National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) Program

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Presentation Outline

- What It NHTS
- What Traffic Monitoring Professionals Need to Know
- Information Derived
- 2017 Summary
- Add-on Program
- Next Generation NHTS
What is the NHTS?

The National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) is a periodic national survey providing travel behavior data to support transportation policy and planning efforts. The survey has been conducted every 5-8 years since 1969 – 50 years of data!

Prior to 2017, the last NHTS was in 2009
Why Do Traffic Monitoring Professional Need to Know NHTS?

NHTS data and information:

• provide the “reason” and “rational” on traffic volume and class data observed from traditional traffic monitoring
• bridge gaps between empirical count data and fundamental travel behavior decision makings
• enable more effective trend analysis
• help to explain what observed with count data

Ultimately, making both traffic monitoring professional and monitored data be more valuable and more relevant!
2017 NHTS:
Data collected on trips taken by all members age 5+ of participating households over a 24-hour period. Final data set details daily household and personal travel patterns over a complete year. The survey data collection period was from April 2016 through April 2017.

Key data include:

- Purpose of the trip
- Means of Transportation
- Trip rates by purpose
- Travel time and time of trip
The 2017 NHTS Survey at a glance:

- 264,000 people
- 130,000 households
- Represents all parts of the US, urban and rural
- Demographics, attitudinal and travel behavior data
- One day (24-hours) travel information from each household
- All trips and all purposes by all means of travel
- National + 13 add-on partners (9 State DOTs and 4 MPOs)
Modal Share
A Total Of Over 371 Billion Trips

- 82% POV
- 11% Walk
- 3% Transit
- 3% Bicycle
- 3% Taxi / Limo (including Uber / Lyft)
- 3% Rental car (including Zipcar / Car2Go)
2017 Add-on Partners

• State Agencies:
  • Arizona DOT
  • Caltrans
  • Georgia DOT
  • Maryland SHA
  • New York State DOT
  • North Carolina DOT
  • South Carolina DOT
  • Texas DOT
  • Wisconsin DOT

• MPO Agencies:
  • Des Moines, IA Area MPO
  • Iowa Northland Regional COG (Waterloo, IA)
  • Indian Nations COG (Tulsa, OK)
  • North Central Texas COG (Dallas-Ft. Worth)
Sample Add-on Questions

• **AZQ5** What type of transportation investments should the state focus on? Please indicate your top **THREE** choices.
  - a. New roadways
  - b. Existing roadway maintenance/reconstruction
  - c. Public transportation
  - d. Sidewalks
  - e. High-occupancy vehicle lanes
  - f. Bike lanes and paths
  - g. Recreational trails
  - h. Transportation system management/signal coordination
Sample Add-on Questions

CAQ4. [Ask if age 16+] What keeps you from biking (or biking more often) to your destination(s)? Please indicate the top THREE reasons:

- Health issues
- No one to bike with
- No nearby paths or trails
- Not enough bike lanes or wide curb lanes
- No sidewalks/Sidewalks are narrow or in poor condition
- Utility poles in the middle of the sidewalk
- Too far to travel by bike
- Safety concerns
- Too much traffic
- Air quality
- No shops or other conveniences nearby
- Prefer to drive
NHTS Application

- Used for travel demand analysis including State DOTs and MPOs travel demand modeling work
- Used for a wider range of policy issue and scenario based analysis
- Used to support legislative initiatives
- Used in various traffic data monitoring and estimation processes
- Vehicle Occupancy for PM3
Challenges Moving Forward

- Low response rate
- Costly
Next Generation NHTS

- Take advantage of new data sources
- Switch to an annual survey to be enhanced with other administrative data
- Pool resources together to take advantage on the scale of economy phenomena
- Collect both trip rate and origin destination data
Pooled Fund Solicitation

http://www.pooledfund.org/Details/Solicitation/1466
Add-On Two Levels of Participation

1. Join without data purchase ($5000 a year)
   • Join the Working Group (annual in-person meeting)
   • Access the latest national data and information
   • Gain centralized technical and peer support in data applications

2. Join with data purchase (minimum $25,000 a year)
   • Purchase additional core survey data AND/OR passive OD data for any data year(s) between 2019-2023
   • Lower the data cost (economies of scale)
   • Gain nationally consistent data so that data controls and comparisons can be efficiently enabled
   • Having no or minimum contracting or oversight hassles
Add-On Participation Timeline

• Add-On partners can opt in/out at 1-year increment
  • Join with data purchase:
    • For survey data, 6+ months before data collection begins
    • For OD data, anytime
  • Join without data purchase – anytime

• Partners are encouraged to make a pledge NOW via the Transportation Pooled Fund weblink: http://www.pooledfund.org/Details/Solicitation/1466

• After the weblink is closed, you can still join by emailing Danny Jenkins at Daniel.Jenkins@dot.gov
Questions?
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