

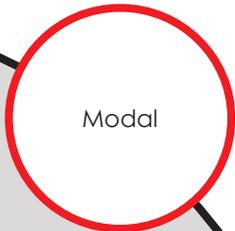


Caltrans Division of Research,
Innovation and System Information

Research



Results



Modal

JUNE 2019

Project Title:

2018 Census of California Water
Transit Services

Task Number: 3505

Completion Date: February 28,
2019

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2018 Census of California Water Transit Services

This research is updating the 2012 Census of California Water
Transit Services report.

WHAT WAS THE NEED?

The U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics conducts a nationwide census of ferry boat operators for the U.S. Department of Transportation; the collected information is used for statistical purposes. The Caltrans Division of Local Assistance has been asked by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to gather data regarding ferry operations since MAP-21, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, includes a new formula program for ferry boats and ferry terminal facilities eligible under 23 USC 129(c). FHWA has asked that Caltrans assure the data is current for MAP-21. The research team will compile a spreadsheet and accompanying maps that include ferry boats, routes, and operators along with a number of related characteristics including ownership (public or private), daily trip counts, regulation of fares, terminal locations (street address and coordinates), boarding statistics, and route segment lengths. The spreadsheet will contain fields that will allow it to be linked in a Geographic Information System to Caltrans Earth software for further analysis. If possible, we will also provide a description of expansion plans for each provider.

WHAT WAS OUR GOAL?

This project involved a full update to the "2012 Census of California Water Transit Services" report (Mineta Report #12-02). Like the 2012 report, the updated 2018 report will include documentation of operations and routing characteristics for California's ferry operators in a detailed spreadsheet linked to a related GIS-based map.



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WHAT DID WE DO?

Confirmed names of all California ferry operators by searching web resources to confirm whether there were any new California ferry operators beyond those identified in the 2012 report. Also, determine if any past operators are no longer operating.

Performed data collection by contacting ferry operators directly via phone and/or web, collect information related to each of the California ferry operators, including all of the characteristics listed in the project Abstract above. Collected all information in an Excel spreadsheet, for tabular information, or ArcGIS file geodatabase, for spatial information including ferry routes in .shp, .kml, or .kmz format and coordinates of embarking and disembarking terminals. Also prepared a brief paragraph listing the primary characteristics of each operator.

Reviewed the spreadsheet data for accuracy, then prepared GIS-based maps of ferry routes and street address and coordinated data for embarking and disembarking terminals. Ensured that the spreadsheet and the file geodatabase contain shared fields to enable linkage of both datasets.

Produced a final report that included a summary of project methodology, a summary of key characteristics of each operator, and a summary of key findings. In addition, prepared the associated project spreadsheet that summarized the data by operator and a map of California ferry operator routes and terminals. Delivered digital versions of final report, spreadsheet, and geospatial data files to Caltrans at the end of the project.

WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

The research team collected information from 25 water transportation operators throughout California and produced 42 accompanying

maps that depict routes and terminals where the operators provide service. Tabular information for each operator catalogs their number of vessels, passenger counts, fares, seating capacity, route lengths and other data points. Note that several operators, despite repeated contact via phone and email, chose not to reply. This report organizes water transportation operations into three sections based on California geography: Northern California, the Sacramento Delta region; and Southern California. The fourth section documents four operators who did not fall within those three geographic regions.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

The U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics conducts a nationwide census of ferry boat operators for the U.S. Department of Transportation and the collected information is used for statistical purposes. The Caltrans Division of Local Assistance has been asked by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to gather data regarding ferry operations under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). MAP-21 includes a new formula program for ferry boats and ferry terminal facilities eligible under 23 USC 129(c) which authorizes federal participation in toll roads, bridges, tunnels, and ferries. FHWA has asked that Caltrans assure the ferry boat data is current for MAP-21.

The Mineta Transportation Institute was initially contacted by Caltrans to conduct this census in 2012 and a report was delivered later that year. Now the census has been completed with updates through November 2018.

LEARN MORE

http://www.dot.ca.gov/research/researchreports/reports/2019/CA19-3505_FinalReport.pdf