



CTPP 2000 Status Report

March 2000

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Federal Transit Administration
In cooperation with the TRB Census Subcommittee

TAZ Verification--April and May 2000

The CTPP Working Group expects a revised version of TAZ-UP Software and TAZ verification TIGER/Line files to be ready for shipping in April 2000. The new version of TIGER will include preliminary 2000 tract and block group boundaries, in addition to the TAZ plan that was submitted. The revised version of TAZ-UP will make it easy for you to compare the TAZ plan submitted to the Census Bureau (if you kept all the files related to TAZ-UP on hard drive) to what was incorporated into the TIGER file. **Participants will have one month to review the file and return it with any corrections to the Census Bureau Geography Division.** This is NOT an opportunity to make wholesale changes to TAZs! If changes are needed to fewer than 20 TAZs, participants will need to submit only verification maps. If more changes are needed, a new file will need to be submitted to the Census Bureau.

IMPORTANT: TAZ-UP VERIFICATION MAILING.

To ensure that your TAZ Verification TIGER/Line files are received on time, please ensure that FHWA has your correct mailing address. For a list of addresses and contacts of organizations that will receive TAZ-UP Verification files, please visit:

<http://www.mcs.com/~berwyned/census/tazinfo.html>

Please call or e-mail Nanda Srinivasan with any corrections. The telephone number is: (202) 366-5021. E-mail: ctpp@fhwa.dot.gov.

Work-UP

*By Clara Reschovsky
US Census Bureau*

Nearly 300 agencies have volunteered to review employer lists using Work-UP software. All of the packages including the software and employer records will be mailed by March 17. **Files must be returned to the Census Bureau via ftp by May 31, 2000.**

1. What is Work-UP?

It is impossible for the Census Bureau to geocode all the workplace locations that are written into the Census questionnaires using the TIGER files. Therefore, a nationwide employer file, with business name and address location is used to improve the workplace geocoding.

2. Why should I spend time and resources on Work-UP?

The better the employer file is, the better the workplace coding will be. This will ultimately impact the quality of the CTPP 2000 for your area.

3. What records should I review first?

We recommend that you review the ungeocoded records first. While many of these records appear to be geocoded, they may only be coded to a zip code or city centroid, and will be matched to the wrong TAZ or census tract or block group.

4. Why should I review the geocoded file?

If you have time and resources, you should also review the geocoded file to check that the larger employers are coded to the right locations. *If an employer is missing from both the geocoded or ungeocoded lists, then you will need to add them.*

5. Are government agencies included in the employer files?

Government agency listings from the Blue Pages of the phone book are included. However, these listings are often incomplete. *You need to make sure that the state, local, and federal government agencies in your area are correctly included.*

6. Are public schools in the file?

We think the coverage of K-12 schools in this file is better than we have provided in previous decades. We encourage you to check that individual schools in addition to school district names are included in the list.

7. How should I add universities and colleges into the file?

If an entire campus is in one TAZ, then you can put the school at one building address. However, for campuses which are more spread out and located in more than one TAZ, you will need to make a decision on how many different addresses you will add to the file. We recommend that you separate the facilities by major type, such as medical facilities, class buildings, dorms, etc., or by campus site.

8. Why should I add aliases?

Businesses often have alternative names or abbreviations that are commonly used by their employees. Respondents can therefore, report different names for the same employer. For employers with more than two names, “duplicate” records can be added using the “Add new employers” tool available in Work-UP.

For further questions please call Clara Reschovsky at (301) 457-2454 or email: clara.a.reschovsky@ccmail.census.gov.

Census 2000 Begins.

April 1, 2000 is Census Day. Hundreds of thousands of Census Bureau support personnel will count the estimated 118 million housing units and 275 million people across the United States. Unakleet, Alaska was the first place to be enumerated for Census 2000. Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt personally enumerated residents of this Alaskan village to kick off the first U.S. population census of the new century.

About two weeks before the Census Day, most households will receive a questionnaire by mail. Census takers will deliver forms to the remaining households. Five out of six people across the country will get the Census short form. The questions on this form will include only seven subjects: name, sex, age, relationship, Hispanic origin, race, and housing tenure (whether home is owned

or rented). This will be shortest form in 180 years.

Seventeen percent of the households will receive the Census long form. According to the Census Bureau, the long form will take 40 minutes, on average, to complete. It includes 52 questions covering topics such as educational level, income, ancestry, housing conditions, commuting patterns, disability, veteran's status, and employment. For more information on the long form, please visit the Census Bureau web site at <http://www.census2000.org/facts/long.html>.

Even though most people may receive their forms well before April 1, questions should be answered as though they were asked on April 1. The forms can be mailed back when completed (even before April 1). The

Census Bureau will start non-response follow-up by the last week of April 2000.

Local Participation

Dr. Prewitt launched a nationwide campaign to recruit temporary workers. The Bureau hopes to build a pool of 3 million qualified applicants, from which it will hire about 500,000 people to fill 860,000 positions over the course of census operations. The goal is to have a pool of local people who are familiar with their communities and committed to a successful count in their own neighborhoods. Individuals interested in working for the Census may call any of the 520 local census offices or a toll-free-number, 1-888-325-7733.

Advertising

The Census Bureau has also launched its two-part advertisement campaign called "How America Knows What America Needs" to boost grassroots participation in the Census. The first component of the Census is the mailing program called the "90 Plus Five". The Program's goal is a 70 percent nationwide mail response rate. Only 65 percent of the households returned their

Census forms by mail in 1990; the Bureau's Census 2000 plan assumes a 61 percent mail-back rate.

The campaign's second part called "Because you count," will encourage households that do not mail back a form to cooperate with enumerators during the "non response follow-up" operation. This second component also targets households in rural areas where census workers deliver questionnaires in person and verify the address and location on a map. The operation is called "update/leave enumeration".

Census 2000 Time Line

By law, the Census Bureau must tabulate and report the total population of each state to the President by December 31, 2000, for the purposes of congressional apportionment (i.e. allocating the 435 seats in the House of the Representatives among the 50 states). By April 1, 2001, it must transmit detailed, block level counts to the states for use in the redistricting process. The following table shows the detailed activity schedule for the Census.

Activity/Description	Planned Start	Planned Finish
List/Enumeration (Enumerators will visit households)	Mar 13, 2000	May 1, 2000
Telephone Questionnaire	Mar 3, 2000	Jun 8, 2000
Update/Leave - Rural Areas Only	Mar 13, 2000	Mar 30, 2000
Mail Delivery	Mar 13, 2000	Mar 31, 2000
Non Response Follow-up	Apr 27, 2000	Jul 7, 2000
Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Survey	Jun 19, 2000	Feb 9, 2001
Coverage Improvement Follow-up	Jul 27, 2000	Aug 15, 2000
<i>Delivery of Apportionment Counts</i>	<i>December 31, 2000</i>	
<i>Redistricting Data to the States</i>	<i>April 1, 2001</i>	

Sources: This article was compiled from information obtained from various Census Bureau web sites and News Alerts. For Census 2000 News Alerts and other information, please visit <http://www.census2000.org>

NCHRP Proposal Needs Support

By Ed Christopher

TRB Subcommittee on Census Data for Transportation Planning (A1D08(1))

At the January TRB meetings, the Subcommittee on Census Data for Transportation Planning began soliciting support for a National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) study focused on the use of the American Community Survey (ACS) data. The proposal received backing from the Urban Data Committee (A1D08), the Statewide Data Committee (A1D09), and the Committee on National Data Requirements (A5016).

The proposal must still be introduced into the NCHRP process for consideration. Once it is introduced, it must go through a selection process where the states vote on it.

There are three ways a project can be submitted for consideration--directly from states, through the AASHTO Committees or from FHWA.

Over the next month NCHRP will be soliciting project proposals for FY2002. **The project needs states to submit it for consideration.** This is an open invitation to all states to help move this project into the NCHRP hopper. Below is an excerpt of the proposal, the complete draft prepared by the Subcommittee can be found at CTPP website at

<http://www.mcs.com/~berwyned/census/notes/nchrp012000.html>

Use of Census American Community Survey Data in Transportation Planning

The U.S. Census Bureau is planning to replace the traditional decennial census "long form" with a continuous data collection program entitled the American Community Survey (ACS). During the 1999-2001 time period the Census Bureau will collect ACS data in approximately 31 comparison sites in the U.S. The full implementation of the ACS will begin in 2003.

Planners will need to transition from a paradigm of once-a-decade analysis to one of continuous measurement. To do this, planners need guidance in analyzing the statistical characteristics of ACS data for large areas (e.g., counties, places) and small areas (neighborhoods and travel analysis zones) on a time-series basis.

This research will complement Census Bureau and US Department of Transportation efforts on analyzing ACS comparison site data. Possible products of this research study may include guidance manuals for statistical analysis, training courses for MPO and State DOT staffs, detailed case studies of ACS comparison site data, and guidance materials for presenting continuous census data to decision-makers, the public and the media.

COST: \$300,000

DURATION: 24 months

American Community Survey 1998 CD-ROM

The third edition of the American Community Survey (ACS) CD-ROM is now available for the years 1996 through 1998. This CD-ROM is designed to help users learn more about what the ACS offers. It comes with its own software and allows users to quickly access information in a narrative or tabular format. Users can also view or print charts, maps, and reports. Data are displayed in three formats: community profiles, detailed summary tables, and public-use microdata. It contains all of the data from 1996, 1997, and the just released 1998 demonstration areas.

For more information on the survey or to request a free copy of the CD-ROM, please call: 1-888-456-7215 or send an e-mail to acs@census.gov. Information on ACS can be found at: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www>.

Meeting of the TRB Subcommittee on Census Data for Transportation Planning

The Subcommittee on Census Data for Transportation Planning A1D08(1) met on Monday, January 10 during the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting in Washington DC. The topics included:

Metropolitan Area Standards Review Project (MASRP)

Jim Fitzsimmons, Census Bureau, Chair of the MASRP Committee, explained that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) conducted a review of the standards that are used to define metropolitan areas. Draft standards were published in October 1999. Final standards are planned to be published before Census Day (April 1) 2000. OMB defines metropolitan areas for purposes of collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal data. Metropolitan area definitions result from applying published standards to decennial census data.

In the draft standards, MASRP recommended a "Core-Based Statistical Areas (CBSA)" system to replace the current PMSA/CMSA structure. Each CBSA must include a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area (UA) of at least 50,000 population or a Census Bureau-defined settlement cluster (SC) of at least 10,000 population. A CBSA will be assigned a level based on the total population of all UAs and SCs, as follows: Megalopolitan, 1,000,000 and above; Macropolitan, 50,000 to 999,999; Micropolitan, 10,000 to 49,999. The extent of CBSAs will be determined at county level, based upon commuting flows. CBSAs will be defined in 2003, after the 2000 commuting data become available.

American Community Survey (ACS)

Chip Alexander, Census Bureau, explained that the ACS is an ongoing survey, using a rolling sample, and a questionnaire with the same content as the Census 2000 long form. The ACS is being implemented in three

phases: 1996-1998, selected demonstration sites; 1999-2002, 31 sites chosen for comparison of ACS and Census 2000 results, on a tract-by-tract basis; 2003 on, full implementation nationwide, using a sample spread over all counties (with oversampling in smaller governmental units). Addresses for the sample will be chosen from an updated national Master Address File (MAF).

The full ACS will provide estimates of demographic, housing, social, and economic characteristics for each year for all states, and for all cities, counties, metropolitan areas, and population groups having 65,000 or more persons. For smaller areas, it will take two or more years to achieve samples of sufficient size: for example, areas of 20,000 to 30,000 can use data averaged over three years, while areas of less than 15,000 will require five years of data.

Chip Alexander also discussed the proposed Census 2000 Supplemental Survey. This survey would be taken in 2000 and 2001 to compare results from the Census 2000 long form to a continuous survey at the nationwide level. Plans and timing for the supplemental survey are unclear at this time.

Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics Project (LEHD)

Julia Lane, American University, described the LEHD project. This project will permit the direct linking of the two basic kinds of Census Bureau products, namely demographic surveys (collected from households) and economic censuses and surveys (collected from establishments or businesses). The resulting data sets will be longitudinal in both the household/individual and firm/establishment dimensions. The LEHD will improve place of work responses in the ACS, as well as allowing the tracking of changes in place of work over time.

**Ed Limoges,
Secretary, TRB Subcommittee on Census Data for Transportation Planning (A1D08(1))**

Archiving 1980 UTPP

The 1980 Urban Transportation Planning Package (UTPP) is the predecessor to the Census Transportation Planning Package. In 1980, individual organizations (numbering about 113) contracted with the US Census Bureau to obtain the UTPP for about 180 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) across the country. Some state DOTs contracted for multiple areas. The data were supplied as hard copy printouts, microfiche, and 9 track computer tapes containing four undelimited flat files and a data dictionary.

The Census Bureau did not keep a copy of each file produced. Therefore, neither the Census Bureau nor the US Department of Transportation have an archive of the files. Since the data are significant from an historic standpoint and for conducting trend/longitudinal analysis, the CTPP Working Group is trying to build an archive with as many files as possible.

Beginning in October 1999, we have attempted to find these files, but only 14 organizations have provided us with the 1980 UTPP data files. If you are aware of the 1980 UTPP for your area, please contact Nanda Srinivasan at 202-366-5021 (E-mail: ctpp@fhwa.dot.gov).

If you/your organization find the files, we would like to have a copy. You may supply us the files as:

1. CD-ROM wherever possible.
2. Computer tapes where you do not have the technology to transfer the data from the computer tape to newer media.

If you do not have the raw data files, but have converted the files to other formats such as SAS files, Excel spreadsheets etc., we would still like to have a copy.

Please mail your files indicating the area and the Organization name to:

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