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## Using the American Community Survey to Monitor the State of the System

Census Data for Transportation Planning: Preparing for the Future  
Response to Poster Call, May 2005 TRB Program

*Shimon Israel*  
*Assistant Transportation Planner/Analyst*  
*Metropolitan Transportation Commission*  
*101 Eighth Street*  
*Oakland, California 94607*  
*510-464-7839, e-mail: [sisrael@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:sisrael@mtc.ca.gov)*

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This poster describes use of the American Community Survey (ACS) at the MPO for the San Francisco Bay Area, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). MTC's existing State of the System report provides a comprehensive digest of key transportation network and facility performance measures, compiling information from various sources, including data on both perceived and actual conditions of the transportation system. MTC has an interest in expanding the scope of State of the System report by monitoring local and regional trends in population, labor, commuting, disability, income, age, and vehicle availability.

Annual updates to the State of the System report require recently available data, and will benefit from full implementation of the ACS. Annual data from the ACS will help MTC develop a demographic supplement to the State of the System report, describing key trends and non-trends at the city and county level. This information will help support the Commission's efforts to advocate for the transportation needs of elderly, disabled, low-income, and youth populations.

MTC's poster will include application of ACS data to monitoring the above-described trends, an explanation of ACS data availability by differently-sized areas, use of graphical means to represent significant changes between monitoring years, and limitations of using ACS data for State of the System monitoring.