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Docket No. WB 18-11

Dr. William Brennan
Acting Director, Office of Economics
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

March 27, 2018

Dear Dr. Brennan:

I am writing on behalf of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to request the latest (year 2016) confidential Waybill Sample data. SCAG is interested in utilizing the data for the analysis of regional freight flows and upgrades to the regional demand forecast model.

The SCAG region's transportation network for moving goods includes a complex system that supports multiple modes of transportation such as deep-water marine ports, international border crossings, Class I rail lines, interstate highways, state routes and local connector roads, air cargo facilities, intermodal facilities and distribution and warehousing centers. SCAG continues to upgrade and improve our regional travel demand model components to reflect multiple transportation modes and systems and recognize the importance of acquiring data to develop state of the art regional demand forecasting tools.

As shown in the figure 1, we use commodity flow data (TRANSEARCH Data) for the external trip generation and distribution model in the Heavy Duty Truck (HDT) model. TRANSEARCH data is used to convert annual tonnage flows at the county level to daily truck trips at the Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) level. More specifically, Internal-External/External-Internal HDT trips are generated and distributed using a combination of commodity flow data and 2-digit NAICS employment data for allocating county data to TAZs.

We are in need of credible survey based regional commodity flow data that could serve to calibrate and validate model components and coefficients. For the analysis of commodity flow by rail system, the latest (year 2016) Waybill Sample data could be critical to validating model inputs and outputs. With given Waybill Sample data, we are going to aggregate the data by city and plot it on the rail system so that we determine which flows go through which counties and cities. We are in need of the latest waybill data to more accurately reflect city-level rail flows.

For our analysis, we are requesting the full 900 byte confidential Waybill Sample data with detailed but masked information about the origins and destinations of commodities/shipments and railroad, commodity, mileage and location files

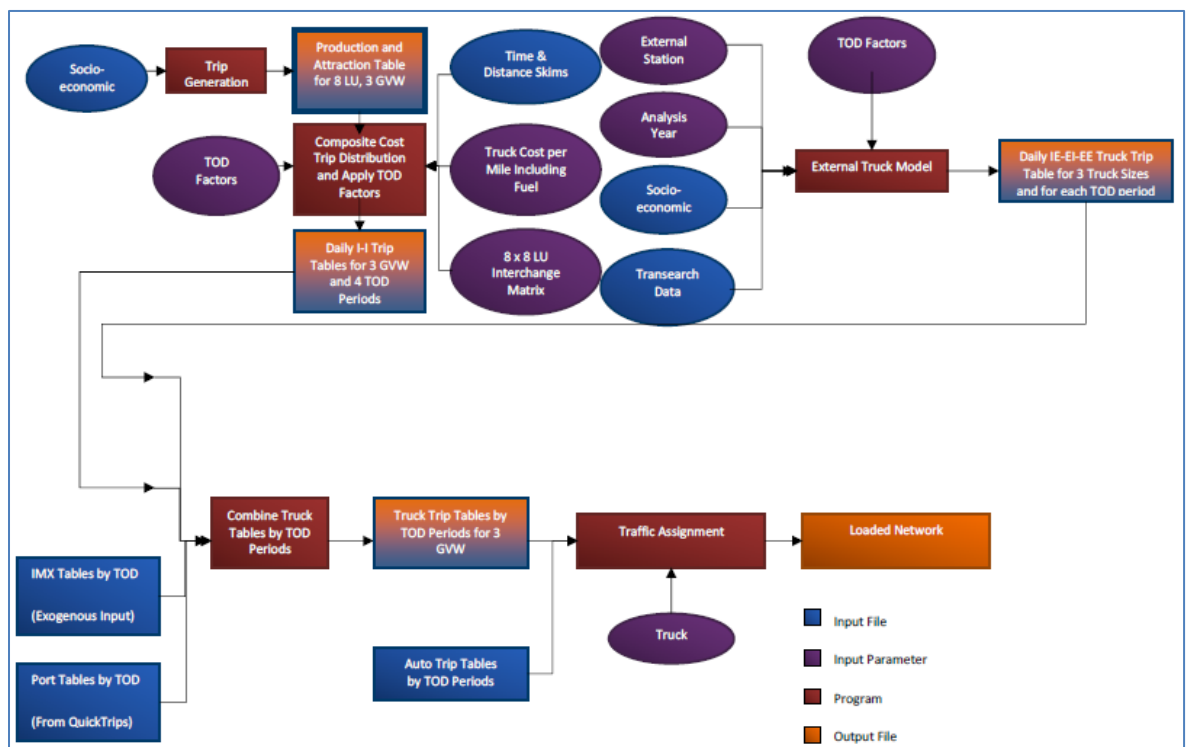
including the state flags. For the purpose of our data development procedures, specific revenue information would not be required.

We understand that there is an administrative fee to cover the cost of obtaining the data and can work with you to ensure timely payment. If there are any questions or additional information required, please contact me at yoons@scag.ca.gov or (213) 236- 1991.

Best regards

Sungsu Yoon,
Associate Regional Planner

Figure 1. HDT Model Structure (TOD= Time-of-Day)



Source: SCAG Regional Travel Demand Model and 2012 Model Validation Report