

Opening Statement

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The purpose of this session is to describe the uses of the data collected in the 1980 census. Information presented in the papers that follow describes in detail such uses, ranging from national, state, local, and interregional planning to service to local government on land use and employment estimates.

The results from the census have been used by many organizations, agencies, and citizens for many purposes. Land developers use census data to study the economic viability of expensive projects. The census produces basic information that could not be collected by project sponsors to properly investigate the economic, environmental, and transportation alternatives of both public and private initiatives.

From a strictly transportation planning point of view, the transportation-oriented data have generally been used to develop a new data base for urbanized areas. Another important use has been in the application of existing models and in the development of new models, especially for mode-split analysis and shared-ride options. Data have been used for subarea planning, alternatives analysis, air-quality and energy studies, and land use forecasting. The data have highlighted the unserved transit patron and provided information for Title VI transit reports. Studies of hazardous waste transportation have been done for both night and day circumstances.

Overall, census data are being extensively used. As time progresses, information on other uses will be forthcoming. Because independent data collection is now prohibitively expensive, reliance on decennial census data has become universal. The need will continue to expand over time as more users become aware of the richness of the data.