



COMMITTEE ON TRAVEL SURVEY METHODS (ABJ40)

Summer 2009 Committee Meeting Agenda

Houston, Texas

Monday, May 18th, 6:15-7:45 pm, Hyatt Regency, Imperial Center Room

In attendance: Nancy McGuckin, Stacey Bricka, Krishnan Viswanathan, Guy Rousseau, Elaine Murakami, Guang-Xiang Chen, Ken Cervenka, Michelle Lee, Melissa Chiu, Billy Bachman, Jon Fricker, Josh Auld, Hillel Bar-Gera, Penelope Weinberger, Jorge Argote, Ali Mohseni, Laurie Wargelin, Heather Contrino, Kara Kockelman

I. Welcome & Introduction of Meeting Participants

The meeting was opened by Kara Kockelman with a big thank you to all those attending, and to Travel Survey Manual contributors and people like Lei Zhang and Krishnan Viswanathan, who are helping Kara finalize the online Manual for public release. This was followed by introductions of committee members and friends in attendance. Kara also noted that Kouros Mohammadian now joins Elaine Murakami as co-chair of our New Technologies sub-committee.

Committee Business

▪ TRB News & 2010 Annual Meeting Update

The 2009 TRB Annual Meeting achieved its attendance and budget targets. However, there was a 35 percent drip in attendees from State DOTs, and TRB staff are looking into ways to bring more of TRB to those who cannot attend (via web technologies and such).

The 2010 TRB Annual Meeting's theme is *Investing in our Transportation Future – Bold Ideas to Meet Big Challenges*. Certainly, we can think of data as an asset and investment. In addition, data programs help guide future transportation priorities and investment.

TRB's big Mid-year Meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington July 19-22. For those attending, Elaine Murakami is hosting a party at her house the Saturday before the conference at 6pm. Please contact Elaine if you would like to attend.

June 1st is the deadline for workshop submissions to TRB for the 2010 Annual Meeting. John Rose, Eric Molin, Heather Contrino, and Krishnan Viswanathan have expressed interest in hosting a workshop. Workshop slots are available on Sunday and Thursday during the January conference.

▪ Committee Calls for Papers

We have four terrific Calls for Papers for the 2010 TRB Annual Meeting, as listed at <http://www.travelsurveymethods.org/>. Stacey Bricka suggested that these be advertised via TRB's weekly newsletter. (Kara has already advertised these on the TMIP listserv, and Rob Sheldon has advertised via a survey listserv in Europe.) The Calls are titled as follows:

1. Data Needs for Decision Making
2. Passively Collected Travel Data
3. Long Distance Travel Data
4. Intelligent Processing of GPS Data for Travel Modes and Activities

Superhero Ho-Ling Hwang has volunteered to lead the Committee's paper review process *again* this year. Please contact Kara or Ho-Ling if you are willing to assist in this important committee function (beyond serving as a regular reviewer).

- **NCHRP Updates**

The Committee has been able to promote the submission of a new NCHRP problem statement, titled *Integrating Emerging and Existing Data Programs*, thanks to one of our AASHTO representatives (via NYDOT), Nathan Erlbaum. Other friends of the Committee, Jeff Gonder and Catherine Lawson, made important contributions in the content of this statement.

Guy Rousseau is a Committee member with AASHTO and TRB research program ties that should be able to help us submit a new statement over the coming year. It is hoped that the Household Travel Surveys subcommittee or another will lead the charge in fleshing out an existing Committee research needs statement, to suit this purpose, probably modeled on Nathan's problem statement organization. Penelope Weinberger (present at the meeting) and Michelle Maggiore (a UT Austin alumna) work for AASHTO and may be able to assist in the promotion of our NCHRP, NCFRP, and TCRP research interests.

Elaine Murakami noted that funding has been secured for NCHRP Project 08-79, titled *Identifying Credible Alternatives for Producing 5-year CTPP Data Products from the ACS* (focused on providing small-area data from the ACS). Thanks to Nathan Erlbaum and Nanda Srinivasan for shepherding this \$500K topic forward, with a 15-month project duration. Panel member nominations are due the week of May 26th. If you would like to be on the panel, please contact Nanda Srinivasan.

- **Travel Survey Manual: Status Update (Krishnan Viswanathan)**

The Travel Survey Manual update is coming along. There have been a few access issues but those are being resolved. Many reviewers have not gotten around to editing their sections or drafting new materials, so Kara has been contacting everyone personally. The goal is to have the completed Manual up for final review well before the 2010 Annual Meeting. Elaine Murkami will review the TIGER file details of chapter L (geocoding) and Heather Contrino will tackle the Interviewer Training chapter N.

- **Other Topics for Discussion**

Data Archival – with Emphasis on Safety

ABJ60 (GIS Science & Applications) co-chair Reg Soulette indicated (via email, prior to the meeting) that he is very interested in the value of and potential for archival databases for transportation, especially related to highway safety. He wonders who else shares this interest. Attendees suggested that he check with the TRB's Library Committee, since they are concerned about archiving of all sorts of transportation materials. Elaine noted that she has found funding for travel survey data (& documentation) archiving through the University of Minnesota; however, no one has yet provided GPS data, largely due to privacy concerns. The auto industry is very interested in GPS travel data from the hybrid/alternative vehicle ownership perspective, and SHARP II supporters are also interested in a confidential GPS data center. Elaine notes that monies have now been found to fund such a center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for two years. Users will not be able to touch or copy the data. As with Census files, there will be on-site data access and use, until secure remote- access methods can be developed.

Acquiring Behavioral Data in Energy & Climate Change Areas

Nancy McGuckin noted that Houston's meeting had a session devoted to carbon and energy issues, and that Obama will go to Copenhagen in December 2009 to take leadership on energy issues and promote certain policies. Cap and Trade is the apparent coming policy, and she wonders if politicians are

underestimating the American public's capacity for change. Cap and Trade is on the table because there is experience in this area, and some economic data to support it. But equity implications are a concern, and we have not made adequate arguments for including travel behavior adaptation. We need education and communication on this issue, via revealed and stated preference survey data, to look at what people would do. Important research already exists: Voluntary travel behavior change in Australia is one example, and Peter Jones has also done a lot of work in such areas.

NHTS Update

Heather Contrino noted that the National Household Travel Survey has completed its data collection, for over 155,000 households. The final, unweighted data are due to FHWA in June 2009 for review and quality assurances. Add-on regions will receive the location files (trip ends geocoded) in August. Draft weighted data will be provided to FHWA in August with final delivery on October 5th. The NHTS team is planning to release the public use data file at the 2010 TRB Annual Meeting. New data items support additional analysis for congestion pricing, flexible work arrangements (start time, occupation, work location, and work at home), safe routes to school, non-travelers and travel challenges for people with disabilities, new bike, pedestrian, and motorcycle travel data, and additional access and egress information.

III. Remaining Discussion

The meeting concluded with a roundtable for sharing attendees' recent survey highlights/exploits.

- Elaine Murakami (FHWA) suggested that the committee promote more State DOT representation in its membership. Kara indicated that she would like to see more public agency representatives (such as state DOTs), with significant survey expertise, and a couple seats may become available this year. Suggestions include VDOT's Paul Agnello, MDOT's Karen Faucett, Tiger (Tae-Gyu Kim), NC DOT, Huiwei Shen, ORNL, and Ohio DOT's Rebekah Anderson. Please let Kara know if others should be contacted for submission of resume and cover letter indicating their interests in committee membership.
- Ken Cervenka (FTA) is researching better ways to do transit surveys and quantify nonresponse and other biases in on-board studies. NuStats is working with FTA in a pilot in Los Angeles.
- Laurie Wargelin discussed her Michigan pilot. She is working with the University of Michigan's Group for Transportation Living, in their urban planning department, regarding archiving issues. They have a follow-up study, with GPS & incentives. They also have an attitude and behavior study for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and are working with Cambridge Systematics. (Ok? Did I get all this right?)
- Stacey Bricka (NuStats) mentioned that they are using multi-day, wearable GPS studies. Oregon is doing a university study, regarding household vehicle choices. And El Paso has this kind of data as well now.
- Guy Rousseau (ARC) says ARC has a \$2million on-board study underway, with 10% of the population sampled. They are wrapping up the pre-test, with data collection scheduled for the Fall.
- Michelle Lee, GeoStats, mentioned their Massachusetts statewide survey, and NYMTC's 10% GPS sample. Indianapolis also has an n=200, 2-day wearable-GPS sample.

- Jon Fricker, Purdue University, mentioned Indianapolis/Indiana's statewide survey and coordination for synthetic data.
- Josh Auld (UIC) noted his research under Professor Kouros Mohammadian using 50 elderly Chicago households, using wearable GPS.
- Krishnan Viswanathan (Cambridge Systematics) mentioned the Palm Beach County, Florida on-board transit system survey, conducted via a mix of handouts and personal interviews. The pilot data review was very extensive and the main survey will be revised extensively to reflect the findings from the pilot survey. He also mentioned work being done for NCHRP 8-36(81) looking at using LEHD data to supplement ACS for JTW flows.
- Ken Cervenka (FTA) noted FTA's new requirement of on-board surveys by all transit agencies. For agencies considering a New or Small Starts application, FTA now requires that the travel models used for preparation of forecasts be tested against transit ridership data that has been determined to be "adequate to the task." FTA also requires transit rider surveys to be conducted before and after the opening of transit projects that are funded through the New/Small Starts program.
- Guang Chen (NIOSH) indicated that he is continuing his survey of truck drivers on questions relating to safety. They are working with the FMCSA to get a nationally representative sample. They plan to test their questionnaire in June 2009, and submit an OMB package.
- Jorge Argote, NYMTC) noted that they have an 18,000-household travel survey underway in the region, with one year for data collection, some with GPS. They are using a \$50 incentive for one critical group.
- Elaine Murakami (FHWA) mentioned that there will be a Women's Travel conference in Irvine, California, October 27-29.

19 Research Needs Statements (at TRB Website & Mostly Loaded for NCHRP & TCRP Synthesis Consideration)

- Multiple Survey Collection Methods to Improve Travel Survey Response Rates
- Use and Potential of Longitudinal Surveys for Travel Models (x = Submitted for NCHRP synthesis)
- Freight Transportation Surveys - Methods and Guidelines (x – and won synthesis designation!
<http://www.trb.org/TRBNet/ProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=2527>)
- Using Person-based GPS Technology for Improving Response Rates and Data Quality in Travel Surveys
- Assessment of Freight Needs in Urban Transportation Planning (x)
- Survey Design for Activity-Based and Tour-Based (ABTB) Model Calibration
- Bridging the Gap Between SP Theory and Practice (x)
- Relating Sample Size Calculations to Statistical Methods Rather than Allowable Error
- Investigation of Dual Frame Telephone Survey Design for Improving Response Rates and Coverage
- The Use of GPS, GIS, and Accelerometer/Pedometer Technologies for Generating Improved Measures of Travel and Physical Activity
- Sampling Persons within Households for Travel Surveys
- Non-Response and Application of Cognitive Research to Travel Diary Design
- How Can We Use Technology to Improve Transit Trip Information Collection
- Cross Cultural Dimensions of SP
- Movements of Imported Goods within the United States
- Investigating Non-Response Bias by Extension of the Completion Window for Retrieval Sample
- Truck Movements - A Significant Data Gap

- Passively Collected Travel Data: Issues of Access, Storage, Quality Control, Validation and Application (ABJ40's newest submission!)

Coming TRB Conferences/Workshops of Possible Interest

- Data and Tools for Understanding the Goods Movement-Air Quality Connection, June 2-3, 2009, Irvine, CA
- TRB Joint Summer Conference, July 19-21, 2009, Seattle, WA
- N. American Transportation Statistics Interchange, June 22-23, 2009, Washington, DC (by invitation)
- Integrated Corridor System Management Modeling Best Practices Workshop. September 14-15, 2009, Irvine, CA
- N. American Freight Flows Conference: Understanding Changes and Improving Data Sources, September 16-17, 2009, Irvine, CA
- American Statistical Association, August 2009, Washington DC.
- European Transport Conference, October 5-7, 2009, near Leiden, The Netherlands
- 8th National Conference on Transportation Asset Management: Putting the Asset Management Pieces Together, October 19-21, 2009, Portland, OR (data & safety)
- Women in Transportation Conference, October 27-29, 2009, Irvine, CA
- Developing a Research Agenda for Transportation Infrastructure Preservation and Renewal, November 12-13, 2009, Washington, DC
- International Association of Travel Behavior Research (www.iatbr2009.org), December 13-18, 2009, Jaipur, India
- TRB's 89th Annual Meeting, January 10-14, 2010, Washington, D.C.