TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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TOTAL AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE:
$1.6 MILLION THROUGH
THE POOLED FUND
$5.8 MILLION TOTAL CTPP BUDGET

Mn/DOT CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE:
$102,546

PARTICIPATING STATES:
CT, GA, ID, IL, IA, MI, MN, NY, PA, WA

The CTPP is an umbrella program of census data products, training, on-demand technical assistance and research designed to support transportation planning.

RESEARCH SERVICES

OFFICE OF POLICY ANALYSIS, RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Pooling Our Research: Providing Transportation Planners with Accurate Census Data

Why a Pooled Fund Study?

For decades, transportation planners have used census data to inform their planning practices, including travel demand modeling, congestion management, emergency preparedness, transit system planning, environmental justice studies, air quality conformity, environmental justice reviews and trends analyses. Since 1970 (with the Urban Transportation Planning Package), a set of special tabulations has summarized nationwide census data by home location, work location and worker flows between home and work.

A unique partnership between states, metropolitan planning organizations, AASHTO, Federal Highway Administration and the Census Bureau, today's Census Transportation Planning Products program generates data that is used to support more than 20 federal planning requirements, especially those that require sound data for small geographic areas. For some smaller planning organizations with limited funding, the CTPP provides the only source of journey-to-work data.

Historically, CTPP data products were developed from the census long form administered once every 10 years. Practitioners considered the large sample size of this census essential to providing reliable and accurate data. In 2006, the new American Community Survey form came into use, and plans were made to eliminate the long form in favor of annual ACS administration starting in 2010. AASHTO's Standing Committee on Planning sponsored a new, multiyear CTPP project to begin incorporating ACS data into transportation planning products and practices. ACS is a continuous form of measurement that requires accumulation of data over multiple years for tabulation. All 50 states and many metropolitan planning organizations are participating in the new CTPP project; each entity contributes funds based on population estimates for 2010 (at $0.0189 per person).

AASHTO's new CTPP project allows agencies to participate by contributing funds directly to AASHTO or through an FHWA pooled fund. Minnesota and nine other states are participating in the CTPP project through this pooled fund.

What is the Pooled Fund Study's Goal?

The goal of this pooled fund study is to determine the usability of the ACS data for transportation planning purposes to develop new three- and five-year CTPP tabulations that are based on the ACS. The project also provides for ongoing technical assistance, user training and related research activities.

What Have We Learned?

CTPP's Oversight Board identifies priorities for census data and how the data should

TPF-5(154): Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) from the American Community Survey Pooled Fund Study. This study works in conjunction with AASHTO's Standing Committee on Planning on a project to incorporate annual data from the American Community Survey in a set of special data tabulations used for transportation planning and policy analysis.

CTPP Part 1 Profile 1: Census 2000 and 2005-2007 ACS
Geographic Area: STATE- Minnesota   FIPS: 027

R1. Selected Characteristics	Census 2000		2005-2007 ACS		Is Change Significant in number?
	Number	MOE(+/-)	Number	MOE(+/-)	
Total Persons[1]	4,919,479	--	5,155,344	--	--
Persons in Households[2]	4,783,531	--	5,012,749	--	--
Total Households[3]	1,896,209	1,597	2,041,466	5,082	Yes
Average Household Size[4]	2.52	--	2.46	--	--
Average Vehicles per Household[5]	1.80	--	1.89	0.01	--
Persons in Group Quarters[6]	135,948	--	142,595	--	--
Total Workers[7]	2,582,640	4,482	2,716,854	6,487	Yes
Workers at Work[8]	2,541,611	4,485	2,646,371	6,489	Yes

R2. Mode to Work[9]	CTPP2000			2005-2007 ACS			Is Change Significant in number?
	Number	Percent	MOE(+/-)	Number	Percent	MOE (+/-)	
Total Workers	2,541,610	100.0	4,485	2,646,371	100.0	6,489	Yes
Drove alone	1,971,670	77.6	4,398	2,065,607	78.1	7,080	Yes
2-person carpool	215,250	8.5	1,836	197,769	7.5	3,888	Yes
3-person carpool	31,045	1.2	711	29,095	1.1	1,585	Yes
4-person carpool	10,145	0.4	407	10,411	0.4	1,149	No
5- or 6-person carpool	4,825	0.2	281	6,234	0.2	742	Yes
7 or more person carpool	3,425	0.1	237	5,750	0.2	760	Yes
Bus or trolley bus	78,690	3.1	1,126	76,769	2.9	2,678	No
Streetcar or trolley car	315	0.0	72	633	0.0	240	Yes
Subway or elevated	200	0.0	57	1,363	0.1	239	Yes
Railroad	165	0.0	52	1,384	0.1	365	Yes
Ferryboat	110	0.0	42	57	0.0	49	No
Bicycle	10,095	0.4	406	16,476	0.6	1,169	Yes
Walked	84,150	3.3	1,164	81,065	3.1	2,313	Yes
Taxicab	1,790	0.1	171	1,652	0.1	459	No
Motorcycle	1,345	0.1	148	4,950	0.2	486	Yes
Other means	11,730	0.5	438	15,737	0.6	1,103	Yes
Worked at home	116,655	4.6	1,365	131,419	5.0	2,926	Yes

Three-year data from CTPP products using ACS data for the period 2006-2008 will look much like these sample tables that use 2005-2007 ACS data.

be packaged to be most useful to transportation planners. Peer exchanges held in 2006 and 2007 defined CTPP data needs, outlined proposed program tasks and examined the issues surrounding use of census data derived from the new ACS. Three-year data products for 2006 to 2008 will be available soon in 200 tables designed by and for transportation planners. The data profiles and customized tabulations will be limited to states, counties and places with a population of 20,000 or more. They summarize key population, residence, workplace, journey-to-work and flow data characteristics.

What's Going On Now?

The CTPP pooled fund study is one element of a broader effort to provide transportation planners with the best possible census data. The final report for NCHRP Project 08-36, Task 81 describes a project that examined data and potential methods for merging annual data from the ACS and a new quarterly data set from the Census Bureau—Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics—to obtain better journey-to-work data. NCHRP Project 08-79, expected to conclude in July 2011, is testing techniques to use five-year ACS data that satisfy U.S. Census Bureau disclosure rules and support transportation planning at small-area geography. Another project is developing Web-based data access software for the ACS three-year data products.

The pooled fund is currently identifying priorities for five-year CTPP special tabulations with 2006-2010 data that will provide residence, workplace, journey-to-work and flow data for smaller geographic areas such as tracts, traffic analysis zones and block groups. This data set will be the first CTPP with small-area tabulation using ACS records. Results of NCHRP Project 08-79 are expected to be used to ensure small-area data can be released while preserving individual confidentiality. The five-year data sets are scheduled for release in 2012.

What's Next?

Work continues on developing the five-year CTPP tabulations from ACS data. Planning is under way to host a national census data user conference in fall 2011, and work has begun on a white paper outlining longer-term CTPP data access and archiving opportunities and issues.