

Data Management Plan (DMP) for National Transit Map (NTM) 2018-Present Dataset

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS);
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Change log:

2024-06-25: Initial DMP written

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0. Dataset and Contact Information

Title of Dataset: National Transit Map (NTM) 2018-Present Dataset

URL: <https://doi.org/10.21949/1530680>

This is an ☒ initial DMP or a ☐ revised DMP.

Organizational Contact Information

Name: National Transit Map (NTM)

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Data Distributor Contact Information

Name: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)

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1. Data Description:

The National Transit Map 2018-Present dataset is from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), and part of U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS') National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). The National Transit Map (NTM) is a nationwide catalog of fixed-

guideway and fixed-route transit service in America. It is compiled using General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) Schedule data. The NTM Routes dataset shows transit routes, which is a group of trips that are displayed to riders as a single service. To display the route alignment and trips for each route, this dataset combines the following GTFS files: routes.txt, trips.txt, and shapes.txt. The GTFS Schedule documentation is available at, <https://gtfs.org/schedule/>. To improve the spatial accuracy of the NTM Routes, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) adjusts transit routes using context from the submitted GTFS source data and/or from other publicly available information about the transit service.

2. Standards Employed:

The data files collected here are saved in the ubiquitous and common geospatial shapefile (.shp) format. As the files created for this ingest were migrations from the original format in a SQL geodatabase, each data file name includes a date stamp indicating when the data in the shapefile was from.

Documentation will include this data management plan, and the metadata and readme files created in 2024.

Documentation will also include the shapefiles, data dictionary, and relevant supporting files created alongside the data from 2018-Present.

A DCAT-US 1.1.json metadata file will be created to describe the archival location of this data, and that .json file will be uploaded to data.gov and transportation.data.gov

Necessary software tools: The file formats found in the zip files include: .txt files which can be opened using any text editor; .dbf files, which can be opened with Microsoft Excel; .shapefiles (.shp, .shx, and .dbf) which can be opened with any GIS software program; and, .pdf files which can be opened with PDF readers.

3. Access Policies:

These data files are in the public domain, and can be shared without restriction. The data files contain no sensitive information.

4. Re-Use, Redistribution, and Derivative Products Policies:

These data are managed by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. The data are in the public domain, and may be re-use without restriction.

Citation of the data is appreciated. Please use the following recommended citation:

U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics; U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) [distributor]. (2024). National Transit Map (NTM) 2018-Present [datasets]. <https://doi.org/10.21949/1530680>

5. Archiving and Preservation Plans:

The dataset will be archived in the National Transportation Library Repository and Open Science Access Portal (ROSA P). Prior to archiving, the data are stored on the secured BTS networks and drives, which are backed up nightly. The US DOT systems are secured from outside users and backed up daily.

Files in ROSA P are backed up in NTL drives at US DOT, daily; at the Centers for Disease Control, the repository managing facility, daily; and in Amazon Web Service Cloud servers in Virginia and Oregon daily.

The dataset will be retained in perpetuity.

NTL staff will mint persistent Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for each dataset stored in ROSA P. These DOIs will be associated with dataset documentation as soon as they become available for use.

The DOIs associated with this dataset include: <https://doi.org/10.21949/1530680>

The assigned DOI resolves to the repository landing page for the “National Transit Map (NTM) 2018-Present” dataset, so that users may locate associated metadata and supporting files.

ROSA P meets all the criteria outlined on the “Guidelines for Evaluating Repositories for Conformance with the DOT Public Access Plan” page: <https://ntl.bts.gov/publicaccess/evaluatingrepositories.html>

6. Policies Affecting this Data Management Plan

This data management plan was created to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Department of Transportation's 'Plan to Increase Public Access to the Results of Federally-Funded Scientific Research' Version 1.1 <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520559> and guidelines suggested by the DOT Public Access website <https://doi.org/10.21949/1503647>.