

## BTS Aims for Improved Transportation Decisions with TranStats—an Intermodal Web Database

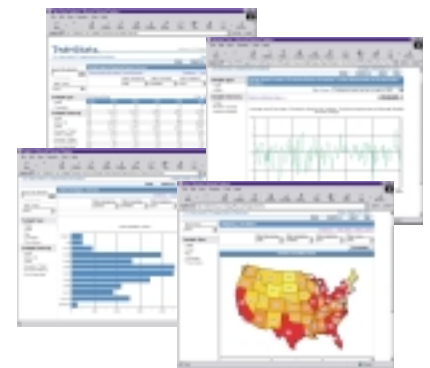
The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) has taken a significant step forward in electronic government with the unveiling of TranStats, a new website providing one-stop data shopping through access to more than 100 transportation-related databases.

Unveiled to the public on September 16th, TranStats is a website for transportation researchers and analysts aimed at providing “one-stop shopping” for transportation data. The premise is fairly simple—by reducing the time needed for data gathering, more time is available for analysis. And by providing easy linkages across many data sets, TranStats can help achieve new insights. Ultimately, this should result in more timely and more informed decisions, and a better transportation system.

TranStats' ultimate goal is to make the latest transportation data available to the entire transportation community, thereby creating a better transportation system for everyone.

Up to now, the process of compiling data to analyze a problem commonly involved searching for data sources, contacting data providers to get the data, often repeated contacts to get more information about the data, then sorting through that data and integrating more data from other sources for analysis.

This can be a very labor-intensive process, often taking months. TranStats is an electronic government initiative aimed at streamlining this whole process.



The website is at [www.transtats.bts.gov](http://www.transtats.bts.gov). Check out **Getting Started on the TranStats homepage**.

see *TranStats*, page 2

## BTS Completes Model Standard for Electronic Government Initiative

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) has moved forward in the development of electronic government with completion of a draft data-exchange standard for roads as a model for future standards developed by federal agencies.

The new standard responds to the Bush Administration's strategy for expanding Internet-based electronic government.

BTS submitted a draft road-data content standard to the Office of Management

and Budget (OMB) in September as part of the Geospatial One-Stop initiative. Due to the widespread need for road data, the road theme was selected as the first standard for development and implementation of a prototype web portal for data access.

The main function of the road data content standard is for data exchange on the Internet. If a user wants to exchange data, the standard specifies the rules, guidelines, and definitions necessary for sharing roadway information.

see *Modal Standard*, page 3

### Inside this issue:

<b>BTS Quilt Goes to DOD</b>	2
<b>Transportation Indicators</b>	3
<b>BTS Staffers Awarded</b>	4
<b>Recent/Upcoming</b>	4

## TranStats Streamlines Data Analysis

*continued from page 1*

TranStats offers analysts several unique features:

- **A searchable index** of over 100 transportation-related databases across every mode of transportation—with many social and demographic data sets that are commonly used in transportation analysis.
- **Selective download**—the ability to choose variables of interest and download the data directly to your PC for analysis using any database, spreadsheet, or statistical package.
- **Online data documentation**—profiles on each database, summary information about the tables that comprise a database, data definitions, and code information for data variables.
- **Interactive analytical tools**—the ability to do simple statistical summaries, create time series or cross tabulations, generate graphics online, and cut/paste results into reports.
- **Interactive mapping** to help visualize geographic data.
- **A mapping center** with the full National Transportation Atlas Data Base, as well as applications for easily mapping DOT Grants and several other key datasets.

Users can explore the data by transportation mode or by subject area, use keyword searches to find relevant data sets, and get online help. Since all the data in TranStats are indexed with a transportation thesaurus, links to other transportation research are easy through the National Transportation Library.

## BTS Quilt Goes to DOD

On August 27th, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta and former Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) Director Ashish Sen presented the Department of Defense a quilt in memory of the women who died at the Pentagon on September 11th. Women in BTS organized the quilt project and women throughout the Department of Transportation (DOT) joined in making the quilt.

At the “Hearts and Hands Across the Potomac,” ceremony at DOT headquarters, Secretary Mineta presented the quilt to June Forte, curator of Pentagon quilts. “I can think of no finer way to honor the women who died than to let the warmth of this quilt sustain the spirit that resides in all of us,” he said.

The 84-square quilt has a flag in the middle and a gold star containing the name of every woman who died at the Pentagon and on Flight 77.

*see September 11, page 3*



**Secretary Mineta admires a quilt presented by DOT to the Department of Defense bearing the name of every woman who died at the Pentagon and on Flight 77 on September 11th.**

## Transportation Indicators

Remember to check [www.bts.gov](http://www.bts.gov) the first week of every month for the latest *Transportation Indicators* report tracking more than 300 transportation trends.

- In the July issue you would have learned that enplanements on international flights by large U.S. carriers decreased by 14 percent in April compared to a year earlier and that the 4.4 million international passengers on U.S. carriers in April were the fewest of any April since 1996.
- In the August issue you would have learned that New York-Toronto remains the most heavily traveled air route connecting the United States to the western hemisphere, although passenger traffic remains down from previous years.
- In the September issue you would have learned that large U.S. air carriers posted an 8 percent rise in inflation-adjusted freight revenue from the second quarter of last year.

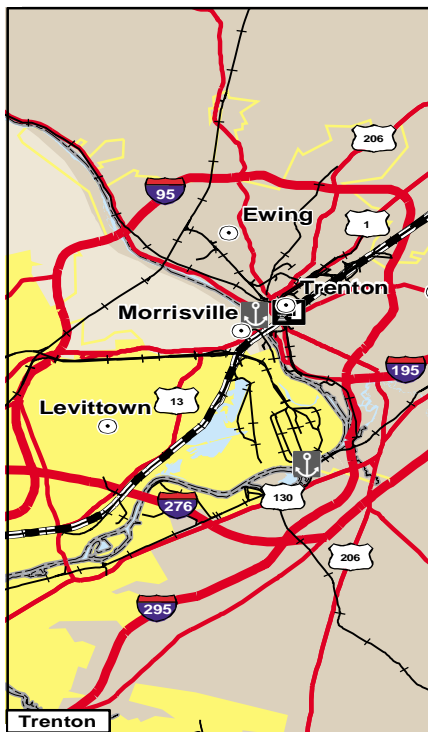
## The Women of September I I

*continued from page 2*

Director Sen said, "This quilt is a source of pride because it arose from within the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. It came from our agency, but not from a directive from the leadership. It came from a group of dedicated women who asked what they could do to pay tribute to the women who died at the Pentagon."

Secretary Mineta commended BTS staffers Stacy Murphy, Kim Webb, Kim Hill, Thea Graham, Peg Young, and Susan Lapham for their contributions. "They are the 'Hearts and Hands Across the Potomac'," he said.

Quilts donated to DOD have been displayed at the Pentagon as well as at various military bases and museums across the country. It is expected that the BTS quilt will be shown at a variety of future venues.



**BTS' GIS section provides detailed maps of transportation route 8 facilities.**

## Modal Standard Draft Submitted to OMB

*continued from page 1*

The submission to OMB concludes the initial phase of a six-month effort led by BTS with support from state and local governments, the private and academic sectors, and other Federal agencies. The BTS process will provide a model for other geospatial data themes. Geospatial data identifies the geographic location and characteristics of natural or constructed features and boundaries on Earth.

BTS is the lead agency in the Department of Transportation for coordinating the development of the transportation standards for the Geospatial One-Stop. BTS is also developing data content standards for air, rail, and transit. Groups similar in

composition to the road team will be meeting throughout the remainder of the year.

BTS is also using the draft road standard to build the prototype web portal for the Geospatial One-Stop. This effort will help refine the road content standard and provide information for implementing the Geospatial One-Stop.

The Geospatial One-Stop, one of 24 electronic government initiatives selected by the President's Management Council, will provide a geographic component for use in all Internet-based electronic government activities of local, state, tribal and federal governments.

## BTS Staffers Awarded for Excellence

Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta presented two BTS teams and three individual staff members with department-wide awards in November.

The prestigious Partnering in Excellence Award, the highest DOT group award, was presented to BTS' Statistical Quality Working Group. The group was essential in developing statistical quality guidelines for all DOT agencies in response to new federal mandates. Members of the group are: Amrut Champaneri, Elizabeth Bradley, Eugene Burns, Demetra Colli, Pat Flanagan, Paulette Grady, Kimberley Hill, Purificacion MacDonald, Anand Prabhakar, and Julie Smith.

Andrew Kleine, BTS' chief financial officer, received the Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement (Silver Medal), the third highest DOT award for civilian employees. He was cited for "building the BTS budget and financial management system from scratch."

Kimberly Webb, a management assistant in the Office of the Director at BTS, received the Secretary's Award for

Excellence. She was noted for diverse contributions, including support for the National Transportation Library and the Office of Transportation Analysis.

Rick Ransom, computer specialist in BTS' Office of Information Technology, was honored with the Secretary's Award for Volunteer Service. He developed an aggressive outreach program in the Parks and Recreation Department in Greenbelt, MD, while also serving as an AAU Basketball coach and mentor at Hine Junior High School in Washington, DC.

The State Profiles Team won the Secretary's Team Award for the successful launch of BTS' state transportation profiles. Members of the State Profiles Team are: Ron Duych, Wendell Fletcher, Martha Courtney, Derald Dudley, Mary Field, Alexa Getting, Leonard Hughes, Darcy Herman, David Kall, Pamela LaFontaine, Steve Lewis, Melody Liu, William Mallett, Chip Moore, Matt Sheppard, Laurie Scovell, and Lorisa Smith.

### Recently from BTS

- BTS Guide to Good Statistical Practice
- Holiday Air Travel Delays: Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Day 2001.
- Maritime Trade & Transportation 2002
- National Transportation Statistics 2001
- State Transportation Profiles (release of transportation profiles of California, Nebraska, Alaska, Minnesota, Vermont, Texas, Kentucky, Arizona, New Hampshire, Maryland, Wisconsin and South Carolina)

### Upcoming from BTS

- Airport Activity Statistics 2001
- BTS Products and Services Catalog 2003
- International Trade and Freight Transportation Trends
- Journal of Transportation and Statistics, volume 5 number 1
- National Transportation Statistics 2002
- Pocket Guide to Transportation 2003
- Transportation Statistics Annual Report 2001
- Safety Data Initiative Reports
- State Transportation Profiles (transportation profiles will be released for West Virginia, Washington [state], Nevada, Florida, Oklahoma, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Connecticut, Mississippi, Missouri, and Montana)

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