



FHWA NHTS NEWSLETTER

National Household Travel Survey

January, 2015

The National Household Travel Survey team is gearing up for the 2015 survey! We have recruited 11 Add-Ons and are currently collaborating with the selected survey contractor, Westat of Rockville, MD on the survey design and implementation. The 2015 NHTS will undergo a new design that uses an address-based-sample (ABS) and employs several modes of data collection including mail, web, and telephone to increase overall response rates. The GPS component of the survey is tentatively on hold. In the coming months, FHWA will convene an expert panel to provide guidance on the proposed methodology, sample design, questionnaire and quality control measures. Because the survey will be re-designed, there will be several testing measures that have to take place before it can be out in the field. A tentative fielded data collection effort remains for the late fall of 2015.

NHTS ADD-ON PARTNERS

Recruitment efforts have concluded for 2015 NHTS Add-on partners. Current participants include Arizona, California, Georgia, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, Des Moines Area MPO, Iowa Northland Regional COG, and Tulsa Indian Nations COG.

NHTS Mail List

The NHTS user community has sought a platform for exchanging information and resolving data analysis issues. There have been several attempts to meet this need, including the FHWA's Community of Practice site, but none have effectively reached all NHTS users. We are in the process of evaluating and testing various collaboration tools and will notify users when it is operational.

USER COMPENDIUM

The 2014 NHTS Compendium contains information on various uses and applications of NHTS data in transportation planning and research. As the most recently published survey, the 2009 NHTS data continues to serve the user community with almost 72,000 visits to the NHTS website in 2014. About 4,900 downloads have been performed for NHTS data in this same year to be used towards various transportation-related studies. For the year 2014, about 320 published articles and reports citing NHTS were selected using the TRB Annual Meeting Online Portal and Google Alerts. They were grouped into various categories: Bicycle & Pedestrian Studies, Energy Consumption, Environment, Traffic Safety, Transit Planning, Travel Behavior, and Trend Analysis & Market Segmentation.

TRB TASK FORCE

In its third year of operation, the TRB NHTS Task Force has been charged with providing information to the FHWA from the user community on various uses for the next NHTS. Their excellent and comprehensive Phase One Report of Activities is available in the TRB Circular E-C178, October 2013. This past September, the Task Force met to strategize for the 2015 and 2020 NHTS. The Task Force has been an exceptionally hard-working and effective group with co-chairs Krishnan Viswanathan of CDM Smith and Jean-Daniel Saphores of UC Irvine.

NHTS ACADEMY MODULES

The NHTS Academy is a series of self-learning module tools that teach users how to use the NHTS data more effectively. These modules were constructed after feedback from users via the NHTS Task Force. The completed modules are available at the NHTS website <http://nhts.ornl.gov>. The Academy has grown to seven subject areas with eleven videos. New modules released in the last year include Census Boundary Update, BESTMILE variable and vehicle occupancy. Plans for future module topics include person trips, computing travel times, trip chain file, etc. Please email us any suggestions for new NHTS modules.

ADMINISTRATOR'S EXCELLENCE IN TEAMWORK AWARD FOR C & P REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS

The NHTS team was commended for authoring Chapter 1 of the 2013 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions and Performance report to Congress. This effort earned Program Manager, Adella Santos, the Administrator's Excellence in Teamwork Award. She was presented with this honor in December 2014, but recognizes the NHTS team for their many contributions. Associate Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, David Kim said, "*It is a reflection of the tremendous work that was done to write and prepare what is arguably one of the most authoritative reports produced by FHWA.*" The report is intended to provide decision makers with an objective appraisal of the physical conditions, operational performances, and financing mechanisms of highways, bridges, and transit systems based both on the current state of these systems and on their projected future state under a set of alternative future investment scenarios.

Highlights of NHTS @ TRB

Innovative Analysis of National Household Transportation Survey

Session 302: Mon., Jan. 12th 10:45AM - 12:30PM Convention Center, Hall E

Task Force on Understanding New Directions for the National Household Travel Survey Task Force ABJ45T Mtg: Mon., Jan. 12th 1:30PM – 5:30PM Marriott Marquis, Independence C (M4)

Panel, Continuous, and Cross-Sectional Travel Surveys: Lessons Learned and Successes Achieved Session 602: Tues., Jan. 13th 1:30PM - 3:15PM Convention Center, 151A

Data Needs for the Future – The Big Picture

Lectern Session: Wed., Jan. 14th 10:15AM - 12:00PM Convention Center, 152A

For further information please contact us :

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