

DECISION-MAKING IN A DATA FREE ENVIRONMENT

FORKENBROCK SYMPOSIUM

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THE FINANCE THING AGAIN

The need for resources is desperate – the trust fund faces insolvency – the Congress needs about a 40% boost just to write legislation. The need for resources leads to the need for a plan to guide the resources; and for a vision to guide the plan; and for the credibility to convince people to consider your vision. We are at a stage where saying: “ Give us more money and we will do good things with it!” wont work. At least until the heat blows over!

EACH OF OUR FAVORITE 4

- CREDIBILITY
- VISION
- PLAN
- FINANCE

Will be – or at least should be – immensely data-intensive.

Given the low regard that public agencies have in the public's mind, sound information will be seen as a key to credible assertions of need.

Drivers for Reauthorization

- ❑ **6 months ago – freight/Int'l competitiveness**
 - ❑ **3 months ago – GHG/cap and trade**
 - ❑ **1 month ago – fuel costs**
 - ❑ **Now – finance**
 - ❑ **Next Month – Recession?**
 - ❑ **Month After – Election stuff?**
 - ❑ **End of Year ??????????????**
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Key Institutional Data Issues

- ❑ **Active Disinterest in the US DOT**
 - ❑ **The NHTS has survived another day; will it make it to another cycle?**
 - ❑ **Decline in role and effectiveness of the Bureau of the Census**
 - ❑ **The CTPP program needs a re-think**
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NHTS survived once again

- ❑ **Losses due to research earmarks**
 - ❑ **Return of “pass the hat” funding**
 - ❑ **State Leadership 120,000 observations**
 - ❑ **Strong private sector support**
 - ❑ **With corrections bill funding can proceed fully**
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CTPP disclosure issues with Census

- ❑ **Annual ACS requires minimum area of 60,000**
 - ❑ **A summing of 3 years data is required to get down to 20,000**
 - ❑ **A five year summing of data is required for more detailed geography**
 - ❑ **Sample size will impact**
 - **Traffic Zones/Tracts**
 - **Transit**
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New rule for 3-year CTPP is far more onerous than in past

	ACS (Micro data) 1%	Census 2000 LF Tract	CTPP 2000 TAZ or BG	"NEW" CTPP with ACS
Population	100,000	4,000	1,200	20,000
Estimated unwgted sample (persons)	1,000	500-600	150-200	800

CTPP disclosure issues with Census

- ❑ **Census fears that new internet capabilities could severely threaten data disclosure**
 - ❑ **More stringent rules may be coming**
 - ❑ **Likely to mean less data (coarser)**
 - ❑ **New techniques will be required**
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Other Census issues

- Quiet loss of TIUS/VIUS
 - Never got to VIUS from TIUS
 - No Autos
 - No Public vehicles
 - But we did get a name change!
 - Loss of unique vehicle universe
 - Energy studies
 - CO₂
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The search for credibility could become a data-intensive activity

- We have Commission-itis
 - New Players – Bi-Partisan Policy Center
 - Leadership from abroad
 - Stern Report
 - Eddington Study
 - Prud'homme Study
 - Performance-based Planning
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Everyone says performance-based planning is the answer

- Easier to say than do!**
- All about time and cost – the things we are worst at measuring**
- Performance Measures are everywhere – most pretty good**
- No one (?) uses them to make decisions; to guide planning, programming or to evaluate the process**
- ~~No system that can't be "gamed"~~**

Some very basic measures

- ❑ **Hours of Delay reduced/Million\$**
- ❑ **Tons of petroleum or CO₂ reduced/Million\$**
- ❑ **Lives saved/Million\$**
- ❑ **Increased work force accessibility/Million\$**

MOST FUNDAMENTAL OF ALL:

- ❑ **What % of my problem have I solved with what % of my resources?**
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What next?

- **2007 ACS out next week!!!!**
 - **Worker counts**
 - **Insights into work changes; transit etc.**
 - **Travel times/start times**
 - **Vehicle ownership!**
- **6 month's of NHTS by New Year's**
 - **Trip/VMT/PMT trends**
 - **Income effects/Aging effects all trips**

**That's what we have for
reauthorization**

What we wont have

- ❑ **Small area data (60,000 minimum geography)**
 - ❑ **Transit utilization data**
 - ❑ **Flows data**

 - ❑ **Also TIUS/VIUS big loss re trucking**
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WHAT WE STILL DON'T HAVE

- Serious statistical interest in Congress or Administration**
 - Dedicated funding on a regular basis**
 - A statistical champion for our needs**
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Thank you

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