
E-NEWSLETTER for STATE DATA PRACTITIONERS
TRB Statewide Data and Information Systems Committee
November 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.

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

***** CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS *****

- > Upcoming Conferences
- > Workshops
- > Recent Conference Proceedings / Information

***** IN THE HEADLINES *****

- > Pennsylvania's Highway Statistics Report
- > Pennsylvania's HPMS Data Quality Review
- > Summary List of Cross-Cutting Transportation Data Issues
- > Regional Transportation Systems Management and Operation Success Stories

***** MARK YOUR CALENDAR *****

- > Important Date(s)

***** RESEARCH *****

- > Recently released research product related to statewide transportation data

***** IN EVERY ISSUE *****

- > Website Links
- > Subscription Information

CONFERENCES

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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

* Conference on Managing Travel for Planned Special Events

New Orleans, LA: December 1-3, 2004

-> http://itsa.org/pse_conference.html

* TRB 84th Annual Meeting

Washington, DC: January 9-13, 2005

-><http://gulliver.trb.org/calendar/>

* Census Data for Transportation Planning: Preparing for the Future

Irvine, California: May 11-13, 2005

-> http://www.trb.org/Conferences/Census_Data_for_Transportation_Planning.pdf

* Reauthorization: A Meeting on Data-Related Provisions

Fall 2005: TBD

-> Contact Thomas Palmerlee for information (TPalmerlee@nas.edu)

RECENT CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS / INFORMATION

* Performance Measurement Conference, Irvine, CA: August 22-24, 2004

Selection of presentation can be viewed and hear on the following website

(<http://gulliver.trb.org/conferences/webinar/PM2004.htm>)

IN THE HEADLINES

PENNSYLVANIA'S HIGHWAY STATISTICS REPORT

-> <http://www.dot.state.pa.us>

Pennsylvania publishes an annual summary of highway mileage and statistical travel information based upon the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) annual Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data submittal to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The "Pennsylvania Highway Statistics" report consists of mileage and travel summary tables grouped by statewide area, urbanized area, county, PennDOT Engineering Districts, vehicle type, functional system and other key groupings. An example of the type of information contained in this report is the Mileage and Travel on the Federal-Aid System as shown below.

A map of Pennsylvania's Interstate and National Highway System (NHS) routes, produced from PennDOT's Geographical Information System (GIS), is also included in the report, as well as a glossary of engineering terms to assist the unfamiliar reader in better understand the meaning of the report summaries. Approximately 1,000 copies of this report are printed annually and distributed statewide. "Pennsylvania Highway Statistics" can be viewed via the Internet on the Bureau of Planning and Research's home page on PennDOT's Web site at

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us>. Questions on the report should be directed to Mr. Laine Heltebridle of PennDOT at (717) 787-2277 or lheltebrid@state.pa.us.

FEDERAL AID HIGHWAYS		
RURAL:		
FUNCTIONAL CLASS	MILES	DVMT
Interstate	1,107	30,272,000
Other Principal Arterials	2,066	19,631,000
Minor Arterials	4,642	20,507,000
Major Collectors	7,381	13,609,000
SUB TOTAL	15,196	84,019,000
URBAN:		
FUNCTIONAL CLASS	MILES	DVMT
Interstate	651	38,090,000
Other Freeways/Expressways	516	17,813,000
Other Principal Arterials	2,689	47,682,000
Minor Arterials	3,797	36,168,000
Collectors	5,006	21,907,000
SUB TOTAL	12,659	161,660,000
FEDERAL AID TOTAL *	27,855	245,679,000

PENNSYLVANIA’S HPMS DATA QUALITY REVIEW

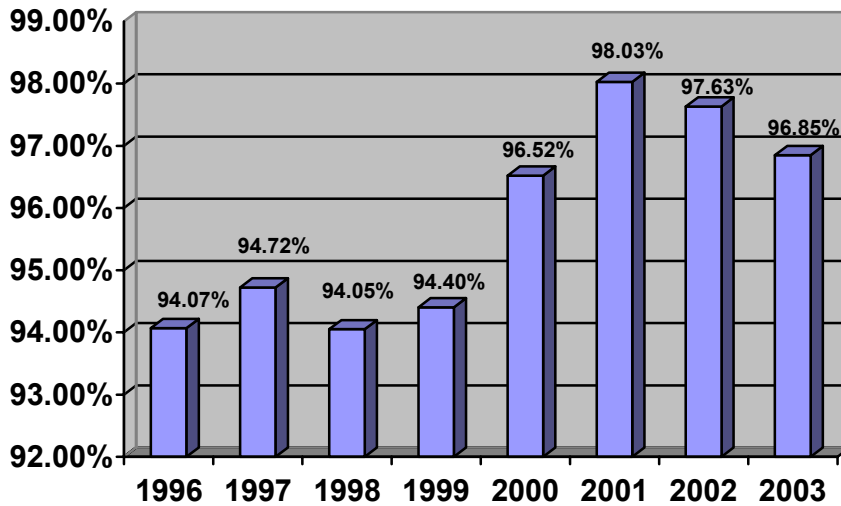
-> <http://www.dot.state.pa.us>

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) utilizes the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and its District Engineering Offices to collect the data for the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS). Since these partners collect the HPMS data, an annual quality review of Pennsylvania’s HPMS data is conducted. This annual HPMS quality review program began in 1996. The review is performed by PennDOT’s Bureau of Planning and Research HPMS staff and consists of HPMS field views of randomly selected sample sections in several counties. Approximately one third of the 28 data collecting agencies is reviewed each year. The purpose of this review is:

1. To ascertain the current state of HPMS data quality and ensure that any errors found are corrected;
2. To determine if any common problem areas exist and identify subsequent training needs;
3. To determine if any organizational or procedural changes to the HPMS program are warranted.

The bar chart below shows the overall statewide HPMS data quality percentage of accuracy. The yearly goal is to have a minimum percentage of accuracy of 95%.

The results of the annual review are compiled into a report. The report is distributed to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), PennDOT’s Deputy Secretary for Planning, the MPOs, and the District Engineering Offices. For additional information or to receive a copy of the HPMS Quality Review Report, please contact Mr. Laine Heltebridle at (717) 787-2277 or lheltebrid@state.pa.us.



SUMMARY LIST OF CROSS-CUTTING TRANSPORTATION DATA ISSUES
 SCOP Data Task Force Meeting, May 3, 2004, Charleston, SC

1. Data Quality: There is a continuing need to improve data quality and reliability, especially for congestion, safety and financial planning. Better information on freight flows/commodities; through and “external” trips; and data on the impacts of transportation on the economy are also needed.
2. Reauthorization and New Data Requirements: Reauthorization proposals suggest that there could be a significant number of new data requirements. Interpretation of data requirements needs to be accompanied by the clarification of federal, state and local partners roles and responsibilities.
3. Human Resources – Loss of Technical Knowledge: Retirements and other factors are influencing the resources transportation agencies can bring to the table to do effective data collection, analysis and reporting. How do we get people excited about data careers? How do we transfer specialized technical knowledge that is earned over years of experience? What are the keys to effectively partnering with others when that becomes a better option? What longer- term issues might we encounter if external public, private or academic institutions own or share data responsibilities with us?
4. Collecting the “Right” Data: Does what we collect match what we need to track performance goals; plan for very expensive “mega-corridor” projects; and help us better understand the service life and overall costs to sustain our transportation infrastructure?
5. National Data: What are the futures of national data sources? Is there anything we can do about the delays in gaining access to national data sets?
6. Economic, Environmental and Land Use Plans and Priorities: In many states, there is limited information available on statewide or regional land use, economic and environmental

goals, priorities and plans. Transportation agency personnel find themselves having to be the resident data experts on the impacts of transportation on land use, economics, communities and the environment. How do we improve our capacity to address these issues in a transportation context?

7. Data Integration: Enhanced methods, applications and processes are needed to integrate data results for decision-making. There is also a need for more accessible and shareable GIS based data systems that allow for the electronic transfer of data within transportation agencies and among external local and regional transportation partners.

8. Security: The group agreed that homeland security has earned its own place as a cross-cutting transportation data issue.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS (RTSM&O)

-> http://www.itsdocs.fhwa.dot.gov/JPODOCS/REPTS_TE/13686.html

James Pol, FHWA ITS Joint Program Office, highlighted the following RTSM&O success stories at the TRB Statewide Transportation Data and Information System Committee meeting on June 28, 2004:

- TRANSCOM – moving from ‘solving a problem’ to offering regional transportation information and coordination services
- Austin Combined Transportation Emergency & Communications Center (CTECC) – bringing multiple agencies together physically and operationally to improve responsiveness, save lives, and mitigate congestion
- Baltimore Regional Operations Coordination (B-ROC) Project – providing a regional forum at the MPO for operators to exchange ideas, solve problems, and enhance public safety

A document on Regional Transportation Operations Collaboration and Coordination is now available. It is intended to be a primer that introduces a formal collaborative activity for transportation managers and public safety officials from cities, counties and states within a metropolitan region. For further information contact Wayne Berman (wayne.berman@fhwa.dot.gov)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

11/18/04 Private-Sector Provision of Congestion Data Proposals Due. TRB’s National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) has issued a request for proposals to assess the feasibility of transportation agencies’ using congestion data provided by private-sector vendors, particularly data obtained by tracking cellular phones.

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurp_detail.asp?id=4198

RESEARCH

GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATIONS

-> http://trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=4028

CONCEPT FOR AN E-TRANSIT REFERENCE ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE

-> http://trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=4296

ENVIRONMENTAL SPATIAL INFORMATION FOR TRANSPORTATION: A PEER EXCHANGE ON PARTNERSHIPS

-> http://trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=3956

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK MODELING 2003

-> http://trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=3669

TRUCK TRIP GENERATION IN RURAL TEXAS

-> http://www.utexas.edu/research/ctr/pdf_reports/0_4169_P2.pdf

ROAD WEATHER MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

-> <http://www.tfhrc.gov/its/pubs/04101/index.htm>

A REVIEW OF AVAILABLE FREIGHT DATA IN THE US: STATE OF THE PRACTICE IN FREIGHT DATA

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=4129

HANDBOOK OF AUTOMATED DATA COLLECTION METHODS FOR THE NATIONAL TRANSIT DATABASE

-> <http://www.nctr.usf.edu/pdf/473-11.pdf>

NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD TRAVEL SURVEY (NHTS)--NATIONAL DATA AND ANALYSIS TOOL CD-ROM

-> <https://www.bts.gov/pdc/user/products/src/products.xml?p=1795&c=-1>

IMPACTS OF ICTS ON TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

-> http://gulliver.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=4086

FACILITATING IMPLEMENTATION OF SHIPBOARD AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

-> <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04868.pdf>

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/>

To SUBSCRIBE send an e-mail note to tpalmerlee@nas.edu with "Subscribe Data E-News" in the message's subject field. Confirmation of your subscription to the listserv will be sent within 5 business days. Subscriptions are free.

To UNSUBSCRIBE yourself from this listserv send "Unsubscribe Data E-News" in an email message to tpalmerlee@nas.edu.

If you ever need to get in contact with the owner of the list (if you have trouble unsubscribing, or have questions about the list itself), send email to tpalmerlee@nas.edu.