

## **The 2010 Census Traffic Analysis Zone Program**

The Census Bureau requests approval for the 2010 Census Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) Program, which is covered under the generic clearance called the Geographic Partnership Programs (GPPs), OMB Control No. 0607-0795.

The TAZ Program is a joint participant program conducted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Census Bureau. This voluntary program is designed to allow Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and/or State Departments of Transportation (State DOTs) to define zonal systems and geographic summary layers suitable to their planning. MPOs and State DOTs will use the MAF/TIGER Partnership Software (MTPS), provided by the Census Bureau, to create geographic summary layers based on population, worker counts, and other criteria. Participants will have the ability to delineate TAZs and/or Traffic Analysis Districts (TADs) based on 2010 census tabulation blocks, block groups and census tracts.

The information collection for TAZ will occur from mid March 2011 through the end of July 2011 as participating MPOs and State DOTs return digital extracts from the MTPS in a Census specified format. The Geography Division at the Census Bureau will review the digital files and make the geographic updates from each acceptable return provided by the MPOs and State DOTs. These updates will be used in the 2006-2010 Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) in order to tabulate and report data for both TAZs and TADs.

The TAZ Program will be conducted in a completely digital format. In March 2011, MPOs and State DOTs will have the ability to download the MTPS, as well as corresponding digital data and a user guide. Participants will use the MTPS in combination with digital data to create a TAZ/TAD plan that can be submitted to the Census Bureau via a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) site. Software and data will only be mailed upon request from the participant.

The Census Bureau will make TAZ materials available to approximately 350 MPOs/State DOTs. The Census Bureau expects that all 350 MPOs/State DOTs will participate in the TAZ Program.

The FY2011 estimate of average burden to perform TAZ activities per participant is approximately 160 hours. The FY2011 estimate of total respondent burden hours is therefore 56,000 hours for the estimated 350 participants.

This approval package includes a copy of the email we will use to notify the MPOs that the program materials are available to them, the TAZ user guide and several CTPP Status Reports referencing the upcoming TAZ Program. A draft of the TAZ user guide was provided to select TAZ participants for comment. These comments were incorporated into the attached user guide.

The contact person for questions regarding the TAZ program is:

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