Data Management Plan (DMP) for Time Zones 2019-Present Dataset

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)
2025-06-09

Persistent link: https://doi.org/10.21949/1403512

Recommended Citation:
U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). Time Zones 2019-Present [datasets]. https://doi.org/10.21949/1403512.

Change log:
2025-06-09: Initial DMP written
2025-12-30: DOI added

CONTENTS

0. Dataset and Contact Information

Title of Dataset: Time Zones 2019-Present Dataset
URL: https://doi.org/10.21949/1403512
This is an ☒ initial DMP or a ☐ revised DMP.

Organizational Contact Information
Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)
Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington D.C. 20590
Contact: bts@dot.gov

Data Distributor Contact Information
Name: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)
Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)
Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington D.C. 20590
Email: ntad@dot.gov

1. Data Description:

The Time Zones 2019-Present dataset is from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), and is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS's) National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). This layer is a digital representation of the geographic boundaries of the nine time zones that cover the United States and its territories (the Atlantic, Eastern, Central, Mountain,

Pacific, Alaska, Hawaii–Aleutian, Samoa, and Chamorro time zones). The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) oversees the Nation's time zones and the uniform observance of Daylight-Saving Time. The oversight of time zones was assigned to DOT due to the importance of time coordination for transportation related activities. The time zones were established by the Standard Time Act of 1918 and amended by the Uniform Time Act of 1966. Time zones in the U.S. are defined in the U.S. Code, Title 15, Chapter 6, Subchapter IX - Standard Time. The time zone boundaries are defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 49, Subtitle A, Part 71 - Standard Time Zone Boundaries. Segments used to compile the geospatial layer were derived from the CFR's time zone descriptions (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-A/part-71). Descriptions consist of segments referencing administrative boundaries, infrastructure, natural features, and geodesic lines. These segments are contained in various data layers in the National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) portfolio, the federal government's authoritative geospatial data repository. Referenced segments were extracted from their NGDA and then merged to form continuous boundaries. In instances where there were multiple scales for a given dataset, the largest scale or most detailed layer was used. The standard time of the Atlantic zone is the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) minus 4 hours; Eastern zone is UTC minus 5 hours; Central zone is UTC minus 6 hours; Mountain zone is UTC minus 7 hours; Pacific zone is UTC minus 8 hours; Alaska zone is UTC minus 9 hours; Hawaii–Aleutian zone is UTC minus 10 hours; Samoa zone is UTC minus 11 hours; and Chamorro zone is UTC plus 10 hours. For more information, please visit: https://doi.org/10.21949/1519143.

2. Standards Employed:

The data files collected here are saved in the ubiquitous and common geospatial file geodatabase (.gdb) formats. 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 2025. Documentation will also include the shapefiles, data dictionary, and relevant supporting files created alongside the data from 1995. A DCAT-US vs. 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, file geodatabases (.gdb), and .pdf files.

- File geodatabases (.gdb) can be opened with any Esri GIS software program https://www.esri.com/en-us/home/.
- The txt is a common text file, which can be opened with a basic text editor. The most common software used to open .txt files are Microsoft Windows Notepad, Sublime Text, Atom, and TextEdit (for more information on .txt files and software, please visit https://www.file-extensions.org/txt-file-extension)
- The pdf file format was developed by Adobe Systems and represents two-dimensional documents in a device-independent and resolution-independent format. There are PDF readers available on many platforms, such as Xpdf, Foxit, and Adobe's own Adobe Acrobat Reader. PDF readers/viewers or online services for basic functions are generally free (for more information on .pdf files and software, please visit https://www.file-extensions.org/pdf-file-extension).

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-used without restriction.
Citation of the data is appreciated. Please use the following recommended citation:
U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) [distributor]. Time Zones 2019-Present [datasets]. https://doi.org/10.21949/1403512

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/10.21949/1403512

The assigned DOI resolves to the repository landing page for the “Time Zones 2019-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 document 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 >>, in effect and current as of December 03, 2020.