



November 17, 2008

Tim Trainor
Assistant Division Chief, Geocartographic Products and Criteria
Geography Division
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Rd
Washington, D.C. 20233-7400

Subject: Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) Delineation for Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP)

Dear Mr. Trainor:

As part of the Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) using the American Community Survey, locally defined Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ) are a critical geographic unit. Our plan for the CTPP is to tabulate ACS surveys from 2006 through 2010 at the TAZ and census tract level.

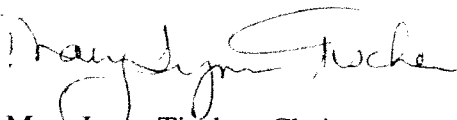
We appreciate the time and effort that Mike Ratcliffe has spent with us on evaluating alternatives for TAZ delineation over the past two years. The CTPP Oversight Board reviewed the document "Brief on TAZ 2010 Delineation Program Options" delivered to AASHTO on October 31, and has determined that a post-2010 Delineation of TAZs is the most prudent.

Our current plan is to have state and local governments define Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) in FY2011, using the first TIGER/Line file that includes 2010 Census tracts, block groups and blocks. The Brief listed above states that this file is expected to be released in the first quarter of 2011. The 2010 Census blocks would be used as the base geographic units for TAZs. **For this effort to be successful, we request that the Census Bureau continue to retain 2000 TAZ geography in the TIGER file.** This will allow State Departments of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations to use 2000 TAZs as a starting point for defining "2010 TAZ," if they so choose. Some local governmental agencies will use 2010 census tracts or block groups as the starting point for defining 2010 TAZs.

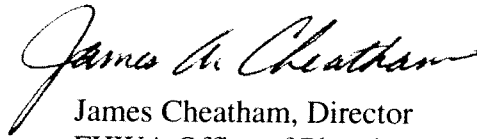
Post submission of the TAZs to the Census Bureau, we would like the 2010 TAZs to be incorporated into the publicly released versions of TIGER/Line files.

Thank you for considering this request. The continuation of this geographic field in TIGER will be valuable for transportation planning activities. Elaine Murakami at FHWA Office of Planning, and Melissa Chiu at the Census Bureau's Journey to Work and Migration Branch will modify the FHWA-Census Bureau Interagency Agreement accordingly.

Sincerely,



Mary Lynn Tischer, Chair
CTPP Oversight Board
Standing Committee on Planning
AASHTO



James Cheatham, Director
FHWA Office of Planning