-50	2-3-51	-	1081	\$ 1425 01	\$ -	\$ -
SAMPLING							
<u>l</u> / Dwelling Units Trucks Taxis	10-9-50 12-7-50 2-3-51	1-12-51 1-9-51 2-10-51	8621 2519 82	3786 286 10	4509 80 309 45 11 00	- -	523 123 .134
Total Sampling			11222	4081	4830 25		430
INTERVIEWING							
Dwelling Units - Office Dwelling Units - Field Trucks - Office Trucks - Field Taxis - Office Taxis - Pield	11-6-50 11-6-50 1-7-51 1-7-51 2-3-51 2-3-51	2-3-51 1-15-51 3-1-51 2-24-51 2-10-51 2-10-51	8086 1945 82	1406 7949 198 2075 4 247	2440 37 8742 95 401 43 2569 10 5 12 312 39	1 081 1 321 3 810	1 383 1 527 3 872
Total Interviewing			10113	11879	14471 36	1 149	1 431
CODING (Interviews)							
Coding Index 3/ Coding - Dwelling Unit Coding - Truck Coding - Taxi	11-16-50 11-15-50 1-10-51 2-24-51	1-3-51 1-20-51 3-1-51 2-26-51	8086 1945 82	376 3476 1114 83	⁴ 30 84 3476 00 1165 86 83.50		430 599 1 018
Total Coding			10113	5049	5156 20	-	51
SCREEN LINE							
Office Manual Counts Machine Counts	1-22-51 1-22-51 1-22-51	3-3-51 2-8-51 2-17-51	- 8 8	169 281 113	209 08 280 63 113 00	- 35 079 14 125	-
Total Screen Line			8	563	602 71	-	75.338
PUNCHING & VERIFYING (Cards)							
Dwelling Unit Interviews Truck Interviews Taxi Interviews Machine Rental	1-17-51 4-1-51 4-1-51	2-20-51 4-25-51 4-25-51	60992 13115 74009 -	706 139 27	929 82 178 60 36 45 83 77	- - - -	015 014 009 -
Total Punching & Verifying			78116	872	1228.64	_	016
TOTAL INTERNAL SURVEY FIELD OPERATIONS			10113	23525	\$27714 17	-	2 740

1/ Field inventory method Includes procurement of Land Use information

2/ Supervision included in Total Costs

3/ Coding Index Costs prorated to each phase of survey.

Truck interviews were assigned by geographical areas for the convenience of personnel and resulted in considerable saving of time.

Taxi interviews were taken directly from manifest sheets turned in by the drivers. This made for both an easy and accurate method of obtaining the information. 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., with the exception of four of the higher-volume stations which were operated for a full 24-hr. period. A total of 70 stations were scheduled, 26 around the six suburban cities and 44 around the metropolitan area. Interviews were obtained from drivers of vehicles moving in both directions and were obtained from

TABLE 4

EXTERNAL STUDY UNIT COST DATA								
	Dete	Date Completed	Units of Work Accomplished	Total Man Hours	Total	Unit (Cost	
ERTERNAL SURVEY	Started				Cost	Field	Total	
OFFICE	10-25-50	3-1-51	-	898	\$ 1212 84 ¹	\$ -	\$ -	
INTERVIEWING	10-25-50	1-24-51	107128	5206	6735 01	•	063	
MARUAL COUNTS	10-25-50	1-24-51	46	561	619.67	•	13 471	
NACHINE COUNTS	10-25-50	1-24-51	46	381	439 66	-	9 558	
CODING (Interviews) Coding Index ^{2/} Coding	10-31-50	3-1-51	107128	501 6521	574.45 6543 05	•	.061	
Total Coding			107128	7022	7117 50	-	066	
FUNCHING & VERIFYING (Cards) Labor Costs Machine Rental	2-20-51	4-25-51	107128	756 -	992 60 66 54	-	.009	
Total Punching & Verifying			107128	756	1059 14	-	.010	
TOTAL EXTERNAL SURVEY FIELD OPERATIONS			-	14824	\$ 17183 82			

DALLAS	METROPOLITAN	AREA	TRAFFIC	SURVEY

1/ Supervision included in Total Costs

2/ Coding Index costs prorated to each phase of survey

Unit costs of interviews in the internal survey, including both office and field costs, were: dwelling unit interviews, \$1.38; truck interviews, \$1.53; and taxi interviews, \$3.87.

EXTERNAL SURVEY

The external origin - and - destination survey consisted of two parts: (1) around the metropolitan area, and (2) around six isolated communities within the county. Interview stations were located on all highways and county roads carrying more than 200 vehicles per day. The lower volume stations were operated first with a small crew sufficient in number to man 3 stations per day. These men later formed the nucleus of larger crews to operate the higher-volume stations. On roads carrying less than 500 vehicles per day the survey was operated from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On the remaining stations the hours were from 95.5 percent of all vehicles which passed the stations. A total of 107, 128 interviews were obtained in the external survey. This operation required 5,206 man-hours and cost 6 cents per interview.

Hourly automatic recorders were installed at all interview stations for a period of 24 to 48 hrs. at the time the interviews were being obtained. Five control stations were selected where automatic recorders were installed on the external cordon line for the entire period of the survey. These control counts were included with other machine counts on the external cordon line in the cost analysis and amounted to \$9.56 per station.

ACCURACY CHECK

The reliability and completeness of the internal and external surveys were checked by a comparison of expanded trip data at crossings of a screen line previously established for the purpose with the actual ground counts made during the survey. The viaducts across the Trinity River made an ideal screen line. Comparison of data indicated satisfactory survey coverage of approximately 90 percent of trips crossing the screen line. Screen-line costs were included in the cost data for the internal survey, since this phase was handled by internal personnel. Total screen line cost was \$602.71, which gives a unit cost of \$75.34 for each of the eight points checked.

PARKING SURVEY

The area of the parking survey comprised 140 blocks, on which were located 110 public lots, 73 private lots, 30 garages and 3,003 legal curb spaces. Inventory of parking facilities was completed with a 18-in. reproductions were made to provide each interviewer with a map to insure his location at the proper facility.

Information as to origin, destination, purpose of trip, and place and time of parking was obtained from 59,210 drivers of vehicles parking in the central business sector between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Manual classification counts were made of all vehicles crossing the internal cordon line which delimited the central business sector from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Four automatic traffic recorders on major streets crossing the internal cordon line furnished control information for the period of the survey. The final unit cost of the parking survey averaged 56 cents per interview. This cost included all phases of the parking survey. Inventory costs were \$1.40 per block of curb face and \$3.10 for each offstreet facility. Curb interviews cost 22

TABLE 5

DALLAS METROPOLITAN AREA TRAFFIC SURVEY

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL STUDY

ANALYSIS & REPORT UNIT COST DATA

ORIGIN & DESTINATION REPORT	Date	Date	Units of Work	Total Man	Total	Unit Cost	
SURVEYS	Started	Completed	Accomplished	Hours	Cost	Field	Total
SORTING & TABULATING (Cards)							
Labor Costs Machine Rental	3-10-51 3-10-51	9 -30-51 9-30-51	201399 -	452 -	\$ 684 80 498 97	\$ -	\$.0034 -
Total Sorting & Tabulating			201399	452	1183 77	-	006
ANALYSIS	3-10-51	11-1-51	-	1885	2518 75	-	-
PREPARATION OF REPORT							
Typing Drafting Reproduction (Books)			- 800	104 978 -	127.03 1270 11 1820 96	- -	2 28
Total Preparation			-	1082	3218 10	-	-
TOTAL - METROPOLITAN AREA REPORT			-	3419	6920 62	-	-
TOTAL - INTERNAL & EXTERNAL FIELD OPERATIONS			-	38349	44897 99		-
TOTAL - METROPOLITAN AREA TRAFFIC SURVEY			-	41768	51818 61	-	-
ADMINISTRATION 1/					\$ 7523.24		
GRAND TOTAL					\$59341 85		

1/ 65% Total Administrative Costs

crew of four men, plus the active participation of the parking supervisor.

Two maps were prepared, one showing the location of all curb faces and their code numbers and the other showing the location and code number of all off-street facilities. A sufficient number of 18-by cents each while off-street interviews cost 20 cents each. Forty-four 16-to-24 hr. cordon-line manual counts were made at a cost of \$16.66 each and four control stations were operated with automatic traffic recorders for the entire period of the survey at a cost of \$120.75 each.

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ZONING

For the purpose of analysis and conformance with tabulating machine usage, intermediate area was coded as Sector 8, with further divisions into districts, zones and subzones. The second digit indicated the sector of the city to which this county

TABLE 6

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DALLAS METROPOLITAN AREA TRAFFIC SURVEY

COUNTY TRAFFIC SURVEY UNIT COST DATA

	Date	Date	Units of Work	Total Man	Total	Unit Cost	
COUNTY TRAFFIC SURVEY	Started	Completed	Accomplished	Hours	Cost	Field	Total
OFFICE	10-2 5- 50	2-1-51	-	149	\$ 192 35	,\$ -	\$ -
INTERV LEWING	10-25-50	11-13-50	16155	1265	1376 03	085	•
MANUAL COUNTS	10-25-50	11-13-50	26	214	218 63	-	8.41
MACHINE COUNTS	10-25-50	11-13-50	26	156	160 63	-	6 18
CODING INDEX 1/ CODING (Interviews)	10-31-50	12-15-50	16155	62 976	71 80 979 93	-	061
Total Coding			16155	1038	1051 73	-	065
PUNCHING & VERIFYING							
Labor Costs Machine Rental	2-20-51	4-25-51°	16155		145 40 10 03	-	009
Total Punching & Verifying			16155	111	155 43	-	010
TOTAL FIELD OPERATIONS				2933	3154.80	-	
REPORT							
SORTING & TABULATING (Cards)							
Labor Costs Machine Rental	12-1-51	2-1-52	16155 -	23	44 95 16 30	-	003
Total Sorting & Tabulating			16155	23	61 25	-	004
ANALYSIS	12-3-51	4-1-52	-	110	161 49	-	-
PREPARATION							
Typing Drafting	1-5-52 12-1-51	3-31-52 4-1-52	-	34 354	43 38 495 59	-	-
Reproduction (Books)	2-29-52	4-15-52	250	•	431 38	-	1 73
Total Preparation			-	388	970 35	-	
TOTAL COUNTY REPORT			-	521	1193 09		
TOTAL COUNTY TRAFFIC SURVEY			-	3454	\$ 4347_89	-	-
ADMINISTRATION 2/					\$ 578 71		
GRAND TOTAL COUNTY TRAFFIC SURVEY					\$ 4926 60		

1/ Coding Index costs prorated to each phase of survey

2/ 5% Total Administration Cost

the area was divided into sectors, districts, zones, and subzones, designated numerically with a four-digit code. The metropolitan area was divided into sectors radiating from the business district of the city and designated by Numerals 0 through 7. Each sector was divided into districts, zones, and subzones. In the county area between the metropolitan area and the county limits, the sector lines were extended as district boundaries and this district was adjacent. Adjoining counties and major cities in Texas were coded 9000 to 9600 and the United States was coded by states from 9700 to 9900. This system of zoning greatly simplified both coding, sorting and tabulating.

CODING, PUNCHING AND VERIFYING

A coding index was prepared in which all streets were listed alphabetically.

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YEVERS DIVERS ARE ARRANGED SALLAG

PARKING STUDY UNIT COST DATA

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fac IstoT	Pield Field	LatoT taoD	LeteT neM stuoH	to attaU zrow befatiqmoccA	Date Completed	Date Detrat2	FARCING SURVEY

1/1 1/4 of total cost of Coding Index.

 $2\sqrt{30}$ of total Metropolitan Area Survey Administrative Costs

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All principal cities and towns within the state, major buildings within the city, outlying shopping areas and neighborhoods, schools, theatres, industrial establishments, and housing projects were also included. When completed, the coding index comprised approximately 175 pages and was bound with a spiral binding and heavy cover to enable easy access to all pages.

The cost of the coding index was \$1,486.12, but it is believed that its preparation produced a saving in coding costs sufficient to justify the expenditure, as well as to promote a greater degree of accuracy. Coding index costs were prorated to each phase of the survey and included in unit coding costs.

Punching and verifying were started as soon as coding and checking were completed for a tract or station. A total of 260,609 cards were used to record data from all phases of the survey.

All work through coding was done in the Dallas field office. Some punching was done by the City of Dallas, but the majority was done in the Planning Survey Accounting Section in Austin. Unit cost of coding for the Internal Survey was 51 cents per interview; dwelling unit coding cost 43 cents per interview; truck interviews cost 60 cents each, and taxi interviews cost \$1.02.

The external survey coding cost 7 cents per interview, and coding for the parking survey cost 8 cents per interview.

Average cost of punching and verifying cards for all phases of the survey was 1.2 cents per card.

TABULATING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

Tabulating, analysis, drafting, and reproduction were done in Austin. Three reports were printed covering (1) Metropolitan Area Traffic Survey, (2) Dallas County Traffic Survey, and (3) Parking Survey.

COST ANALYSIS

Unit costs for some of the more-important phases of the survey have been mentioned previously. The final cost of the internal and external traffic study was \$59,341.85; the parking study, \$33,057.72; and the county traffic study, \$4,926.60, or a total cost of \$97,326.17. A detailed man-hour requirement and cost analysis record of all phases of the project is outlined in Tables 1 to 7, inclusive.

Table 1 shows the distribution of the total cost to each phase of the survey; Table 2 the individual costs, time of beginning and ending and man-hours for each item of the administrative costs; and Tables 3 through 7 unit costs, manhours, units of work accomplished and dates of starting and completion for all phases of the internal, external, county, and parking surveys.

APPLICATION OF DATA

The final report was not complete until 18 mo. after the initiation of the study, but tabular data were placed in use as it became available. Preliminary data were furnished the city and state within 2 mo. after completion of field work by reproduction of tracing paper work sheets for origin-destination data. Photostatic copies of the parking tables were also prepared for early use of these data. This preliminary information proved most timely and useful to both the city and state.

The City of Dallas, immediately upon completion of the study, set up an office to use these data as a basis for the (1) revision of its major thoroughfare plan, (2) development of a network of expressways for the metropolitan area, (3) determination of adequate standards of right of way and paving, and (4) development of data to guide future street programs. Population trends have been established and extended to a 20-to-30-yr. period. The increment of population increase from 1950 to 1970 or 1980 is being distributed to survey zones on the basis of type of zoning, plans for the extension of utilities. building trends and other similar factors. This expansion of the origin-destination data was made possible by the complete and current land-use information obtained in the sampling procedure.

The Texas Highway Department has used the survey data as a basis for the location of expressway routes, the design of intersections and the assignment of traffic to future routes in the area.