National Household Travel Survey
2009 Partnership Lessons Learned

APDU 2011 Annual Conference
Public Data on a Budget:
Making Critical Policy Decisions in the Current Fiscal Climate

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Our Office

- Highway Finance and Motor Fuel Team
- Highway System Performance Team
- Travel Monitoring and Surveys Team
- Recovery Act Team
Our Data Programs

- **Highway Finance and Motor Fuel Team**
  - Highway Finance
  - Driver Licensing
  - Motor Vehicle Registration
  - Motor Fuel
  - Highway Construction Cost Index
- **Highway System Performance Team**
  - Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)
  - Toll Facilities Report
- **Travel Monitoring and Surveys Team**
  - Travel Monitoring and Analysis System (TMAS)
  - Multimodal Passenger Travel OD and National Model
  - National Household Travel Survey
- **ARRA Team**
  - Recovery Act Data System
Presentation Outline

- Background
- Budget
- Partners
- Competing Priorities
- Managing Expectations
- Data Ownership and Privacy
- Thoughts for Future Actions
Background – What NHTS Is About

The National Household Travel Survey is a series of datasets collected by the U.S. Department of Transportation on travel behavior (why, how, when ...) of US public on a schedule of every 5-7 years.
Background – A Historical Look

1st – 1969
2nd – 1977
3rd – 1983
4th – 1990
5th – 1995
6th – 2001
7th – 2009
“2009” NHTS Budget

- 2007 NHTS originally estimated to cost $12 million
- FHWA traditionally provides the bulk of the funds
  - Majority of funds from the research and development discretionary program
  - OST and FTA usually contribute as well

- SAFETEA-LU – enacted on 8/10/2005
“2009” NHTS Budget

“0” dollars
Internal to U.S. DOT

- FHWA - $6 million
  - Planning
  - Policy
  - Infrastructure
  - Planning
  - Operations
  - Safety
- FTA - $300,000
Seeking Other Participations and Financial Contributions

- Add-ons
- Prior to 2009
  - Max number: 5
  - State or local agencies can join the program
  - Done for their benefit
  - No private organizations
- 2009
  - 18 add-ons
  - 1 private organization
2008 NHTS Add On Program Participants

125,000 Add-On Samples

Map showing the participants of the 2008 NHTS Add On Program across the United States.
Competing Priorities

Needs:
- National questions and data items
- Add-on specific questions and data items

Limitations:
- Length of questionnaire and travel dairy
Competing Priorities

The increase in the number of partners means exponential increases in terms of effort in resolving both technical issues and administrative coverage.

The increased effort and complexity should not be under-estimated!
Managing Expectations

- Schedule
- QA/QC
- Deliverables
- Support

Note: Technical support to your customers/partners will be a continues process even after the project is completed.
Managing Expectations

- Building trust with partners is critical
- Documenting agreements, revisions, and disagreement are essential
Data Ownership and Privacy

- Certain data items touch the “privacy” issue.
- For partners data, ensuring privacy issues are dealt right is detrimental to not only the current program but also future program.
- Be aware of differences and similarities in States “sunshine” law.
Data Ownership and Privacy

- Data ownership
  - Who owns the add-on data?
- Data integration
  - How is the add-on data integrated with the national sample data?
Our Thoughts

Financial partnership with other agencies and organizations can work and can work well. Pay particular attention to:

• Goal and objective of each partner – not every one wants the same thing
• Potential under estimation of demand on staff time and technical expertise
• Document agreement and disagreement with partners in writing
Thank you!

Questions:
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