

Travel Survey Methods

TRB Committee ABJ40

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	Chair Update	Conference Watch
	<p>Our mid-year meeting was held in Annecy, France at the ISCTSC Conference, with roughly 30 persons in attendance. The conference enjoyed representation of 26 countries and was one of the best I have had the privilege of attending.</p> <p>In addition to the mega-update of the Travel Survey Manual chapters that we have underway (thanks to all you editors!), we are collecting survey documents for the associated website. Please send me your survey instruments and any supporting documentation to include. Thank you!</p> <p>Please note that a freight surveys synthesis RFP is on the street through NHCRP/NCFRP. This is a result of the research needs put together by our committee. Nice job, everyone! - Kara Kockelman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools of the Trade, September 2008 • APDU, September 2008 • TRB Impact of Changing Demographics on the Transportation System, October 2008 • European Transport Conference, Oct. 2008 • TRB Annual Meeting, January 2009 • TRB Planning Applications Conference, May 2009

Saving Fuel and Funds—Teleworking

Number of U.S. workers	145,272,000
Number of workers who sometimes work at home	10,389,672
Percentage	7.2%
Average one-way distance to work for those workers (miles)	17.5
Miles saved each work at home day	363,638,520
Gas saved each work at home day (gallons*)	17,913,228
* using fleet average (NHTS/EIA 2006) of 20.3 mpg	

Source: 2001 National Household Travel Survey

The 2001 NHTS shows that 10.4 million workers telecommuted at least occasionally (at minimum, once in the past two months) instead of traveling to their normal workplace. The most likely candidates for telecommuting are men, persons with incomes of \$75k or greater, people living in suburban areas, and those employed in professional, technical or managerial positions.

Due to the higher than average commute distance for telecommuters (17 miles one-way), the savings in gas consumption for the days that they do not go into work is nearly 18 million gallons. With today's fuel cost at a national average of \$4.10, the total daily savings is almost \$74 million.

The 2008 NHTS includes additional information on telecommuting along with data on flexibility of work schedules, vehicle occupancy, and time of day travel.

Hot Topics

- **Abstracts for the Transportation Planning Applications Conference**, to be held in Houston, Texas, are due by **September 15**. You can submit on-line at www.trb-appcon.org. (*Note: Our mid-year meeting is likely to be held there.*)
- The **State of Vermont** and the University Transportation Research Center (UTC) have joined forces in provide statewide travel survey data via the 2008 NHTS Add-On Program. This Program gave a small state like Vermont the opportunity to collect current statewide travel behavior data.
- **The German NTS has begun**. In 2008, 25,000 households will participate. Data on trip making, socio-economics, demographics, and mobility options are collected. The NTS is conducted in partnership with several add-on areas including Munich, Cologne/Bonn, and Hamburg.

Research Highlight—Santiago Panel

Juan de Dios Ortuzar is heading up the development of a data panel in Santiago de Chile to capture travel behavior changes in response to the Transantiago, the new public transport system.

The *Santiago Panel* is a five-day pseudo diary in five waves. The first wave was taken two months before the introduction of the new system, while waves two and three were carried out three and ten months afterward, respectively. The last two waves will be gathered during the second half of 2008.

The *Santiago Panel* is still in process, but they can claim so far the highest response rate in the literature (95% in wave two and 92% in wave 3). This achievement is due to the application of various effective maintenance methodologies, such as providing incentives, maintaining contacts, using the same interviewer for the same respondents among waves, and conducting face-to-face interviews.

Committee News

Mid-Year Meeting in Annecy, France

The Travel Survey Methods Committee held its mid-year meeting in Annecy, France this past May. The discussion focused on continuing work from the Data Section Retreat (final report available soon), the upcoming paper review process for the 2009 TRB Annual Meeting, and committee work and planning for updating the Travel Survey Manual. Several colleagues from the international research community attended the meeting.

Travel Survey Methods Manual Update

The TMIP Travel Survey Manual was published in 1996. Over the past 12 years, several new methods have been developed that improve the quality and coverage of studies. Our committee seeks to update this Manual using voluntary efforts. A lead author has been assigned for each chapter. The goal is to develop a fully updated Travel Surveys Manual by the end of this year. This will be a great addition to the body of knowledge on the latest survey methods for travel studies. If you are interested in assisting with the manual update, please contact Elaine Murakami, Elaine.murakami@dot.gov.

TRB Annual Conference—Paper Reviews

With the August 1st paper submission deadline behind us, the fun part begins — paper reviews! Our committee put out six Calls for Papers in topics ranging from new technologies to freight research (as shown at our committee website: www.travelsurveymethods.org). Ho-Ling Huang (hwanghl@ornl.gov) has graciously volunteered to chair the paper review process this year. Since we are expecting many submissions, Ho-Ling will need reviewers & extra support, so please let her know if you can assist.