

Because I'm Special; A Custom Tabulation for Transportation

Penelope Weinberger, AASHTO

Jim Hubbell, MARC

What is the Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) Program?



- The most recent CTPP tab constitutes the largest custom tabulation of ACS data
 - 354 tables
 - Over 70 variables
 - 17 levels of geography
 - 350 gigabytes!
- CTPP is an AASHTO sponsored program funded by state transportation agencies
- Operates with support from FHWA, RITA, FTA, Census Bureau, MPOs and TRB
- The program includes:
 - Data products
 - Training and technical assistance
 - Research
- Designed by and for the transportation community
- Started in 1970 with custom tabs based on the Journey to Work question

What is the purpose of CTPP?



- Help (transportation planners) understand characteristics about where people live and work, and their commuting patterns and modes
- Most used for validating travel models
- Also:
 - Performance measurement
 - Modal share analysis
 - Environmental justice
 - FTA New Starts/Small Starts
 - Policy Impact Analysis
 - Livability analysis
 - Corridor planning
 - Air quality modeling
 - Trend analysis
 - Descriptive statistics
 - Travel forecasting
 - Title IV
 - Factoring/Adjusting surveys

Specifying a Custom Tabulation



- Deciding what we need
 - Tables, Geography
 - What do Planners Need?
- Logistics
 - Getting in the Queue
- Contracting
 - MOA, IAA, TMA,
- The Disclosure Review Board

Disseminating the Data



- Data Delivery
 - Current tab
 - 350 Gigabyte flat file
 - Web-based Data Access Software
- Software development
 - Has followed the special tabs
 - 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2006 – 2008 ACS, 2006 – 2010 ACS
 - From tapes to disks to the internet

Research, Making the data better

Limitations of small area data



- A Guidebook for using American Community Survey Data for Transportation Planning (NCHRP Report 588)
- Producing Transportation Data Products from the American Community Survey (ACS) that Comply with Disclosure Rules (NCHRP Web-Only document 180)
- Assessing the Utility of the CTPP based on ACS 2006 – 2010
- Custom Geographies and Standard geographies