

Perspective from a State CEO

# Data in the Policy Process

Using National Household Travel Survey Data for Transportation  
Decision-Making

June 6, 2011

# Data in the Policy Process

From a Statewide perspective:

- **Strategic and Policy Level Decisions –**  
Maryland's Statewide Transportation Plan
- **Project and Corridor Level Decisions –**  
Westside Mobility I-495 and I-270 Corridors

# Maryland's Statewide Transportation Plan

Long distance travel through and within the state:

Recent issues to address –

- Invest in US 301, I-95, and/or I-81
- Impact of recent proposed toll rate changes
- Impact from projects in other states and multistate corridor projects



# Maryland's Statewide Transportation Plan

## Commuter and multi-state transit:

Recent issues to address –

- **East Coast through trips**
- **Cost changes**
- **Getting commuters off roads**



# Maryland's Statewide Transportation Plan

## Freight Demand:

Recent issues to address –

- **What growth should be accommodated**
- **Investments in multiple modes**
- **Improve connectivity**

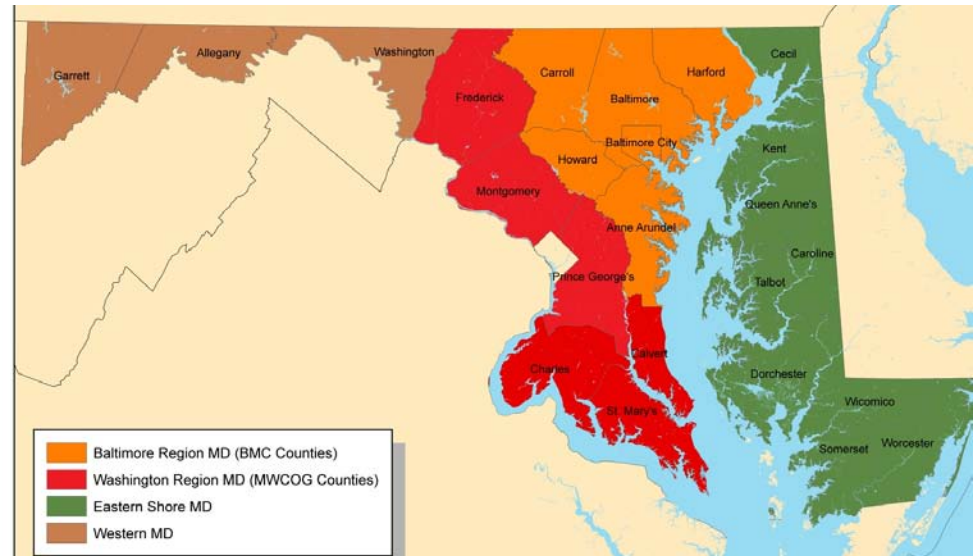


# Maryland's Statewide Transportation Plan

## Land Use Policies:

Recent issues to address –

- **Land use strategies impact transportation needs**
- **Job/Household balance**
- **Land Use and Transportation Connection**



# Maryland's Statewide Transportation Plan

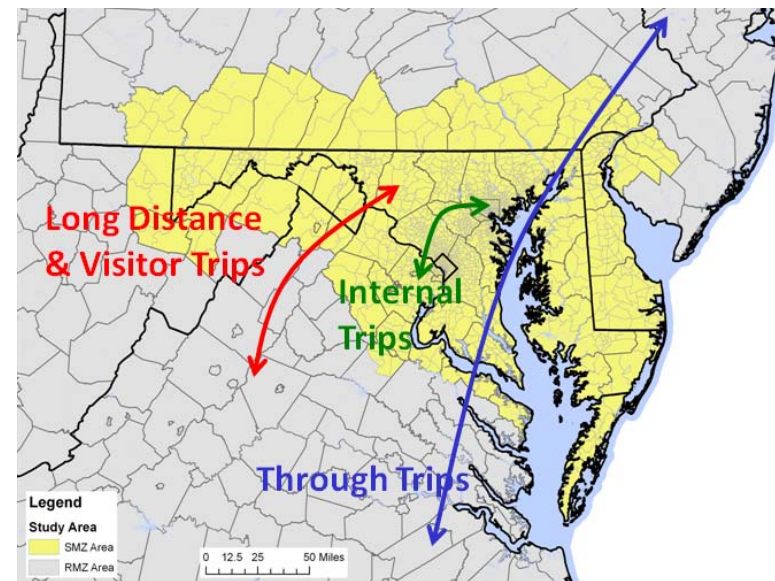
## Passenger Data Use in Maryland's Plan:

- **NHTS data** being used in Maryland's analyses
- **Key in estimating and validating** traveler behavior

# Maryland's Statewide Transportation Plan

## Passenger Data Use in Maryland's Plan:

- Provides **estimation of long distance, visitor, and through trips**
- Provide data to **calibrate forecasts of modal shifts**
- Provide **differentiation of trip patterns**





# Maryland's Statewide Transportation Plan

## Passenger Data Use in Maryland's Plan:

- **Strengthens accuracy** of analyses
- Provides backdrop for **analyses of freight issues**
- Increases knowledge of **connection of land use and travel** demand and patterns

# Maryland's Statewide Transportation Plan

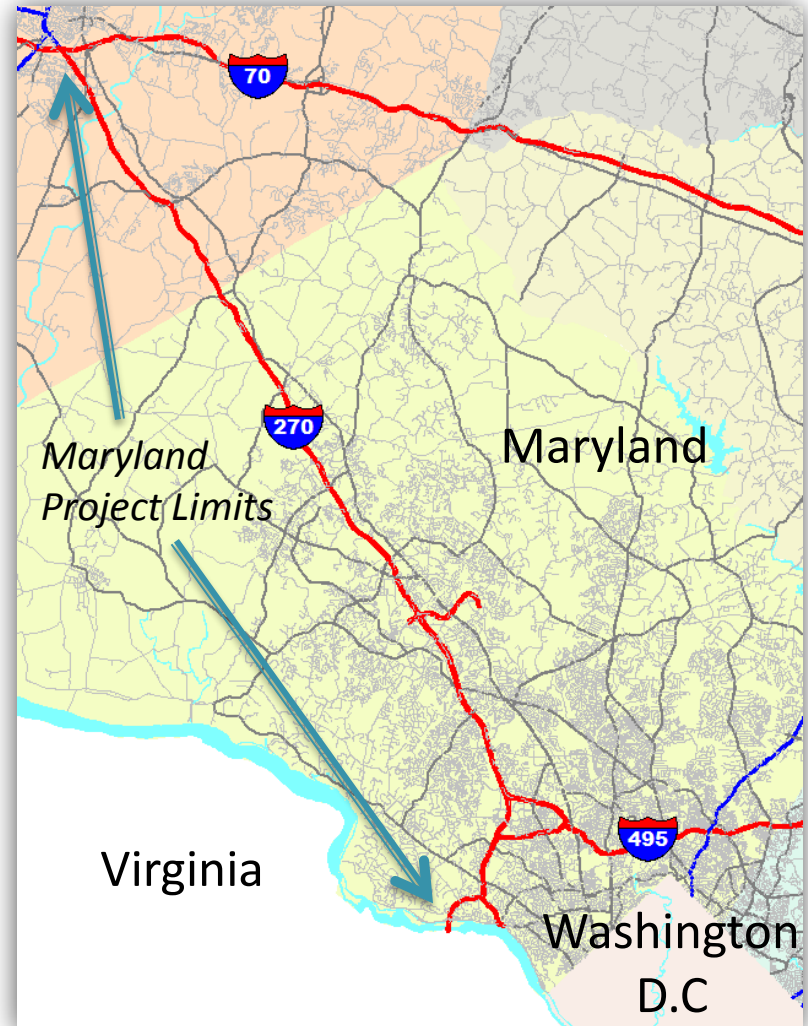
## Data Challenges:

- Maryland needs **more data/larger sample sizes**
- **Shorter intervals between surveys**
- Continue to capture data on **new technology usage**

# Westside Mobility I-495 and I-270 Corridors

## Project overview:

- Southern end **conducted jointly** by Maryland and Virginia. Northern end includes I-270 up to Frederick.
- Looking at **phased improvements** to I-495 (Capital Beltway) and I-270 – *key commuter and interstate corridor for both states.*
- **Other related projects** - Virginia HOT lanes, Corridor Cities Transitway, Intercounty Connector, I-70 Widening.



# Westside Mobility I-495 and I-270 Corridors

## Policy Issues:

- **Timing of Improvements**
- **Managed Lanes**
- **Interconnectivity Issues**
- **Impacts to Land Use**
- **Investment in Other Modes**

# Westside Mobility I-495 and I-270 Corridors

## Data Needs/Challenges:

Data on traveler **actions, preferences, reactions** to transportation conditions needed for this corridor have included:

- **Trip lengths and types**
- **Origin/Destination (O/D) data**
- **Vehicle occupancies**
- **Trip generation**
- **Willingness to pay for services**
- **Willingness to move from peak to non-peak hours**
- **Influence of availability/cost of other modes**

# Data in the Policy Process

NHTS Facilitates Decision Making:

- **Look beyond State/regional borders**
- **Capture underrepresented communities/trip types**
- **Reinforce existing local data**
- **Uncover unknown variables**
- **Stay current with trends over time**

