Commodity Flow Survey Workshop

October 29, 2015

The Keck Center of the National Academies
Washington, D.C.

Organized by
Transportation Research Board

Supported by
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R)
Bureau of Transportation Statistics

The planning committee is pleased to invite experienced users of the Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) and its derivative products, e.g. the Freight Analysis Framework (FAF) to join freight industry experts in discussing the future of the CFS. The aims of the CFS workshop are to:

• Provide an opportunity for direct feedback from the community of CFS data users regarding needed near-term improvements and methodological changes to the survey and its products for 2017 and beyond; and
• Serve as a forum for discussing broader emerging technology and logistics trends and related research advances that may have near and long term implications for the design, implementation, and use of the CFS.

Please join this discussion, which will provide critical input for improving future iterations of the CFS.

—Alison Conway
Workshop Planning Team Chair
City College of New York

Planning Team
Alison Conway, City College of New York, Chair
Scott Drumm, Port of Portland
Ronald Duych, Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Kathleen L. Hancock, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
James Hinckley, United States Census Bureau
Bruce Lambert, Institute for Trade and Transportation
Catherine Lawson, University of Albany, SUNY
Doug MacIvor, California Department of Transportation
Mike Meyer, WSP-Parsons Brinkerhoff
Matthew Roorda, University of Toronto
Mike Sprung, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

TRB Staff
Scott Babcock, Transportation Research Board
Thomas M. Palmerlee, Transportation Research Board
Michael Miller, Transportation Research Board
7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m., outside Keck 100

Breakfast

8:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m., Keck 100

Opening Session
Alison Conway, Assistant Professor, City College of New York, presiding

The “Big Picture”: What is the Role of the CFS
Pat Hu, Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics
John Thompson, Director, U.S. Census Bureau

The Future of Freight Data
Joseph Schofer, Northwestern University

Workshop Charge
Alison Conway, City College of New York

9:45 a.m.–10:15 a.m., outside Keck 100

Break

10:15 a.m.–11:45 a.m., Keck 100

Panel #1: Content and Scope of the 2012 CFS
Joy Sharp, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, presiding
Ryan Grube, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, recording

Panelists
Ronald Duych, Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Scot Dahl, U.S. Census Bureau
Larry McKeown, Statistics Canada

• Discuss the core content of the 2012 CFS, with specific focus on updates since 2007. Specific areas of content to be addressed include the scope, commodities and classification systems, and geographies.

• Introduce the core content of the public use of microdata, its limitations, and its potential applications.

11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Keck 100

Poster Session with Lunch

• Highlight recent applications of the CFS, CFS data, or datasets relying on CFS (e.g. FAF)

Using Commodity Flow Data to Assess the Economic Impacts of Highway Investments on Freight Dependent Industries
Stephen Fitzroy, Derek Cutler, EDR Group

Oil on Rail Flow – A Seamless Addendum to Commodity Flow Survey
Shih-Miao Chin, Ho-Ling Hwang, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Jiaoli Chen, University of Tennessee

Use of the Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) Data to Estimate Freight Mode Choice Models
Jose Holguin-Veras, Shama Campbell, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Use of the Commodity Flow Survey Data to Estimate Freight Generation and Freight Trip Generation Models
Jose Holguin-Veras, Carlos Gonzalez-Calderon, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Modifications to the Methodology and Content of the 2012 Commodity Flow Survey
Hossain Eftekhar-Sanjani, Ronald Duych, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

A Non-Light Duty Energy and GHG Emission Impacts Assessment Tool Developed Based on the CFS and FAF
Yan Zhou, Vyas Anant, Argonne National Laboratory

12:45 p.m.–2:15 p.m., Keck 100
Panel #2: Emerging Trends and the Future of the CFS
Mike Meyer, Parsons Brinkerhoff, presiding
Janine Bonner, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, recording

Cavan Capps, U.S. Census Bureau

Estimation of Nationwide Freight Demand Models with the CFS Micro-Data: Experiences, Challenges, and Potential
Jose Holguin-Veras, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Major Supply Chain Trends with Implications for the CFS
Ken Allen, H-E-B Stores (retired)

2:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m., outside Keck 100
Break

2:45 p.m.–4:15 p.m., Keck 105, Keck 106 and Keck 209
Breakout Sessions – User Discussion

Based on key points from the preceding sessions and individual user experience, three (3) breakout groups will each address the following questions of interest:

- What revisions/updates may be needed to the CFS Structure (e.g. classification systems)?
- What revisions/updates may be needed to the CFS scope (e.g. commodities, geographies)?
- What revisions/updates/additions to CFS sampling methods are needed?
- How can CFS tools and functionality be improved for current and future uses?

4:15 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Keck 100
Closing Session
Alison Conway, Assistant Professor, City College of New York, presiding

Reporting on Key Points from Breakout Sessions
Mike Meyer, Parsons Brinkerhoff; Scott Drumm, Port of Portland; and Bruce Lambert, Institute for Trade and Transportation

Summary of Key Points from Morning and Afternoon Panels
Alison Conway, City College of New York

CFS Sponsor Remarks
Kimberly P. Moore, Chief, Economic Reimbursable Surveys Division of the Census Bureau; and Rolf Schmitt, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, US DOT Office of the Secretary