TAZ Delineation and Socioeconomic Data Input

By Steven LaBedz

Overview

- What is a TAZ?
- Defining or Splitting a TAZ and/or Census Block
 - Data sources
 - Workspace
 - Duplexes, Multiplexes, and Apartments
- TAZ file from TAZ Block file
- TAZ Rules
- CTPP

What Is a TAZ

- TAZ: Traffic Analysis Zone
- A unit of geography in Travel Demand Models
- Bounded by:
 - Built environment (highways, railroads, etc...)
 - Natural features (bodies of water)
 - Political boundaries
 - Land use or
 - Other Special cases
- Sometimes a boundary is determined by the modeler to split different land uses up based on where the access is



2010 TAZs Before Update

- 2007 TAZs with Jefferson, SD
 - Jefferson, SD- Community in SIMPCO MPO
- Total of 552 TAZs
- Some were deemed too large
- Some were not drawn correctly

2010 SIMPCO Model TAZs Before Update



Where to Begin

- Import a Census Block file
 - That includes the entire model study area
 - This makes it easier to split a TAZ
 - Save as a standard geographic file, so you can edit it (SIMPCO_TAZ_Blocks)
- Import Your network
 - Existing and planned roads
 - Other Road related files with FFC, AADT, etc...
- Import other supplemental files:
 - Employment Data
 - Parcel Data
 - Land Use Data
 - MPO Boundary
 - Aerial imagery (Google Maps/Satellite in TransCAD)
 - Building footprint data

TAZ Blocks

- Labeled with
 - TAZ Number
 - Manual input (add field)
 - Population
 - Households
 - Occupied Households
 - Vacant Households
 - People Per Household

TAZ Update Work Space

TransCAD (Licensed to Iowa DOT) - [Map1 - SIMPCO_2010_Blocks]

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TAZ_BLOCK

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Aggregating Blocks or Splitting Old TAZS Sometimes splitting a TAZ requires a road to be added

• No blocks were split in this example



Splitting a Block



Splitting a Block

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Splitting a Block



Beware of Duplexes!



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Duplex Streetview



Beware of Multiplexes!



Multiplex Streetview



How To Estimate Households in an Apartment Complex

- Google Maps or Streetview
- Google Earth Satellite
- Bing Maps Birds Eye View
- Apartment complex website
- Can Count:
 - Garages
 - Decks/Patios
 - A/C Units
 - Mailboxes (if applicable)
- Can't Count
 - Windows

Apartments Google Earth



Apartments Bing Bird's Eye



TAZ Block File

- After all the TAZs and Census blocks have been vetted, time to create the new TAZ file
- Objective: Aggregate Census Blocks by TAZ Number
 - Using the Merge by value tool in TransCAD
- This will create a new TAZ file based off of the new TAZ numbers defined in the TAZ Block file

New TAZ File



2007 vs 2010 TAZ Files



2007-Based TAZs Total TAZs= 552



TAZ Rules To Adhere By:

- Should not have a road going through it
- In an MPO model, centroid connectors should not cross a TAZ boundary
- Should be bounded by roads on all sides, when applicable
- Best to be a square shape as opposed to rectangle or some other elongated object
- Use common sense when delineating a TAZ boundary
 - Where should it load from?



TAZ Loading



TAZ Loading



When Rules Can Be Broken



When Rules Can Be Broken



Splitting a TAZ During Calibration



Splitting a TAZ During Calibration



Cross Classification

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CTPP TAZs

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CTPP Ratios

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