

ITEM 12 - Information

January 28, 2008

Briefing on Initial Results from the Regional Household Travel Survey

Staff

Recommendation: Receive briefing on the initial results from this regional survey.

Issues: None

Background: During 2007 and early 2008, over 10,000 households in the Washington Metropolitan region were surveyed to obtain detailed travel and socio-economic data.

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEMORANDUM

January 21, 2009

To: Transportation Planning Board

From: Robert E. Griffiths,
Technical Services Director, COG/TPB

Subject: 2007/2008 Regional Household Travel Survey

Summary

Household Travel Survey data collected from more than 11,000 households in the TPB region and adjacent areas between January, 2007 and March, 2008 has now been processed and some initial findings are now available. Staff will be making a series of presentations to the Board on the results of this survey in the next several months.

Background

Regional household travel surveys are periodically conducted by Metropolitan Planning Organizations, like the TPB, to obtain detailed information about the socio-economic characteristics and travel behavior of persons living in the metropolitan region. The information collected in these surveys is used to develop and calibrate regional travel demand forecasting models. These forecasting models, once calibrated and validated, are used to forecast future travel demands based on projected household and employment growth and regional transportation system changes. The last large scale regional household survey of this type for the Washington region was conducted more than a decade ago.

In the 2007/2008 Regional Household Travel Survey 11,500 randomly selected households were asked to provide some basic information about their households, the members of their household and the vehicles used by the household. In addition to this basic information each member of the household was asked to provide the details of their daily travel and activities for a specified 24-hour weekday. This information included all trips made, places visited and activities carried out at home, at work, and at other places. It also included information on the details of non-commuting travel as well as that for commuting. The households selected to participate in this survey were recruited by mail and interviewed by telephone. Ten percent of these households were cell phone only households.

The sample for this survey was stratified by jurisdiction and area type to ensure a geographically representative sample of all household types in the region. Households in higher density, mixed use Regional Activity Clusters with good access to region's network of transit, HOV and highway facilities were sampled at a slightly higher rate than households in lower density suburban and exurban areas that tend to be much more homogeneous in their daily travel patterns. This was also done to ensure the collection of a sufficient number of household transit, walk and bike trips for modeling and analysis purposes.

In the second quarter of 2007, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) joined in our Household Travel Survey effort and as a result we were able to get additional household samples in the adjacent

jurisdictions of Anne Arundel, Howard and Carroll Counties in Maryland. Together with BMC, a total of more than 14,500 completed household samples were obtained for the combined Washington and Baltimore Metropolitan areas. (See Table 1).

In total, for the TPB modeling area, data from 11,500 households, 25,500 persons and 16,700 vehicles were collected. Details on the travel modes, distances and times of more than 100,000 weekday trips were also obtained.

In addition to the main household travel survey, Global Positioning System (GPS) data was obtained from the vehicles used by 1,000 of participating households to verify the completeness and accuracy of the number of vehicle trips reported by the households in the telephone interviews. Further, a brief follow-up non-respondent survey of approximately 1,000 households who did not respond to the request to participate in the main household survey was also conducted to obtain some basic information about the households not participating in the travel survey.

Table 1
Completed Survey Households by Jurisdiction
Combined Washington/Baltimore Metropolitan Areas

State	Jurisdiction	Sample Goal	Completed Households	% of Goal
D.C.	District of Columbia	1,600	1,659	104%
Maryland	Montgomery County	1,500	1,563	104%
	Prince George's County	1,500	1,516	101%
	Frederick County/ City	350	376	107%
	Howard County	500	537	107%
	Anne Arundel County	700	755	108%
	Charles County	200	224	112%
	Carroll County	400	416	104%
	Calvert County	100	104	104%
	St. Mary's County	100	109	109%
	Baltimore County	1,000	1,036	104%
	Baltimore City	1,400	1,389	99%
	Harford County	500	503	101%
Virginia	Arlington County	700	752	107%
	Alexandria City	400	409	102%
	Fairfax County/ City	1,500	1,537	102%
	Loudon County	350	375	107%
	Prince William County	500	510	102%
	King George County	50	56	112%
	Fredericksburg City	50	46	92%
	Stafford County	150	160	107%
	Spotsylvania County	100	101	101%
	Faquier County	100	93	93%
	Clarke County	50	57	114%
	Warren County	100	107	107%
W. Virginia	Jefferson County	100	114	114%
Total		14,000	14,504	104%