
E-NEWSLETTER for STATE DATA PRACTITIONERS
TRB Statewide Data and Information Systems Committee
June 2004

PURPOSE: The primary goal of the TRB Statewide Data and Information Systems Committee (A1D09) Newsletter is to disseminate research findings, description of new data tools, upcoming conferences/training announcements, and summaries of recent advances in the data field to a wide community of transportation practitioners. As an information resource, the newsletter will perpetuate the improvement and integration of transportation data to assist statewide multimodal planning.

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CONFERENCES

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- * North American Travel Monitoring Exposition and Conference (NATMEC) 2004
San Diego, California: June 27-30, 2004
- > <http://www.natmec.org>

* Statewide Data and Information Systems TRB Committee Midyear Meeting, San Diego, California: June 28, 2004

* Joint Summer Meeting of the Planning, Economics, Finance, and Management Committees
Park City, Utah: July 25-27, 2004
-><http://trb.org/calendar/>

* Performance Measurement Conference, Irvine, CA: August 22-24, 2004
-><http://trb.org/calendar/>

* 5th National Conferences on Asset Management: Moving from Theory to Practice
Seattle, Washington: October 21 – 22, 2004
-><http://gulliver.trb.org/conferences/Asset>

* National Household Travel Survey Data Users Conference, Washington, DC: November 1-2, 2004
-> <http://www.trb.org/Conferences/NHTS.pdf>

* Conference for Research on Women's Transportation Issues, Chicago, Illinois: November 18-20, 2004
-> <http://www.trb.org/Conferences/Women/>

WORKSHOPS

* Census Transportation Planning Package (CTPP 2000)
The CTPP Working Group is conducting training and outreach events at conferences and workshops throughout the country. A computer workshop is planned for MPOs and other agencies in Washington, D.C. (July 12-13, 2004). Agencies interested in technical training sessions are encouraged to contact either Ed Christopher of FHWA's Resource Center (708-283-3534) or their FHWA division.

RECENT CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS / INFORMATION

* Data Requirements in Transportation Reauthorization Legislation: What is Included and Impacts on the Data Community, Washington, DC: November 19, 2003
TRB's Transportation Research Circular E-C064 highlights the TRB conference "Reauthorization: A Meeting on Data-Related Provisions."
-> <http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/circulars/ec064.pdf>

* Addressing Fiscal Constraint and Congestion Issues in State Transportation Planning
Woods Hole, MA: July 14 – 16 2002
TRB Transportation Research Circular E-062 is the proceedings from the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Planning Peer Exchange.
-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=2102

* Transportation in an Aging Society: A Decade of Experience
Bethesda, MD: November 7-9, 1999

TRB's Conference Proceedings 27 includes the technical papers and reports from the 1999 conference that examined issues associated with achieving safer mobility for older persons.
-> http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/conf/reports/cp_27.pdf

IN THE HEADLINES

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INDEX (TSI)

-> <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/BTS0904.htm>

The U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics' Transportation Services Index (TSI) recently reached the second highest level in the 14-year period covered by the index, with a 1.4 percent rise in February 2004 (the most recent numbers available). The TSI is a new measure of the volume of services performed by the for-hire transportation sector. The index covers the activities of for-hire freight carriers, passenger carriers, and a combination of the two. It is the only combined, multimodal, seasonally adjusted economic measure of transportation measured on a monthly basis. The TSI is still under development and is therefore experimental. It is being examined for refinements in data sources, methodologies and interpretations by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics and outside experts.

The TSI conveys how the output of transportation services has increased or decreased from month to month. The index can be examined together with other economic indicators to produce a better understanding of the current and future course of the economy. The movement of the index over time can be compared with other economic measures to understand the relationship of transportation to long term changes in the economy.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS)

The Census Bureau (CB) is committed to replace the decennial census "long form" with a continuous survey called the American Community Survey (ACS). The CB's plan is to use the data collected from the 2008-2012 ACS to serve as the long form replacement. Any revisions to the ACS questionnaire must undergo testing in 2005 and 2006 for inclusion in 2008. USDOT will ask the CB to include testing of additional question(s) on multiple modes used in the journey-to-work, and alternate wording on departure time from home to work.

The full ACS will start in July 2004 however, Group Quarters population will not be added until January 2005. Under the design, approximately 1 in 480 households will be surveyed each month with about 2.5 percent of housing units sampled each year--expectations are for a 12.5 percent sample over the course of 5 years (60 months). The long form had a 17 percent sample. The potential benefit of the ACS is the provision of annually updated data for large geographic units (with population over 250,000). Small area data (e.g. tracts or block groups) will require 5 years of data before any data release.

Related events to the ACS include:

*NCHRP 8-48 “Using American Community Survey Data for Transportation Planning” is underway to produce an ACS user guidebook. Cambridge Systematics is the Prime contractor and the NCHRP contact is Ron McCready (202-334-3034).

* TRB Conference (May 11-13, 2005) scheduled to bring together the census data transportation user community to review the Census 2000 products including the CTPP, share analytical and technical practices and assess ongoing ACS research. Ken Leonard, Wisconsin DOT, is the conference chair.

* Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) is beginning a \$750K study commissioned by the CB to examine the meaning of ACS estimates and their usability with an eye on small areas. In April, Ed Christopher, chair of the TRB Urban Data Committee convened a coordination meeting between the transportation community and CNSTAT to discuss ACS issues. An outcome of that meeting was Chuck Purvis, Transportation Planner for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) was nominated to the study’s oversight panel.

FHWA FREIGHT WEBSITE ENHANCED

-> <http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/index.cfm>

The Federal Highway Administration’s Office of Freight Management and Operations has recently enhanced its website to provide an expanded range of information on freight issues, trends, and programs. The site includes information by state, including commodity flows, truck fleet characteristics, truck size and weight enforcement activities, points of contact, and more.

A newly posted item includes a draft of the Freight Analysis Framework Plan:

<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/docs/fafplandraft/fafplandraft.htm>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

6/15/04 Research problem statements for the FY 2005 TCRP due

RESEARCH

TRB E-NEWSLETTER SEARCH

Access “Data and Information Technology” references using the TRB-E Newsletter search engine.

-> <http://trb.org/news/>

MEASURING AND COMMUNICATING THE EFFECTS OF TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

->http://trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=3795

AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT STATISTICS 2004

->http://trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=3780

LONG-TERM PAVEMENT PERFORMANCE NEW STANDARD DATA RELEASE

-> http://trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=3773

SHARING INFORMATION BETWEEN PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES FOR TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

-> http://trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=3748

THE VIRTUAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

-> http://trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=3751

FHWA ITS/OPERATIONS RESOURCE GUIDE 2004

-> <http://www.its.dot.gov/guide.html>

FHWA ROADWAY OPERATIONS SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL VERSION 2.0

->http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/Travel/Deployment_Task_Force/registration2.htm

TRB TRR 1855: DATA AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

->http://trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=3659

IN EVERY ISSUE

TRB Statewide Data and Information Systems Committee:

<http://members.tripod.com/~TRBstate/members.html>

TRB E-Newsletter:

<http://gulliver.trb.org/news/>

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