The 2009 National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) was conducted by the Federal Highway Administration and provides information to assist transportation planners and policy makers who need comprehensive data on travel and transportation patterns in the United States. The 2009 NHTS updates information gathered in the 2001 NHTS and in prior Nationwide Personal Transportation Surveys (NPTS) conducted in 1969, 1977, 1983, 1990, and 1995.

In previous surveys, few observations were collected in Vermont. In 2009, the UVM Transportation Research Center (TRC), Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) and Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) joined together and purchased an oversample or “add-on” of 1,690 households – 541 in Chittenden County and 1,149 in the rest of the state – resulting in a Vermont sampling intensity rate of 2.1%, higher than the national average of 0.4%.

These data will be invaluable for assessing new ways to provide mobility to rural residents, measuring the greenhouse gas impact of the transportation sector, increasing accessibility to transportation for Vermont households, and many other policy applications. The TRC, CCMPO, and VTrans will use the data to update their travel forecasting models.

Data collected on daily trips taken in a 24-hour period include:

- Purpose of the trip (work, shopping, etc.);
- Means of transportation (car, bus, bike, walk, etc.);
- How long the trip took, i.e., travel time;
- Time of day when the trip took place; and
- Day of week when the trip took place.

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