Analysis of Freight Flows for Transportation Planning

How can Transearch (Reebie) data on commodity flows be used for freight planning?

(Nashville, 2/25/2005)
Levels of Planning

- National/International
- Statewide/Regional
- MPO/Local
At National/International Level

- Issues: Trade surplus/deficit; delay at seaports; delay along domestic transportation networks; security, etc.

- Demand Related Data Needs:
  - Exports and imports (commodities in Tons and Dollars)
  - Marine containers at seaports (Numbers)
  - Commodity flows between states/regions
At Statewide/Regional Level

- Issues:
  - Economic development
  - Strengthening economic base of the state
  - Finding state’s ‘niche’ in economic activities
  - Traffic congestion along major corridors
  - Modal diversion of freight, e.g., highway to rail
  - Access to major freight terminals
State Level (Continued)

- Demand Related Data Needs:
  - Commodity flows in/out of state (Reebie data)
  - Commodity flows between regions/counties within state (Reebie data)
  - Commodity and truck flows along major corridors including through flows (can be estimated using Reebie data?)
  - Truck traffic on access roads of freight terminals (Reebie data will not be helpful)
At MPO Level

- Issues:
  - Economic development
  - Finding area’s ‘niche’ in economic activities
  - Truck traffic along major corridors
  - Truck traffic at specific intersections and road segments
  - Freight terminal location/access (intermodal connectors)
MPO Level (Continued)

- Demand Related Data Needs:
  - Commodity flows in/out of MPO area (Reebie data)
  - Truck flows along major corridors including through trips (Reebie data may be helpful in some ways?)
  - Truck traffic volumes at specific locations (Reebie data will not be helpful)
Remarks

- ‘Reebie’ data are useful for macro level planning for addressing statewide, regional and corridor oriented issues.
- The data is not 100 percent accurate since it is based on sample data from several different sources.
- It is very difficult to get commodity flow data from private companies. This is the best source of commodity flow data at this time.