The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP
October 26, 2022
Hybrid Meeting
10:00 A.M. to 11:36 A.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Jeff Bronow, Howard County, called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Kathleen Comber, Carroll County, moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting of the Cooperative Forecasting Group (CFG), with Ms. Jamie Williams, Baltimore City, seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) – STATISTICS OF INCOME MIGRATION DATA

Mr. Kevin Pierce, IRS, provided an overview of the agency's Statistics of Income (SOI) migration data.

Migration data show the movement of individuals, via the address listed on Form 1040, over a two-year period. The data is available at the state and county levels, and show the number of inflows (residents moving in) and outflows (residents moving out).

The migration data has a long history and the methods used in its development have changed over time. From the 1980s through 2011, the Census Bureau produced the migration data for the SOI program. During that time, the IRS shared their data with Census annually and Census produced the estimates. Starting in 2012, the SOI program assumed responsibility for the task and started producing the estimates themselves.

In the transition from the Census Bureau producing the estimates and the IRS production of the estimates, consistency was maintained between the final tables, layout, codes and disclosure. However, a key difference between the methods is that the Census methodology based their estimates on tax returns filed up until late September and matched between years on the primary taxpayer only, while the IRS methodology bases estimates on tax returns for the full year and matches between years on the primary, secondary and dependent populations. The change in methodology to include tax returns after late September increases the population size by 4%. That 4% of returns accounts for over 10% of total income because

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Voting: City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, Queen Anne's County, MD Department of Transportation and Annapolis Transit. Non-Voting: MD Department of the Environment, MD Department of Planning, and MD Transit Administration.

tax returns filed after late September tend to have higher average adjusted gross income levels.

Mr. Pierce provided a comparison between the sources used to develop the SOI migration estimates vs the migration estimates produced by the Census Bureau for the Population Estimates Program (PEP), highlighting a few differences. He noted that the SOI uses data from IRS tax returns and the Social Security Administration (SSA) numerical identification files. For the PEP estimates, the Census Bureau includes Medicare enrollment and group quarters data, in addition to the tax returns and SSA data. The Census inclusion of Medicare and group quarters data results in a larger sample population because it can include non-filers. Geographically, both sources geocode records to a county based on a 9-digit zip code. If county cannot be determined, the SOI excludes the record, where the Census will code the record based on the address. The SOI releases and updates the data annually, independent of previous iterations. The Census Bureau releases PEP data annually and can include historical revisions, back to the previous decennial Census.

The IRS uses a direct method of calculating migration using matched population of tax returns to identify in and out migrations based on microdata for year 1 to year 2 origin and destination zip codes, and aggregates the results to state and county flows. The Census uses an indirect method of calculating migration by using tax return and Medicare records to develop Net Domestic Migration Rates (NDMR) based upon in and out migrations between year 1 and year 2 origin and destination zip codes. The Census then applies the NDMR to the household population to create a net domestic migration estimate.

Looking to the future, the IRS plans to augment their statistical data products with the expanded use of information returns, such as W-2s, 1099-R, 1099-SSA, 1099-MISC and 1099G. The agency is also considering moving to an individual-based matching procedure and to making improvements to how income is assigned for joint tax filers.

Mr. Pierce concluded the presentation by providing a series of links to access SOI migration data on the IRS website, and to a paper providing a detailed explanation of the data and methods utilized in the development of the statistics.

[PowerPoint: Statistics of Income IRS Migration Data]

3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – FUTURE TRENDS UPWP TASK

Mr. Kimberly began by explaining that a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a statement of work identifying transportation planning priorities and activities of a metropolitan planning organization, and detailing the roles and responsibilities of the people participating in the process. The work program reflects critical transportation issues facing the region and the analytical capabilities needed to address them.

CFG membership has the opportunity to request adjustments to the UPWP, and can submit additional tasks for consideration for forthcoming fiscal years. Members of the group have expressed interest in learning more about recent trends brought on (or accelerated) by the pandemic and how the trends may influence future growth. The purpose of this agenda item

was to gauge the group's level of interest in the topic, to define its purpose, and to outline the topics that the group would like to see covered in a proposed consultant task.

Mr. Kimberly provided a draft timeline highlighting key dates for consideration of this task for inclusion in the UPWP for the next fiscal year :

- October 2022: CFG Task discussion

- November and December 2022: Draft topics presented to Technical Committee (TC) and Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)

- December 2022: CFG task description finalized

- February 2023: TC approval of draft UPWP

- March and April 2023: CFG develops draft scope/RFP

- April / May 2023: BRTB approval of UPWP

- July 2023: Work on UPWP task may proceed

In order to submit a task idea for consideration, CFG membership needs to identify the purpose of the proposed task and provide a brief description of what the project would entail. Mr. Bronow began the discussion by suggesting that the proposed task include the input of both a traditional economic consultant and a futurist. The economic consultant would be charged with conducting the bulk of the quantitative research and analyses (including tasks such as data acquisition, trend identification, and development of projections) and translating the results into actionable findings and potential future implications. The futurist would have a secondary role as a separate presenter/speaker, describing potential future scenarios relevant to the task topics (informed by ideas regarding rapidly changing technology and the future of work, for example) without the constraint of adhering to scientific methods and economic models.

Through Mr. Bronow's initial input and subsequent comment from the group membership, a preliminary list of topics for inclusion in the proposed consultant task was developed:

- Work from Home adoption rates (trends and projections)
  - Fully remote vs Hybrid split
    - If hybrid, how many days per week?
- Changes in Commercial Real Estate
  - Office space utilization trends and projections
    - Impacts upon supportive businesses and services
    - Impacts upon traditional employment centers
  - Retail space utilization trends and projections

      o Other? Industrial/Flex?

- Shifts/trends in home location choice resulting from WFH adoption

- Trends and projections for Average Household Size

- Impacts upon transportation

      o Changes in types and frequency of trips

      o Changes in mode shares

Mr. Kimberly said that he will write-up a draft UPWP task description based upon the CFG input received. The draft task description will be distributed to membership prior to the December meeting, so membership will have an opportunity to prepare for a discussion at the meeting to help finalize the document. Mr. Kimberly requested that membership contact him with any questions about the proposed UPWP task, or to provide any additional suggestions.

SCHEDULING: CFG PRESENTATIONS ON CALCULATING LAND USE POTENTIAL

- Baltimore City – Holding Capacity – Jamie Williams (December 2022 or February 2023)

- Anne Arundel County – Holding Capacity – Rick Fisher (April 2023)

4. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kimberly stated that Howard County's role as Chair of the CFG ends after the December 2022 meeting. Harford County will serve as Chair for the next two calendar years (2023 and 2024). Queen Anne's County will serve as Vice-Chair.

The next CFG meeting will be held Wednesday, December 21. The meeting format will be hybrid. Members can attend the meeting virtually or in person.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members
Krishna Akundi, Maryland Department of Planning
Jeff Bronow, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Planning and Zoning
Kathleen Comber, Carroll County Department of Planning
Rick Fisher, Anne Arundel County Department of Planning
Alfred Sundara, Maryland Department of Planning
James Wilkerson, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Jamie Williams, Baltimore City Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Jennifer Duffy, Baltimore Development Corporation
Blake Fisher, BMC
Greg Goodwin, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Shawn Kimberly, BMC
Crystal McDermott, BMC
Kevin Pierce, Internal Revenue Service