

National Accessibility Evaluation Task Report

Task 6.1:

Prepared by the Accessibility Observatory at the
University of Minnesota

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**ACCESSIBILITY
OBSERVATORY**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM

1 Overview

This report summarizes the activities completed during Year 1 of the Accessibility Observatory's National Accessibility Evaluation project.

2 Task 1.1: Communications and Technical Advisory Panel Management

CTS staff coordinated communication between the research team and the project TAP, and organized quarterly TAP meetings. These activities are summarized in a separate task report.

3 Task 2.1: Collect Input Datasets

The goal of this task is to assemble the data required to deliver national accessibility reports and block-level accessibility datasets to each of the project participants. Subsequent tasks in this project will require data describing the road network and speeds; transit networks and schedules; the pedestrian network; origin and destination locations; and the distribution of employment. All data is required to have full national coverage in a consistent format.

This task is complete. Data has been identified and acquired to meet each of the project's data needs. Some data components will be updated on an ongoing basis to support future annual updates to this project.

Detailed task activities are provided in the Task 2.1 report.

4 Task 3.1: Calculate Accessibility Datasets

The goal of this task is to calculate a nationwide dataset describing job accessibility from each Census block in the U.S., for auto and for transit. For each block, this process will calculate travel times for each mode to all surrounding blocks that can be reached within 60 minutes or less. These travel times will be used to aggregate the number of jobs that can be reached within travel time thresholds of 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 minutes for each origin block. Extracts from this national dataset will be provided for the jurisdictions of each project partner, and will be distributed electronically.

This task is complete. Detailed task activities are provided in the Task 3.1 report. The following link provides access to the datasets for each project partner:

https://netfiles.umn.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e18129632_1-t_x9AwlMv9

Additionally, the project team prepared a combined dataset with national coverage, which was used in creating the national reports in Task 4.1.

5 Task 4.1: Prepare Accessibility Reports

The goal of this task is to prepare national and partner reports that summarize the accessibility data produced in Task 3.1. The national reports will focus on the top 50 U.S. metropolitan areas (by population), providing maps, summary statistics, and rankings for each. These reports will be published by the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies and publicized nationally.

The partner reports will provide maps and summary statistics for each partner's jurisdiction, as well as for appropriate subordinate jurisdictions (such as counties and metropolitan areas). These reports will be delivered electronically to each partner.

This task is complete. Links to the task deliverables are provided below.

5.1 National Reports

The following links provide access to the national reports:

- Auto: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/ao-nae-reports-2015/AccessAcrossAmerica-Auto2015.pdf>
- Transit: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/ao-nae-reports-2015/AccessAcrossAmerica-Transit2015.pdf>

The national reports are also published on the project web site (<http://access.un.edu/research/america/index.html>).

5.2 Partner Reports

The following link provides access to the reports for each project partner:

https://netfiles.umn.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e18129632_1-t_x9AwlMv9

6 Task 5.1: TAP Review of Results and Methodology

The goal of this task is to collect feedback from TAP members regarding the deliverables produced in Tasks 2.1 – 4.1, with a focus on continually improving the data, reporting, usefulness, and scope of the project. The TAP discussed and reviewed the project deliverables at four meetings during Year 1 of the project. Minutes and notes from these meetings are provided as an attachment with this report.