

BTS Challenges GIS Community

Bureau of Transportation Statistics Director, Ashish Sen, has challenged the Geographic Information System (GIS) community to expedite the application of their technology to transportation by putting aside barriers and working together.

“We need to identify where different modes and different levels of government have common issues. Then, we need to identify possible solutions and opportunities for coordination and cooperation. Finally, we must have a means to implement these plans,” Director Sen said. “If we are going to reach compatibility, we must communicate, cooperate, and coordinate.”

Director Sen offered the challenge in two speeches to conferences on Multimodal Transportation Requirements for Spatial Information Infrastructure. The sessions, sponsored by BTS and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), brought transportation leaders from around the country together. They were held in Chicago in May and in Seattle in June.

The Director noted that GIS has tremendous potential. “By linking GIS with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology and satellite imagery, we can track traffic flows over transportation networks in real-time. That link can lead to breakthroughs in traffic management and infrastructure planning,” he said.

“By organizing vast amounts of information into coherent pictures, geospatial data and GIS give us the power to discover emerging problems and devise solutions far more readily than with traditional analytical methods,” he added.



Los Angeles International Airport

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Transportation Indicators

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Remember to check www.bts.gov the first week of every month for the latest *Transportation Indicators* report tracking more than 300 transportation trends.

- In the April issue you would have learned that the nation's air carriers lost more than \$7 billion in 2001 on year-end assets of \$107 billion — a return on assets of minus 7 percent, which is the lowest in the 10 years

tracked by BTS and an 8-point drop from the return in 2000.

- In the May issue you would have learned that air travel and air freight levels began to show a slight recovery in the early months of 2002.
- In the June issue you would have learned that fuel costs in April for scheduled flights of large domestic air carriers fell to 69 cents a gallon, down 8 cents from April 2001.

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BTS is the lead agency within the Department of Transportation for GIS. BTS also has the lead role in meeting the Office of Management and Budget's mandate to complete standards for the transportation layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure by the end of the year. The Geospatial One-Stop is one of 24 e-government initiatives selected by the President's Management Council for special focus and accelerated development.

Through the Geospatial One-Stop, BTS will provide access to Federal transportation geospatial data through a single access point and make state and local transportation geospatial data more accessible.

Geospatial data available through the web portal will support all spatial data customers. Core standards will provide a common, consistent format for geospatial data — core attributes will be the same no matter what geographic area the data represent. Sharing the data will save money for all parties by providing an easier means for partnership opportunities.

BTS IT Team Gets DOT Award

Deputy Secretary, Michael Jackson, and Department of Transportation Chief Information Officer, designate Paul Cosgrave, presented the Award for Excellence in IT Security on May 15 to Terry Klein, BTS Assistant Director for Information Technology and his team.

The award was presented for the work done by Rick Ransom, Richard Thai, and Rodney Fielding, an Indus con-

tractor, on a new IT security initiative on the Remote Access Server (RAS) that provides dial-up networking for BTS employees and contractors.

The implementation of the RAS Security token, which uses several layers of user authentication, plus a randomly generated 6-digit passcode, was recognized during DOT's first annual Computer Security Month Awards Ceremony as a best practice.



From left to right: Dr. Ashish K. Sen, Director, BTS; Paul Cosgrave, DOT Chief Information Officer; Rodney Fielding, BTS Novell Administrator (contractor for Indus Corp.); Terry M. Klein, Asst. Dir., BTS Office of Info Tech; Richard Ransom, BTS Network Manager; Michael Jackson, Deputy Secretary; Richard Thai, BTS, ISSO.

The Women of September 11

Employees from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics have led a Department of Transportation-wide effort to make a memorial quilt for the 74 women killed on September 11 in the Pentagon and on American Airlines Flight 77, which crashed into the building.

The quilt is intended to express heartfelt sympathy to the victims and their families. Quilters felt the task helped put their own lives in perspective.

The result is "Hearts and Hands Across the Potomac" an 84-square quilt that will be presented to Pentagon officials and families of the victims.

Stacy Murphy and Kim Webb of BTS organized the quilt project. Women from every agency within DOT participated by making nine-by-nine inch tribute squares using materials provided by the BTS women. Much of the work took place in a March 26 quilting session.

The squares have been sewn together in the following weeks by Kim Hill, Thea Graham, Peg Young, and Susan Lapham. It has a flag in the middle and a gold star containing the name of every woman who died at the Pentagon and on Flight 77.

Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta will present the quilt at an August 27th ceremony to be held from 10:30 to 12 noon in room 2230 of the Nassif building.

BTS Follows International Trends

Truck crossings into the United States from Canada and Mexico fell by 4.2 percent from 2000 to 2001, the first annual decline since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) among the three countries took effect in 1994, according to border crossing data released by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

The truck crossing numbers were the first of three reports on international transportation the BTS released in recent weeks.

In the second report, BTS reported that the value of U.S. trade by truck, rail, and pipeline with Canada and Mexico fell in 2001 for the first annual decline in the seven years since the implementation of NAFTA. These numbers were derived from BTS' unique transborder database, which contains monthly and annual summaries of data on United States-Canada and United States-Mexico surface transportation trade.

In the final report, BTS reported that U.S. air carriers carried more international travelers in 2000 than in 1990 and took them on longer flights. This information was contained in *U.S. International Travel and Transportation Trends*, a look at travel in the decade of the 1990s.

U.S. International Travel and Transportation Trends covers the period from 1990 to 2000 with an update to examine the impact of September 11 on international travel. Prior to the attacks, international passenger travel by all modes of transportation to and from the United States showed steady growth in most markets, for an average annual increase of 2 percent between 1990 and 2000. Outbound passenger travel from the U.S. grew 31 percent for the decade while inbound travel rose 6 percent.

The international travel report analyzes many different data sets to provide a picture of international travel to and from the United States. It contains a review of overseas and North American travel trends, including border issues and aviation security.

The BTS International Program area is active in three major areas: U.S. International Trade and Travel Research, Global Transportation Research, and International Exchange and Collaboration.

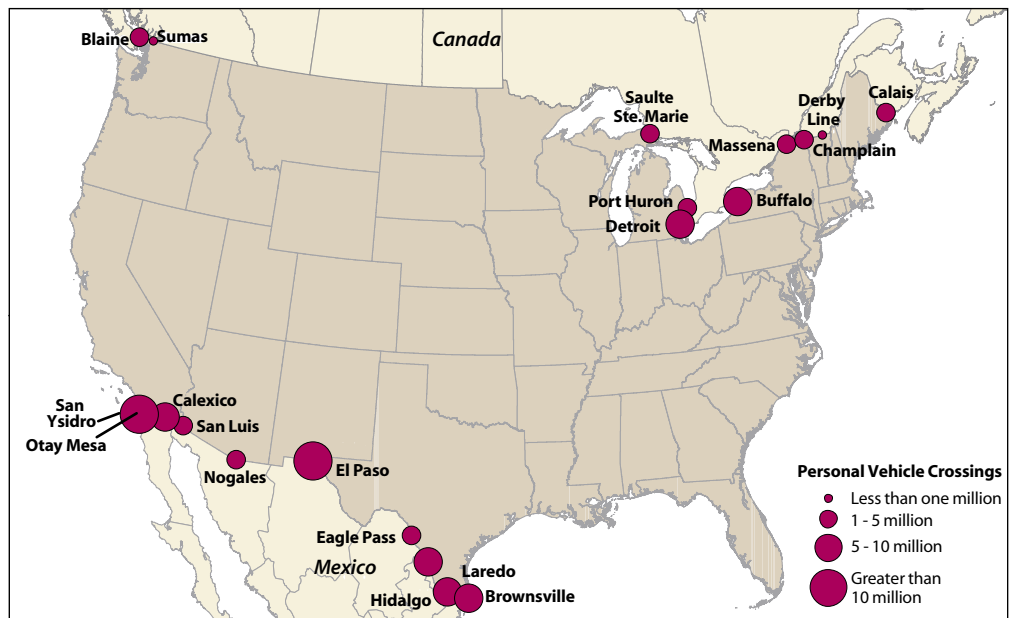
BTS maintains the Transborder Surface Freight Dataset that provides detailed geographic and commodity data for U.S. trade with Canada and Mexico by land modes of transportation. Thousands of customers use this dataset on a monthly basis.

A U.S. international trade and transportation trends report, which will include an analysis of the impact of September 11 on U.S. trade and transportation facilities, is scheduled for fall release.

To order a copy of *U.S. International Travel and Transportation Trends*, contact BTS by phone at 202-366-DATA (press 1), by fax at 202-366-3197, by e-mail at answers@bts.gov or by mail to Product Orders, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, USDOT, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., K-15, Washington, DC 20590.

Detailed transborder freight information can be found on the BTS website at www.bts.gov.

Top Personal Vehicle Crossing Ports from Canada and Mexico: 2001



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, special tabulation, February 2002; based on U.S. Customs Service, Mission Support Services, Office of Field Operations, *Operations Management Database CD*.

BTS Issues State Transportation Profiles

From a 168,000 mile public road system — the first fact on the first page — to 777,000 meters of highway noise barriers on the last page of data, the *California Transportation Profile* provides a comprehensive and easily accessible collection of California state transportation information.

The volume, released in May, is the first in one of the most ambitious projects undertaken by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics in its 10-year history. When completed, the series will contain 51 volumes covering the states and the District of Columbia. The series of state transportation profiles will take more than a year to complete.

“The profiles are an easy-to-use collection of a wide range of information on transportation in individual states,” Ashish Sen, BTS Director, said. “They typify BTS’ role of making transportation data readily available to decision-makers, planners, and the entire transportation community.”

The transportation profiles provide transportation information from BTS, other federal government agencies, and other national sources to offer a picture of the state’s infrastructure, safety, freight movement and passenger travel, vehicles, economy and finance, and energy and environment.

Following the 100 plus page California volume, BTS released profiles of Nebraska, Alaska, Minnesota, and Vermont. Scheduled for the near future are volumes on Texas, Kentucky, Arizona, New Hampshire, Maryland, Wisconsin and South Carolina. The release schedule was designed to present

states from different regions and with varying characteristics. For example, in comparison to the California numbers, the second volume contained the information that Alaska has 12,800 miles of public roads and 9,300 meters of highway noise barriers.

“The profiles are an easy-to-use collection of a wide range of information on transportation in individual states”

Recently from BTS

- Air Carrier Financial Statistics Quarterly (2001 Year-end edition)
- Air Carrier Traffic Statistics Monthly (2001 Year-end edition)
- Government Transportation Financial Statistics
- Intermodal Transportation Bibliographies
- International Travel and Transportation Trends
- Journal of Transportation and Statistics, vol 4 no. 2. Special issue on accessibility.
- Map of Major Transportation Facilities of the United States: 2002
- North American Transportation Atlas Databases (NTAD 2002)
- State Transportation Profiles (release of transportation profiles of California, Nebraska, Alaska, Minnesota and Vermont)

Upcoming from BTS

- Airport Activity Statistics 2001
- U.S. International Trade and Transportation Trends
- Journal of Transportation and Statistics, vol 5 no. 1
- Maritime Trade & Transportation 2002
- National Transportation Statistics 2001
- State Transportation Profiles (transportation profiles will be released for Texas, Kentucky, Arizona, New Hampshire, Maryland, Wisconsin, and South Carolina)
- Transportation Statistics Annual Report 2001

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