

## **Does More Information Mean Better Rates? Trip Generation Rates for Selected Special Generators**

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### **Abstract**

The Texas Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with Metropolitan Planning Organizations throughout Texas have been performing comprehensive travel surveys throughout the state since 1990. The surveys included all or a combination of household, employer, truck/taxi, external, on-board and special generators surveys. The last comprehensive survey of special generators was in 1975 in selected urban areas by the state.

The paper investigates the question, is more information better, or can traffic counts suffice? In some locations, a full employee survey and traffic counts were conducted, in comparison to where only a traffic count and employment data were collected. The primary generators which are focused on in the paper are military bases, hospitals and universities.

The paper also compares the trip-generation rates for the urban areas of San Antonio, Amarillo, Beaumont and Corpus Christi with the statewide results developed by the Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation in 1975. Both geographic and temporal comparisons will be discussed. The Texas experience will be compared with other sources, such as the ITE trip generation manual.

Although particularly relevant to the conducting of special-generator studies, the papers findings will provide information useful to those involved in both computerized and manual traffic impact evaluations and decision making.