



Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization

33 W. Washington St., 4th Floor, Suite 402, Hagerstown, MD 21740

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www.hepmpo.net

Attention: William Brennan, PhD Chief Economist & Director

Office of Economics

Surface Transportation Board

395 E. Street SW,

Washington, DC

WB_22_54

305471

October 4, 2022

ENTERED

Office of Proceedings

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Part of

Public Record

Request to Access the Confidential Waybill Sample Data

Dear Dr. Brennan,

I am writing you to request access to the confidential waybill sample under 49 CFR 1244.9 (c) Other Users, in support of research being conducted by their contractor Michael Baker International (MBI) and their subcontractor EBP (EBP | EBP | US (ebp-us.com)) on behalf of the Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization. I am the Executive Director.

The research these data are looking to be applied in is in support of a freight plan for the metropolitan planning organization centered around understanding rail activity in the region, and the markets these railways connect to. FHWA's provisional FAF database – the Freight Analysis Framework (FAF) data is unable to cover rail volumes at a granular enough detail to facilitate regional analysis of rail, so a more granular source is being sought. Public versions of the STB Waybill are too aggregate and suppressed to enable rigorous analysis of localized rail movements and their role in the local economy, necessitating this request.

The critical variables needed are as follows:

- Origin – Destination County region sufficient to cover freight activity in and around the Hagerstown region
 - Berkeley County West Virginia
 - Jefferson County West Virginia
 - Washington County Maryland
- Expanded tonnage
- International harmonized system code / STCC commodity classification
- Year – 1 year (2019): sufficient for understanding volumes of rail activity

We are requesting access to the masked data to try and represent the most accurate depiction of goods movement as possible without unnecessary detail involving sensitive cost/price. The data itself would not be published – any results stemming from the analysis would not be circulated subject to any concerns you might have on divulging information. We will abide by all strict storage and use requirements.



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Only the consultant team would have access to the data. The following individuals would be using the data and therefore need access: Dan Szekeres of MBI; Derek Cutler; Jane Haines of EBP. Derek Cutler is the lead researcher on this project; he can be reached at derek.cutler@ebp-us.com for any further questions on the use of the data.

Please let us know the next steps in the process to get the confidential agreement in place for all the individuals needing to access the data and any other requirements.

If you have further questions, please contact me.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance in this critical work.

Sincerely,

Matthew Mullenax

Executive Director

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