



PO Boxes on Address Based Sampling (ABS) frames Under- or over-coverage or both?

AAPOR 2018 Denver, CO

Joe McMichael & Derick Brown



Background

- USPS Computerized Delivery Sequence file (CDS)
- RTI leases the CDS from one of two nationally qualified vendors
- Receive monthly updates
- 140+ million residential addresses serve as a proxy for housing units

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Highway Contract or Rural Route Boxes	98,466
PO Box	
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Not OWGM	14,255,232
Total	143,688,302

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OWGM – Only Way to Get Mail PO Box

- PO Box unusually provided free to residents living in areas without home delivery
- Identified by vendors, not the USPS (typically proprietary)
- Methods could differ among vendors.
- How do we know if the vendors are correct?



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Roundabout plans returned for more study

By Marvin Robertson
Miner Staff Writer

Plans for the proposed roundabout on Stockton Hill Road north of Interstate 40, connecting Beverly Avenue and the on/off ramps, have been returned for additional design study, according to the Arizona Department of Transportation.

ADOT's Bruce Purrier said the country's top roundabout specialist, Peter Doctors, has been asked to analyze the design and determine how the roundabout will work in

lems if traffic is backed into the roundabout.

To work properly, traffic must flow freely once it enters the roundabout.

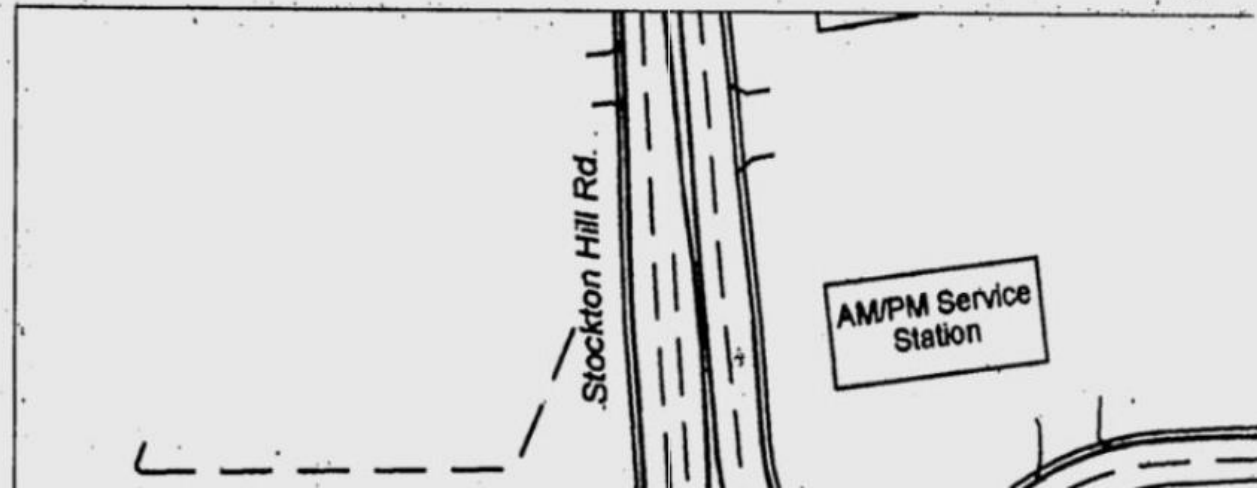
Purrier describes the roundabout as a 50 foot-wide roadway without lane markers. All drivers will have to yield at entrances into the roundabout and have right-of-way only after getting into the circle.

The entrances are designed to deflect and slow traffic as vehicles enter the roundabout. The design

to clear.

The signal at Stockton Hill Road and Detroit has had turn signals in all directions recently installed. The flow of traffic in and out of the Safeway shopping center is expected to flow more quickly and the increased employment at Citizens' new facility will have less of an impact.

ADOT is looking at long-term solutions such as another interchange, changes to Beverly Avenue, additional lanes on other ramps, the



tarine and plum trees to conserve space. Lettuce, onions, beans and tomatoes add to her bounty. Marigolds surround her tomato plants to "keep the tomato worms away," and she tends a flower bed in her front yard.

she said.
Colvin didn't exercise much when she was young, but said exercising has really come into its own in the last 30 years.
"We didn't even know about exercising back

Developed in China, tai chi is a series of postures and exercises done in slow, relaxed, circular movements.
It is used as an aid to meditation or as a system of self defense.

Miner Photo/LINDA STELLER
Elsie Colvin does tai so, warm-up movements for tai chi, with martial arts instructor Daniel Gonzales and other students at White Wind Tiger Foundation.

Postal Service says 'no' to home delivery in Arizona city of 10,000

PAGE (AP) — This city has been trying to do something about it, through rain and shine and blowing dust devils, for 15 years.

But the mailman never delivers.

The post office in this municipality of 10,000 people is bigger than those of many large cities. It has 4,350 boxes, a snarl of traffic every day and enough gossip for a dozen cafes. But it still doesn't have home mail delivery.

Page Mayor Robert Bowling just doesn't get it. His is a nice, compact, orderly little town where even the churches are lined up in a row on Lake Powell Boulevard. In other words, a great place to deliver mail.

"It's interesting that although we pay the

same postage as the rest of the U.S., our level of service is not the same," Bowling said. "I suppose the concepts of equality can be set aside when convenient for the U.S. Postal Service."

Don't blame it on Uncle Sam, Page Postmaster Bob Schlesinger said.

The U.S. Postal Service acknowledges that regulations require it to make home delivery of mail in towns of more than 2,500 population, said Peter Haas, a Postal Service spokesman. He says Page is one of the few cities in the country — San Luis, Ariz., is another — of 10,000 or more people with no home mail delivery.

The city had its opportunity three years

ago when the post office offered to make the rounds. But Schlesinger said the Postal Service wanted mailboxes on the side of the street where carriers wouldn't have to leave their vehicles to stuff the boxes.

The problem in Page is that there is only the slightest of gaps between the curbs and sidewalks and the boxes would have protruded slightly into the street.

City officials decided they didn't want the liability of skateboarders and motorists running into boxes on city right-of-way.

Neither did they want to worry about mail trucks striking someone on the sidewalks.

Former Page Mayor James Sippel rolls

his eyes at the memory of it all.

"Finally, the post office just said ... 'forget about it,'" Sippel said. "Everyone here is just consumed with liability. The liability of delivering mail. The liability of breathing. Whatever."

Not everyone in town is up in arms. For many residents, the post office serves as a town square, a gathering place for socializing and small talk.

"A lot of us in town don't want home delivery," said Barbara Larssen, 67, a Page resident who moved from Massachusetts 11 years ago.

She lingered at her box for about 15 minutes, chatting with people passing by.

"I came because it's a small town. I'm still able to get up and go and I like running into people down here," Larssen said.

For others, the trip is more chore than choice.

"It sure would be nice to walk outside your door to a mailbox," said Elaine Scholz, a longtime librarian in Page. "Those of us who come down here also find ourselves picking up mail for a lot of other people."

Richard Jentzsch, Page's assistant city manager, said he has been involved during 12 of the city's 15 years of trying to get home-mail delivery.

"The Postal Service has been negative about it the whole 12 years," Jentzsch said

Autry's name to live on at USC

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gene Autry's name will live on at the University of Southern California thanks to a \$300,000 gift to the School of Cinema-Television from his widow and Major League Baseball.

"Gene Autry left an indelible mark on the world of entertainment," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said of the original owner of the Anaheim Angels and Hollywood's first singing cowboy. "We regard him as a legend who dared to make a real difference for millions of people and are proud to continue his legacy at USC."

The Gene Autry Endowed Student Support Fund, announced Wednesday, will be used to assist students with tuition and fees in the form of scholarships and fellowships, Dean Elizabeth Daley said.

Get your car

How to identify OWGM?

Vendor Identified OWGM



May 2017

NATIONAL CUSTOMER SUPPORT CENTER
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
225 N. HUMPHREYS BLVD STE 501
MEMPHIS TN 38188-1001
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USPS City State product – PO Box Only portion

“The P.O. Box™ Only portion of the product contains P.O. Box Only Delivery Zones. These records **assist mailers in identifying communities where the customer’s only acceptable form of postal delivery is through a P.O Box address.** This flag is different from the existing ZIP Address Information System Products Technical Guide 3 Classification code “P” located in the City State Detail record, which indicates where a ZIP Code only has P.O. Boxes but other forms of postal delivery are also provided to the community.”

How to identify OWGM?

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- City State File
- 4,162 zip codes
- Correctly identified our vendor OWGM (with exception of 1,500 PO Boxes)

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How do we know what I'm doing is correct?

- Katchum, ID – 4,483 Occupied PO Boxes
- Carmel by the Sea, CA – 2,925 Occupied PO Boxes



Idaho Mountain Express



64°

Mostly Cloudy



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Serving Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey, Bellevue and Carey

May 17, 2018




Home mail delivery unlikely, city says

Ketchum will need broad community support

Peter Jensen Dec 11, 2015



GOING POSTAL IN CARMEL

 adorable, brass mail boxes, California, Carmel, Carmel-by-the Sea, city planning, enchanted for us, geographical address, going postal, homes with names, mail delivery, no addresses, no sidewalks, photography, post office boxes, United States Post Office

Carmel by -the Sea decided it would have the character of an Urban Forest and that decision has shaped its inhabitant's life style.

Because existing trees are not be cut down, sidewalks were banned in residential areas. This did not please the US Postal Service.

NO SIDEWALKS- NO MAIL DELIVERY!!

Carmelites were not distressed. They would simply go to the Post Office ,if it would not come to them.

Updated OWGM counts

OWGM Type	Units	Occupied Units	Communities (city-zip)	Average Community Size
Vendor Identified	1,436,424	907,945	4,167	217
RTI Identified	275,907	183,258	874	209
Total	1,712,331	1,091,203	5,041	216

- 20% increase of OWGM with RTI Identified OWGM
- OWGM communities are usually small rural towns.
- Found in 1,775 counties in every state except DC.
- Some counties have large proportion of addresses RTI Identified OWGM

Select County Coverage

State	County	ACS Occ HU	RTI Identified OWGM	Coverage Estimate
TX	CULBERSON	762	920	121%
TX	HUDSPETH	940	682	73%
MT	LIBERTY	833	430	52%
ID	BLAINE	8,708	4,483	51%
MT	GLACIER	4,188	2,130	51%
NM	CATRON	1,425	593	42%
MA	DUKES	6,134	2,547	42%
CO	SUMMIT	9,714	2,937	30%
AZ	APACHE	19,351	4,102	21%

- 54 counties have at least 10% of their estimated coverage from RTI Identified OWGM

Implications

- Transparency – Better understand our frame
- Control the survey error sources that we can
- Improved Coverage of Households
- Reduced Potential for Coverage Bias
 - Small in number but clustered
 - Unlikely to have meaningful impact on national coverage
 - Could have large coverage implications for community surveys



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