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PROCEEDINGS OF THE 40TH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH FORUM

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Welcome to the Transportation Research Forum's 1998 Annual Meeting

These proceedings contain those papers presented at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Forum, held in Philadelphia from October 29-31, 1998, that were received by the deadline publishing date. All papers were reviewed by the Program Vice President to assess their suitability for inclusion in these volumes. Additional papers may be made available by some of the presenters at the time of the Conference.

The Transportation Research Forum (TRF) is an independent organization of transportation professionals providing pertinent and timely information to those who conduct research and those who use and benefit from research. It functions as an impartial meeting ground for carriers, shippers, government officials, consultants, university researchers, suppliers, and others seeking an exchange of information and ideas related to both passenger and freight transportation. The Transportation Research Forum started with a small group of transportation researchers in New York in 1958 and the first national meeting was held in St. Louis in 1960. National meetings have been held annually since 1960 at various cities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Numerous TRF members and supporters aided in the development of this year's Forum, but it is authors of the papers, the organizers and contributors to the various panels, and the session chairs who make TRF annual meetings so worthwhile and enjoyable. The conference program simply reflects the interests, enthusiasm and commitment of those members of the transportation community. Special thanks go to Patrick and Judy Little who graciously agreed to assemble this year's proceedings for me. Without their help, the job of Program Chair would have been much more of a burden.

A number of other TRF members also assisted in the development of this meeting. Randy Resor and Jim Blaze were constant sources of ideas and encouragement. When help was asked for, they came through repeatedly. Other TRF members provided help with the program in their areas of interest. I want to thank Alan Bender, Michael Belzer, Ken Erickson, Paul Gessner, Harold Kurzman, Scott Omstein, Clint Oster, and Peter Smith for their help. Claire LaVaye at the University of Texas assisted with promoting the meeting on TRF's website. Finally, Rick Guggolz provided valuable assistance on the business arrangements for the conference.

We are also grateful to those companies and organizations who have sponsored awards or made other contributions to the success of the Forum. These include: LTK Engineering, The Metropolitan Transit Association, and RailTex. Among our own members, we are especially indebted to the TRF Foundation, the Cost Analysis Chapter and the Aviation Chapter for their assistance and support.

These proceedings are prepared and distributed at the TRF Annual Forum as a means of disseminating information and stimulating an exchange of ideas during the meeting. Every effort has been made to reproduce these papers accurately. TRF, however, assumes no responsibility for the content of the papers contained in these volumes.

Richard Golaszewski
Program Vice President
October, 1998

**BTS Freight Transportation Data Activities:
Results and Products from the Commodity Flow Survey**

Felix Ammah-Tagoe, Ph.D.
Senior Research Analyst
Bureau of Transportation Statistics
U.S. Department of Transportation

Abstract

This presentation discusses information about the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) freight transportation data activities, including results, data products, and studies from the Commodity Flow Survey (CFS). BTS' freight transportation data activities covers information on domestic as well as international freight. The CFS and the Transborder Surface Freight Data are the primary sources of data for domestic and international freight activities respectively. The CFS, conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the BTS as part of the Economic Census, is the most comprehensive freight data source on national and state level freight activities since the 1977 Commodity Transportation Survey (CTS). The CFS collects information on freight movement by domestic U.S. establishments by type of commodity, value and weight of shipments, mode of transportation, and shipment origin and destination. BTS and the Census Bureau conducted the CFS in 1993 and 1997. Since 1995, BTS has published and distributed results from the 1993 CFS through print and electronic media. BTS and the Census Bureau are currently processing data from the just completed 1997 CFS and results will become available starting Fall 1998. This presentation highlights the major freight related activities at BTS and discusses major changes and improvements made in the 1997 CFS.

The CFS collects information from shippers in manufacturing, mining, wholesale trade, and selected retail and service industries. Before the CFS, the only nationwide shipment based survey for all transportation modes was the CTS which was conducted by the Census Bureau between 1963 and 1977. Compared to the CFS, the CTS was limited to only domestic manufactures. Between 1977 and 1991, the CTS encountered several technical problems that could not be resolved with the limited funds available for transportation statistics. With the establishment of BTS in 1991 by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), it became possible to collect critically needed transportation data and the CTS was substantially improved into the CFS.