

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING GUIDEBOOK FOR COMMODITY AND FREIGHT MOVEMENT IN TENNESSEE

Purpose of the Project

The proposed research has the following objectives:

1. Collect and compile a geodatabase with all the available freight flow, land-use, and economic activity data (open source and/or proprietary) for the state of TN. In the case of proprietary data, samples will be used if these data are not purchased by TDOT;
2. Develop and apply a methodology and tools that can be used to estimate or disaggregate freight flows, land-use, and economic activity data in the State of TN;
3. Develop a comprehensive guidebook for estimation of commodity flows, land-use and economic activity and their applicability and use in freight planning;
4. Promote collaboration between the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion states on freight planning

Scope and Significance

The scope of the research project is to develop a guidebook that will:

1. Detail how commodity flow data can be collected and disaggregated to be used in local planning freight models for decision making, and to better understand freight movement in Tennessee;
2. Identify and categorize the current and rapidly emerging data being collected or processed by the private sector for freight movements;
3. Outline approaches, methods, and analytical techniques that enable local agencies, MPOs and state DOTs to better carry out their freight planning, programming, and operations responsibilities.

Expected Outcomes

The following are expected outcomes of this research project:

- Development of tools to estimate more accurate freight flow data to support freight planning and policy in TN at any jurisdictional level.
- Support freight planning by documenting and analyzing the strengths and limitations of emerging new freight, land-use and economic activity data sets, and their potential applications in freight planning and modeling

Time Period

The time period for the project is December 2018 through May 2020

Contact Information

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