



## **Data Documentation Draft for BFCG Regional Travel Demand Model**

### **Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs)**

The updated model has 1,065 TAZs, up from the 242 that were in the 2010 model. TAZs were delineated using various legal boundaries and built/geographic barriers. This included water ways, railroad tracks, transportation network and census. On a few occasions, TAZs include more than one jurisdiction. BFCG worked with our regional planners to ensure all areas were covered.

### **Population**

Base Year Population was derived using the Washington State Department of Office and Financial Management (OFM) Small Area Estimate Program (SAEP).

OFM provided the following 2015 estimates for each TAZ:

- Total Population
- Household Population
- Total Housing Units

Further information about the Small Area Estimate Program can be found in their [User Guide](#). The base data used in the SAEP estimate process come from the Census 2010 Summary File 1 and from OFM's April 1 Population Estimates Program for Cities and Counties. OFM estimates of population and housing used as control totals throughout the estimate process.

### **Employment**

BFCG utilized multiple data sources and verification for collecting base year employment information. A business database was purchased in 2014 from InfoUSA. BFCG supplemented that by directly contacting large employers (those with 100+ employees) including satellites (restaurants) to account for their specific sites and employee count. Lastly, our office worked closely with the Employment Security Department (ESD) of Washington State to verify accuracy and reasonability of our base year employment data. The Census [OnTheMap](#) Program was used, which provides Longitudinal Employer –Household Dynamics (LEHD) Origin Destination Data ([LODES](#)).

For modeling purposes, the model uses the following employment categories:

- Agriculture
- Mining
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale
- Retail
- Transportation & Warehousing
- Service
- Finance & Insurance, Real Estate
- Education
- Retail
- Government

### **Forecasts & Scenarios**

BFCG was assisted by regional planning staff to develop localized forecasts for each jurisdiction. A population and employment forecast was provide for years 2025, 2035 and 2040. Planning staff were able to provide Total Population and Household Population for each TAZ, while BFCG and Caliper Corporation (Consultant) developed Housing Units. Planners used Population Projections made available by OFM, which provides a Low, Medium and High Series for growth. Benton County used the High, while Franklin County used the Medium.

Total Employment was provided by regional planning staff. BFCG, with acceptance from planning staffs held employment type/industry ratios level throughout the forecast years based on the base year. The ESD of Washington State was again consulted to forecast employment growth throughout the region.