Anticipating the Census Transportation Planning Package (July 21, 2003)

1. What is the CTPP?

The CTPP consists of three groups of tables of the decennial census long form, based on tabulation geography. The geographic reporting is based on (1) where people live, (2) where they work, and (3) the origin-destination flows between home and work. The key data items are on journey-to-work characteristics (mode to work, travel time, departure time), combined with demographic and household characteristics (household size, household income, vehicle availability).

2. What is the release schedule for CTPP Part 1 data?

Part 1 (residence-based tables) will be released first. The first state CD was released on July 8. It will take about six weeks to complete the entire country, so by August 15, all the States should be complete. California, New York, Texas and Florida were the first states. Oregon was released early because it has served as the test data for the software. The priority list is based on total population, population growth from 1990-2000, and some attempt at geographic grouping.

For the initial release, each MPO will receive two copies and each state will get the number of copies that it requests from the Census Bureau (CB).

Once the CDs are received they should be examined and reviewed. The CB is giving each MPO and state a 30-day period to inspect the data. If there are no problems the CB will then mass produce the CDs and turn them over to the US Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics for distribution to the general public. Although the software used on the CDs is proprietary, an unlimited licensing agreement was negotiated so states and MPOs are free to make copies and to implement their own distribution programs.

3. When will the rest of the data from CTPP be released?

The second wave of CTPP tables, Parts 2 and Parts 3, will be released in the late fall of 2003, most likely beginning around November. Similarly, we expect it to take about six weeks for the entire country to be distributed.

4. What is CTPP Part 1?

The actual packaging of the data for Part 1 will consist of 120 one, two, three and four-way tables. For a complete list of the tables see **http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ctpp/content.htm**. The geographic levels include small areas including TAZs or Census Tracts (and Block Groups in limited cases), as well as large geographic units such as State and County totals, and places (incorporated cities and towns and census-defined places with population over 2,500).

5. How will the CTPP be packaged?

The CTPP data for each state (which includes all geographic areas in the state) will be on a CD ROM. The data is stored in a proprietary format (Beyond 20/20) but can be exported to many different formats, including shapefiles. The CD will have extraction software known as the CTPP Access Tool or CAT. The CAT is developed to run on Windows 95,98, NT, 2000, and XP platforms. The CAT will allow you to: search for tables; browse and examine the

data; export the data to other convenient platforms; and, make and print simple thematic maps.

6. What if I want the raw data in ASCII format?
The Census Bureau will provide raw ASCII fileson request to the State DOT or MPO customer. To order an ASCII file with the entire Part 1 data for one or multiple states, please contact Clara Reschovsky at the Census Bureau (Phone 301-763-2454, e-mail: Clara.A.Reschovsky@census.gov). Another alternative is that you can use the CAT software to create flat ASCII files from the proprietary file format.

7. When I get my CD-ROM, what is the first thing I should do?
It is very important for you to examine the data for your area as soon as possible. Check its reasonableness. Does it make sense? Are people living where they should be? Do the tables add up? While the CB took great care in preparing the data, there is always a chance that something slipped by. The MPOs and states have a window of opportunity to check the data before a final product is prepared and made public.

Please report all data issues to Nanda Srinivasan, FHWA, (Phone 202-366-5021, email nanda.srinivasan@fhwa.dot.gov)

The CB will wait for ONE MONTH for you to report any issues. If you do not find any issues, the CB will mass-produce CDs for public consumption.

8. Will there be any training or help in working with this data?
Yes, there are three general areas where assistance and training can be sought.

> **1. Accessing CTPP Data on the CD-ROM (Using the CAT):**
> There is a tutorial on the CD-ROM. The tutorial provides an overview of how the software can be used to access, browse, and export the CTPP 2000 data. Plan on 20 minutes to view the tutorial, and about half-a-day to become familiar with the software. The data browser is very flexible, and this flexibility makes it somewhat more difficult to learn. For example, you can manipulate rows and columns, and create new variables and map them, inside the software. For example, you do not have to export a file, then manipulate it in a spreadsheet and GIS package before you can have a useable shapefile.
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> **2. Understanding CTPP 2000 data concepts:**
> FHWA has produced an electronic guidebook to help users understand the concepts and applications of CTPP 2000. The Guidebook is available free of charge and comes on a CD-ROM. Users may make copies of the additional copies of the Guidebook, there are no licensing restrictions. To order a copy of the Guidebook, please contact Nanda Srinivasan at nanda.srinivasan@fhwa.dot.gov, or 202-366-5021.
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> **3. CTPP Hotline, and Web resources:**
> Please use the following numbers and websites for any unresolved questions:
> **Hotline: 202-366-5000**
> > **Websites:**
> > > TRB Census Subcommittee website: **http://www.trbcensus.com/**

US DOT website: **http://www.dot.gov/ctpp/**

9. How do I access data using the CTPP Access Tool?

The CTPP Access Tool Software is provided along with the data CD-ROM. Here are a few instructions on accessing data. For more information or to ask questions, please call Nanda Srinivasan at 202-366-5021 or e-mail Nanda.Srinivasan@fhwa.dot.gov.

1. Install the software from the initial "flash" screen. You may also view the tutorial after installing the software. However, do not try to install the data from the "Flash" screen option – this option has some errors.
2. Create a folder on your hard drive for where you want to store your CTPP work
3. Click on Start – Programs – CTPP Browser to activate the CTPP Access Tool.
4. Change the DATA path to d:/ (2 digit state abbreviation), e.g. d:/CA
       where d: is the CD drive , and California is the state;
5. Change the SESSION path to the location you created in step 2 above.
6. Click on "Create a Session" in the browser. The name you give the session is stored as a new folder under the session path. All your work from this point will be stored in the new folder.
7. You will now have a series of interconnected screens that will help you choose the "geography summary level", some geography for each summary level, and then some tables. The software will take some time to create the session. Some users have reported seeing a "blank screen" for a while before a message bar showed up.
8. Once the session is completed, a list of the tables in the session is displayed. You can select and view one table at a time.
9. Once you open the table in the browser, you are provided with several options to view the different variable dimensions – You can "drag" and "drop" a dimension to any desired arrangement. The software will also allow you to group different variable categories, and create a calculated field. There are also options to make bar charts, and thematic maps. Please refer to the Tutorial located on your CD-ROM drive (tutorial.exe) for more information.
10. To export the data, click on File – Export. Export options are MS Excel, Comma Delimited CSV, Flat Ascii, Dbase, HTML, and ArcView Shapefile formats. The exported file will be formatted just as you arranged the dimensions in step 9. To get the data for all dimensions, click on "Include other dimensions."
11. For users who don't want to use the browser, an option to export all tables in a session has been provided. To access this option, click on File- Session Manager. Click on the session name, and then on Export. You can choose any of the export options listed in step 10. A readme file is provided with each exported table.