

New York State Department of Transportation

Truck Driver Intercept Study



Objective

The objectives were to design and implement a methodologically rigorous and repeatable research study to intercept a subset of truck drivers traveling on the New York highway system. The survey collected quantifiable data from members of the trucking community to help answer several key questions, including truck/ trailer trip and freight characteristics, opinions on parking and facility amenities, and driver characteristics.

Approach

NuStats used trained interviewers to intercept truck drivers at a total of 10 rest areas, 10 travel plazas, and 10 truck stops across New York. Data were collected using tablet personal computers (PCs) programmed to elicit a wide variety of information. Route information was collected using a customized application combining GeoStats' GeoSurvey and PTV xServers, in which location information was captured and geocoded to calculate routes, verifiable in the field over three data collection periods.

Outcome

During the first field test, over 750 surveys were completed with truck drivers in the western half of the state (west of Interstate 81). Many of the key findings mimic the findings of the commercial vehicle survey conducted by the Federal Highway Administration titled, Commercial Vehicle Driver Survey: Assessment of Parking Needs and Preferences.

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