Commodity Flow Survey Workshop
November 16, 2010
The Keck Center of the National Academies
Washington, D.C.

Organized by
Transportation Research Board

Supported by
Research and Innovative Technology Administration
Bureau of Transportation Statistics

www.trb.org/Conferences/CFS2010.aspx

Planning Team

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Donna Hambric, Census Bureau
Kathleen L. Hancock, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Donald B. Ludlow, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.
Rolf R. Schmitt, Federal Highway Administration
Joy Sharp, RITA–Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Thomas M. Palmerlee, Transportation Research Board
The Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) workshop will facilitate a discussion of experiences among CFS users and serve as a forum on future improvements. Issues of interest include the following:

- Impacts of changes in transportation services and practices on the CFS;
- Improvements and methodological changes that can be implemented in the near term to improve the CFS;
- CFS support for the development of performance measures; and
- Future evolution of the CFS.

Experienced users of the CFS and derivative products and applications, such as the Freight Analysis Framework (FAF), should join the dialogue on improving the next survey.

—Bruce Lambert  
**Workshop Planning Team Chair**  
**Institute for Trade and Transportation Studies**

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**Tuesday, November 16, 2010**

7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m., outside Keck 100  
**Breakfast**  
(_table seating available in 3rd floor atrium_)

8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m., Keck 100  
**Opening Session**

Bruce Lambert, Executive Director, Institute for Trade and Transportation Studies, _presiding_

- **Understanding Freight Transportation and the Role of CFS**  
  Peter Appel, Administrator, Research and Innovative Technology Administration

- **The Role of CFS in Understanding the U.S. Economy**  
  Thomas L. Mesenbourg, Jr., Deputy Director, U.S. Census Bureau

- **Summary of the Results of the 2005 TRB CFS Conference**  
  Kathleen L. Hancock, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

- **What’s New With the 2007 CFS**  
  Ronald Duych, RITA–Bureau of Transportation Statistics

**Workshop Charge**

Bruce Lambert, Executive Director, Institute for Trade and Transportation Studies

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m., outside Keck 100  
**Break**  
(_table seating available in 3rd floor atrium_)

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Panel on Content and Uses
Joy Sharp, RITA–Bureau of Transportation Statistics, presiding
Mike Margreta, RITA–Bureau of Transportation Statistics, recorder

Panelists
Rolf R. Schmitt, Federal Highway Administration

• Gain a better understanding of the core items in the CFS, how survey content has changed over the years, and identify possible new areas of information gathering in future collections;
• In view of new DOT goals and reauthorization legislation, identify potential CFS questions that could be of benefit in assisting DOTs and policy makers in developing performance measures or answering new policy questions; and
• To understand the changing complexity of freight transportation logistics, identify areas that might require revision, updating, or—offer an opportunity to collect new data.

Noon–1:00 p.m. Keck 100
Poster Session with Lunch
(table seating available in 3rd floor atrium)

Development of Statewide Freight Plan for Alabama Using Integrated Freight Planning Framework
Michael Anderson and Gregory Harris, University of Alabama

Validating Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) with Transearch
Paul Ciannavei, IHS Global Insight

Impact of CFS in Supply-Chain Models for Freight Planning
Chris Dehaan, Subhro Mitra; and Poyraz Kayabas, North Dakota State University

CFS Findings in FAF2.2 Results and FAF3 Update for Phase 2 of the I-70 Dedicated Truck Lanes Project
Brad Digre, Mark Berndt, and Paul Bingham, Wilbur Smith Associates

2007 CFS Hazardous Materials Report Highlights
Ronald Duych, Chester Ford, and Hossain Sanjani, U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovation Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Using Aggregated Federal Data to Model Freight in a Medium-Size Community
Gregory Harris and Michael Anderson, University of Alabama

Freight Knows No Bounds—The Issue of Cross-Border Metro Areas and the Accuracy of Freight Activity Data
Derek Jaeger, Port of Portland

Freight Data Architecture Application at Local Level Using CFS Data
Catherine Lawson, State University of New York, Albany; and Sreekumar Nampoothiri, Capital District Transportation Committee

How to Use and Improve Commodity Flow Databases in National Supply Chain Model
Qing Liu, North Dakota State University

Improvements to 2007 CFS Data Quality: Mileage Estimation of Shipping Distances
Michael Margreta, U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovation Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

SHRP 2 Project C20: Freight Demand Modeling and Data Improvement Strategic Plan
David Plazak, Transportation Research Board, SHRP 2; and Keith Chase, Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Integrating Freight Considerations in Highway Capacity Planning
David Plazak, Transportation Research Board, SHRP 2; and Donald Ludlow, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.
Overview of the FAF3 Freight Flow Matrix Construction Process
Michael Sprung, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highways Administration; and Frank Southworth and Bruce Peterson, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m., Keck 100
Panel on Scope, Classification, and Geography
Ronald Duych, RITA–Bureau of Transportation Statistics, presiding
John Barrett, IHS Global Insight, recorder

Panelists
Gregory A. Harris, University of Alabama, Huntsville
Frank Southworth, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

- Identify any gaps or inaccuracies that currently exist in the scope, geography, and classification systems of the CFS and propose solutions to address them;
- Determine what operational aspects of current transportation and logistical practices are affecting the scope, geography, and classification of the CFS and how we can better understand them in the next cycle; and
- Determine what modifications can be implemented to the CFS scope, geography, and classification systems to better use CFS in performance measures and other quantitative metrics being proposed and developed to measure the effectiveness and justify transportation programs.

2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m., outside Keck 100
Break
(table seating available in 3rd floor atrium)

3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m., Keck 100
Panel on Product Tools and Functionality
John Frittelli, Congressional Research Service, presiding
Scott Drumm, Port of Portland, recorder

Demonstration of CFS Products
Donna Hambric and Andrew Hait, Census Bureau

- Determine which predefined 2007 tools and functionality are the most useful and how the tools and functionality should be changed for the 2012 CFS;
- Determine which American FactFinder 2007 tools and functionality are the most useful and how the tools and functionality should be changed for the 2012 CFS; and
- Determine how the organization of data should be modified. Was the 2007 organization useful? Is more or is less consolidation needed? In 1997 and 2002 CFS estimates were disseminated in more than 400 files. In 2007 the number of files has been consolidated to 42. For example, national, regional, divisional, state, and metro areas were consolidated into one file for each topic.

4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Keck 100
Closing Session
Bruce Lambert, Executive Director, Institute for Trade and Transportation Studies, presiding

Key Points from the Panels
Donald B. Ludlow, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

CFS Sponsor Remarks
Mark E. Wallace, Chief, Service Sector Statistics Division of the Census Bureau; and Robert L. Bertini, Deputy Administrator, Research and Innovative Technology Administration

5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m., Keck 213
Planning Team Debrief (invitation only)