



Transfer

Surface Transportation Policy Project's Electronic Update

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Census 2000](#)
- [Hill News](#)
- [Amtrak Consolidation Plan](#)
- [Morial Joins STPP Board](#)
- [Local Report: Denver RTD](#)
- [In The Media](#)
- [Reports & Resources](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Quote of the Week](#)

Announcements

New Transportation Charter



We invite your organization to sign the Alliance for a New Transportation Charter (ANTC) and join the group of more than 370 individuals, organizations, public officials, government agencies and businesses from across the country who want transportation investments to better meet community needs. For more information, visit ANTC.net.

Quote of the Week

"If we are really going to get serious about addressing the transportation crisis, our plans have got to focus on moving

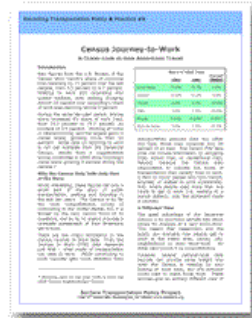
June 13, 2002; Volume 8, Issue 11

CENSUS DATA TELLS STORY OF NARROWING CHOICES

More Americans Living, Working in Places With Few Travel Options

National Census figures released last week show that Americans are enduring longer commutes, and fewer of them are able to use transit, walking, or other means to avoid the drive. The average trip to work is up more than three minutes since 1990 to 25.5 minutes, and a higher portion of commuters are driving alone to work.

"These figures confirm that travel choices are narrowing for many Americans when it comes to the work trip," said David Burwell, President of the Surface Transportation Policy Project. "More people are living and working in places where they have little choice but to spend a significant part of their day driving in traffic."



STPP has created a variety of materials to help transportation professionals, journalists, and advocates interpret the data:

- A new issue of "[Decoding Transportation Policy and Practice](#)" that looks at the limitations of the Census Journey to Work data and provides other statistics that give a fuller picture of travel behavior.
- Easy-to-use, downloadable Excel documents showing metropolitan area, county, and place-level transportation Census data for each state.
- A brief analysis of what the numbers may mean, including a look at how housing and work patterns may have influenced the transportation numbers.
- A news release issued on the day the national numbers came out.

All of this information is available at www.transact.org.

HILL NEWS

Senate Committee Passes Highway Funding Bill

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed legislation on June 4, 2002 resetting TEA-21's highway spending baseline to \$28.9 billion for FY '03. This amount represents an increase of \$5.7 billion over the President's proposed budget of \$23.3 billion, approximately \$4.4 billion below the baseline established with TEA-21 in 1998. This adjustment was the result of the [Revenue Aligned Budgetary Authority \(RABA\)](#) calculations for FY '03.



Senate Finance Committee to Consider Welfare Legislation

The Senate Finance Committee is expected to consider legislation to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in the coming weeks. Although no specific proposals concerning transportation have been

people, not just cars. We cannot asphalt our way out of our transportation problems."

Virginia Transportation
Secretary Whittington W.
Clement

*As quoted in the Washington
Post, June 5, 2002*

introduced to date, several Senators have recognized transportation as one of the major barriers blocking TANF recipients from self-sufficiency.

The House bill, which passed on May 19, would freeze funding at \$16.5 billion a year in welfare block grants to the states partly due to the significant drop in welfare caseloads. House Members and others opposed to [H.R. 4737](#), the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2002, have noted that the bill provides no new resources for work supports despite the stricter work requirements and the effects of inflation on the TANF program.

Key developments in the Senate include a bi-partisan agreement for a consensus welfare proposal that endorses greater state accountability, reporting requirements and increased funding for works supports, potentially including transportation. The Senate Finance Committee could mark up welfare legislation as early as next week, followed by action on the Senate floor in July or in September after the August recess.

To learn about opportunities to better link work promotion, transportation, and housing in the TANF reauthorization, read the [joint letter](#) signed by more than 20 smart growth and transportation organizations.

IN OTHER NEWS

Amtrak Board Approves Consolidation Plan

Amtrak's new president David Gunn announced on June 10, 2002 that the organization's governing board plans to consolidate authority and to improve efficiency at the rail carrier. In a message to workers, Gunn said the changes are part of an effort to "streamline decision-making and clearly assign authority and responsibility." According to an Amtrak spokesperson, job cuts and management changes are likely within the next three months. In addition, the company plans to consolidate its mail and express business and its three operating divisions (Intercity, Northeast Corridor, and Amtrak West) and run all of them out of Amtrak's corporate headquarters in Washington, DC.



Earlier this month, Gunn cautioned that Amtrak would likely shut down service in July if the company was unable to obtain a \$200 million loan to cover budgetary shortfalls.

For more information, [click here](#).

Former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial Joins STPP Board

Marc Morial, the Mayor of New Orleans from 1994 to 2002, has joined STPP's Board of Directors. Mr. Morial's administration was marked by his work to revitalize neighborhoods and build the local economy through infrastructure investments. Additionally, he served as President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors from 2001-2002, where he led that organization's national rail initiative to advance development of rail travel in the United States. Mr. Morial is a long-time believer in STPP's work, and spoke at the Ten Years of Progress anniversary dinner in December. He joins eight current Board members: Sarah Campbell (chair), David Burwell, Scott Bernstein, Hank Dittmar, Tom Downs, Judith Espinosa, Kathryn Higgins, and Jessica Mathews.



LOCAL REPORT

Victory for Transit in Colorado

Denver is likely to become the next example of a growing trend of communities choosing to tax themselves to invest in greater transportation choice and affordability through transit. Legislation recently signed into law by Colorado's Governor Owens gives the Denver Regional Transportation District standing authority to put sales tax measures on the ballot. RTD is the state's largest transit agency, serving Denver's six-county metro area. Prior to this legislation, RTD could not go to the ballot for additional funding for rail and bus projects, and was the only local region in the state that didn't have legislative authority to do so.



The new law also created the first-ever dedicated state transit funding in Colorado by requiring that 10% of the state sales tax dedicated to transportation be spent on transit. Colorado was one of only 5 states that had no dedicated source of state transit funding. Finally, the bill enables counties in the RTD area to use county dollars to provide transit service in coordination with RTD.



Recognizing the importance of transit to sustained economic prosperity, the Denver Chamber of Commerce led the effort to pass the transit bill as part of a package including additional state highway funds and tolling authority for CDOT. The effort was spearheaded by the Denver-based Transit Alliance, which organized a large, diverse coalition of local governments, business groups and community groups in support of the transit bill.

For more details and the text of the bill, [click here](#).

submitted by Kelly Nordini

IN THE MEDIA

Florida Paper Runs Weeklong Series on Transportation

Beginning on June 2, 2002, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel ran a weeklong editorial series on the region's transportation crisis called "Crisis: Getting Nowhere Fast." The series addressed issues of transit, smart growth, and land-use planning in the region, and daily articles presented many different options for the region.

To view the series, [click here](#).



REPORTS & RESOURCES

TCSP Program Report Released

FHWA recently published a report highlighting accomplishments and lessons learned under the Transportation and Community and System Preservation (TCSP) Program. [Click here](#) for more information.

New 'Bikeability Checklist' Now Online

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill released a "Bikeability Checklist" designed to help people rate how friendly their communities are for bicycling, identify problem areas, and find short- and long-term solutions to improve.



For more information, [click here](#).

Study Links Auto Use to Neighborhood Design

For decades, city planners have dismissed calls for building better cities, saying there is only anecdotal evidence that "smart growth" works. But authors of a new, peer-reviewed study from the Natural Resources Defense Council say their research proves for the first time that better urban design can reduce auto use and relieve the traffic congestion and pollution that come with it.

The researchers' analysis of the San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago metropolitan areas found a direct link between the amount people drive and city attributes like neighborhood density, transit access, and pedestrian- and bicycle-friendliness. According to the authors, those attributes measure an area's "location efficiency," and, not surprisingly, the more efficient the location, the less people drive.

The study, "[Location Efficiency: Neighborhood and Socio-Economic Characteristics Determine Auto Ownership and Use - Studies in Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco](#)" by John Holtzclaw, Robert Clear, Hank Dittmar, David Goldstein and Peter Haas, appeared in the March 2002 issue of Transportation Planning and Technology.

For more information, [click here](#).

CALENDAR

July 31

**American Public Transportation Association
Intermodal Operations Planning Workshop**

July 31 – August 2, 2002 – New York, NY

June 21

MassCentral Rail-Trail "Golden Spike II"

11am- 2 pm - Bentley College, Waltham, MA

Congressional Hearing Schedule

June 13

**Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation
Hearing on "TEA-21: A National Partnership"**

10:00 a.m

Dirksen 538

June 18

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
Hearing on Intermodalism: Moving America's People and Goods
10:00 a.m.
2167 Rayburn House Office Building

June 20
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
Subcommittee on Highways and Transit
Hearing on Federal Transit Capital Grants Programs
2:00 p.m.
2167 Rayburn House Office Building

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