RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AIR FREIGHT DATA STUDY



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DEPARTMENT OF AERONAUTICS & ASTRONAUTICS

FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION LABORATORY Cambridge, Mass. 02139

October 1971 FTL Report R71-3

RECOMMENDATIONS (PHASE I)

DOT/CAB/MIT

AIR FREIGHT DATA STUDY

Prepared for the Department of Transportation
Office of Systems Analysis and Information
under

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics
Flight Transportation Laboratory
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INTRODUCTION

On January 15, 1971 the Department of Transportation and the Civil Aeronautics Board announced a joint research project in conjunction with the Department of Transportation's contractor, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The purpose of the project is the development of a domestic and international air freight traffic data base. Although both agencies recognize a continuing need for regularly reported statistics on air freight movements, their individual needs are not compatible. Furthermore, it was not obvious that the industry's needs would automatically be fulfilled even if these two agencies were to settle on a common set of data requirements.

The first part of the study involved establishing the statistical needs of the DOT, CAB and the industry. Although the initial DOT requirements included the CAB needs, there remained the need to review the data desired by the industry. MIT, in conjunction with the DOT and CAB representatives, initially interviewed selected US air carriers and cargo data users to analyze the air freight data systems operations and determine whether the data requirements developed in the DOT/CAB specifications were in fact useful and practical from an industry point of view.

Based on preliminary industry needs and DOT/CAB needs, MIT's task was to determine a feasible initial data specification in light of the information presently available from airbill sampling (or the information which might be reasonably expected on a new airbill). In case of conflicts, MIT was to recommend priorities. As required for completion of Phase I of the Air Freight Data Study, the following are our recommendations for the continuation

into Phase II based on the informal survey of the data-gathering activities and capabilities of the industry and specific needs of the DOT and the CAB.

Throughout February and March a survey of eleven airlines and three airframe manufacturers was made to determine the industry's data needs and ability to provide such data. The atmosphere throughout the attendant meetings was one of interest and cooperation with much constructive criticism. The airlines and manufacturers surveyed included:

Allegheny Airlines, Inc.
American Airlines, Inc.
Continental Air Lines, Inc.
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
Eastern Air Lines, Inc.
North Central Airlines, Inc.
Northwest Airlines, Inc.

Pan American World Airways
The Flying Tiger Line, Inc.
Trans World Airlines, Inc.
United Air Lines, Inc.
The Boeing Company
McDonnell-Douglas Corporation
Lochkeed-California Company
Lockheed-Georgia Company

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For the purpose of satisfying the data needs of the DOT/CAB and the airline industry, it is recommended that the 17 data items listed in Figure I be collected from each airbill/airwaybill for all scheduled US domestic/international and passenger/cargo and all cargo carriers, and that such data be submitted in the record form as shown in Figure II. Data for foreign flag carriers operating to and from the United States should also be included in the air freight data collection. Fifth freedom international traffic should, however, be collected from US flag carriers only.

We recommend that for the present time, the collection of air freight movement data should be restricted to scheduled direct air carriers only. However, investigations should proceed to include the non-scheduled (supplemental) carriers, air freight forwarders, and REA Air Express.

- 2. The initial collecting system should be restricted to air freight only. Air express requires a different set of tables as well as a different reporting system. It is recommended that air express requirements should be studied to determine a proposed program for data collection and reporting which might be undertaken after the freight program is initiated.
- 3. Although useful, the industry does not feel that it is necessary to collect data which identifies or classifies freight traffic by forwarder/nonforwarder categories. At present this separation should not be required, at least for bulk freight. Containerized traffic may warrant such separation.

⁺See Figure I, page 9.

^{*}The freedom to pick up traffic in foreign countries destined for other foreign countries.

- 4. It is recommended that no effort be made to collect data which would identify aircraft type used for freight movement.

 Administration of this would prove to be an additional burden on the carriers.
- 5. The data items collected should be processed in such a manner as to provide reports formatted as indicated in Appendix Tables I to IX for the domestic operations and Tables X to XVI for the international operations. These reports are expected to meet the more important information requirements as expressed by the majority of users of the collected data.
- 6. Domestic tables contain traffic which originates <u>and</u> terminates at points within the 50 states and District of Columbia. Traffic which originates, or terminates, or both, at points outside of the 50 states and District of Columbia should be considered international and as such confined to the international tables.
- 7. Until such time as the foreign flag carriers participate in the air freight data collection process, the international section of the report should not be made available to the public. It should be left at the Board's discretion whether or not to print this section of the report for internal use.
- 8. The traffic data contained in Tables I through VII and X through XVI refer to the total freight, containerized and non-containerized. The characteristics of container traffic are shown in aggregate form under the rate class category in Tables III, IV, XII and XIII. The breakdown of this container traffic should be in the same format as presently analyzed by the CAB. The format is shown in Tables VIII and IX and should be incorporated in the system design.
- 9. The collection of the data should begin with the close of January 1972. It is recognized that if implemented immediately this

requirement would place undue burden on many smaller carriers. To alleviate this, a schedule of carrier participation should be derived taking into consideration the planned data processing capability of the carriers in question. Eight of the eleven airlines polled in our initial survey appear to have the capability to begin reporting immediately. Although we are leaving to the Board's discretion the specific dates for individual carrier participation, it is our recommendation that all US scheduled carriers should be participating in the air freight data collection by December 31, 1973.

10. The data should be collected initially on a 100% sample basis from each participating carrier in accordance with the proposed schedule section 9. The design of an internal sampling procedure can be undertaken by the CAB after the initial sample data has been gathered. Future analysis can lead to simple sampling instructions for the carriers which reduce the amount of data forwarded to the data processing agency.

The market (city-pair) tables will very likely be limited to a selected number of major markets with respect to quarterly reports, and total number of city-pairs in the annual report. These determinations will be made at a later date after the initial system design has been tested.

11. Before proceeding further in the systems design, the final data processing agency should be determined. It is recommended that the ultimate data processing agency be the CAB, and that the data processing personnel of the CAB be included in the airbill project as soon as possible. Any computer programs written should be compatible with both the CAB's and the DOT's plans for new computer systems and should be written by or with the close consultation of

DOT and CAB programming staff in order to avoid duplication of effort.

- 12. The present aim of the data collection process should be limited to "true" airport-to-airport O & D data, with early expansion to include pick-up and delivery points within the airline terminal areas. Accordingly, the computer system should be designed to produce reports containing the true O & D traffic statistics. This implies that the address of the shipper/consignee would be required as a raw data item. It is recommended that the systems design should anticipate the possible use of the truckers' Standard Point Location Code (SPLC) to determine "true" O & D. The system should be flexible enough to be able to accommodate any future sophistication introduced by the use of SPLC.
- 13. The general feeling in the industry is that the breakdown of air freight movement by commodity code should be omitted from the present analyses. This feeling exists due to the lack of a standard commodity code. It is our recommendation that the industry should adopt the Standard Transportation Commodity Code (STCC) and that the computer system should be designed to accommodate the STCC in the expectation of that event.

In the interim, it would appear feasible to select 50 to 100 major commodity items on which data should be reported.

14. We recommend that a trial run on the system design should be based on one month's data (100% sample) of the following six carriers:

American Airlines, Inc.
Eastern Air Lines, Inc.
Pan American World Airways
The Flying Tiger Line, Inc.
Trans World Airlines, Inc.
United Air Lines, Inc.

This recommendation is based on the fact that these carriers have the necessary data and EDP capability. Furthermore, the costs involved would be minimal to DOT/CAB as well as the carriers concerned, since the transformation of the carriers' data input to the initial system design would be minimal.

- 15. It is recommended that Phase II, the system design, should begin immediately if the project is to be completed by the end of calendar year 1971. It is anticipated that the systems design would be completed by October 30, 1971 and Phase III, the trial run (recommendation 14), would be complete by December 31, 1971.
- 16. Until such time that comparable data is available from all transport modes, the resulting reports should be kept strictly confidential, available only to reporting airlines, DOT and CAB. It is recommended that an ad hoc committee should be set up by the CAB to discuss the confidentiality issues.

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure I. Data Items to be Collected from the Airbill/ Airwaybill

Figure II. Sample Input Record

Figure III.Rate Class Codes

FIGURE I

DATA ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED FROM THE AIRBILL/AIRWAYBILL*

- 1. Airbill/Airwaybill Number
- 2. Airbill/Airwaybill Date
- 3. Originating Airport
- 4. Originating Air Carrier
- 5. All Intermediate Airports (up to 2)
- 6. All Intermediate Air Carriers (up to 2)
- 7. Destination Airport
- 8. Destination Carrier
- 9. Actual Shipment Weight
- 10. Weight-Rate Charge (Airport-to-Airport)
- 11. Excess Value Charge
- 12. Rate Class
- 13. Number of Loose Pieces or Containers per Shipment
- 14. Container Code
- 15. Commodity Code
- 16. SPLC for Shipper
- 17. SPLC for Consignee

For possible future application

Note: The carrier cutting the airbill is the one who reports all information given in Figure I.

^{*}Airbill is associated with domestic operations.
Airwaybill is associated with international operations.

FIGURE II

Field Location	Information
1 - 12 1 - 3 4 - 11 12	Airbill Number 3 digit accounting code 8 digit serial No. Assembly or distribution code if applicable
13 - 15 18 - 20 21 - 26 29 - 31 32 - 34 37 - 39	Originating carrier code Originating airport Airbill date (YYMMDD) Destination airport lst intermediate carrier lst intermediate airport
40 - 42 43 - 47 48 - 50 53 - 55	<pre>2nd intermediate carrier 2nd intermediate airport Destination carrier Destination airport prior to the final destination</pre>
56 - 61 6 2	Actual shipment weight L or K or T for pounds, kilos, or tons
63 - 69 70 - 71 72 73 - 76 77 - 81 82 - 92 95 - 99 104 - 108 111 - 113 118 - 120	Weight Rate Charge Rate Class M code for mixed shipment Number of pieces Excess Value Charge Commodity Code SPLC shipper SPLC consignee Container code DEL, delete code used to delete input records

^{*}short tons
+For possible future application

FIGURE III

RATE CLASS CODES

RATE TYPE	DOM	ESTIC		INT'L
	DOM	EXP	IMP	F.F.
Minimum	DM	EM	IM	FM
General	DG	EG	IG	FG
Specific	DS	ES	IS	FS
Exception	DE	EE	IE	F E
Deferred	DD	ED	ID	FD
Parcel Post	DP	EP	IP	FP
Combination	DX	EX	IX	FX
Container	DC	EC	IC	FC

Note: "DOM" denotes wholly domestic rate, excluding domestic export/ import rates.

[&]quot;EXP" denotes a domestic rate which is dependent upon a subsequent (export) movement by ocean vessel.

[&]quot;IMP" denotes a domestic rate which is dependent upon a prior (import) movement by ocean vessel.

[&]quot;F.F." denotes fifth freedom traffic, strictly outside the United States.

APPENDIX TABLES

A - DOMESTIC AIR FREIGHT

- Table I. O & D Traffic Flow
- Table II. Outbound and Inbound Traffic Flow by Airport, by Carrier
- Table III. 0 & D Traffic Flow, by Rate Class
- Table IV. Outbound and Inbound Traffic Flow By Airport,
 By Rate Class
- Table V. Shipments by Carrier and by Weight Group (Pounds)
- Table VI. Revenue and RTM by O & D City Pair, by Commodity
- Table VII. Summary by Commodity Code of Domestic Air Freight
- Table VIII. Outbound Container Traffic Flow, by City, by Container, by Carrier
- Table IX. 0 & D City-Pair Container Traffic Flow by Carrier

TABLE I

		O & D TRAFFIC	C FLOW - DOMEST	IC AIR FREIGH	<u>T</u> QT	YEAR			
FROM	TO	ROUTING	NO. OF SHIPMENTS	NO. OF TONS	NO. OF	REVENUE - US \$			
					LINE HAUL	EXCESS TOTAL AVERAGE VALUE REV. YIELD/			
ORD	JFK	AA FT UA UA-CLE-AA : : SUBTOTAL							
ORD	LGA	AA FT UA : : SUBTOTAL							
ORD	EWR								
MDW MDW MDW	JFK LGA EWR	: :							
*CHI-NY		ONE WAY TOTAL							
JFK	ORD	AA FT							
JFK *NYC-CH	MDW	AA FT • • ONE WAY TOTAL							
**NYC-CH		BOTH-DIRECTIONS TO	TAL 14						

TABLE II

OUTBOUND AND INBO	OUND TRAFFIC FLOW BY AI	RPORT, BY CARR	IER - DOMES	TIC AIR FRE	IGHT Q	YEA	R
CITY FLOW	CARRIER	NO. OF SHIPMENTS	NO. OF TONS	NO. OF RTM	REVEN	JE - U.S.	\$
					LINE HAUL	EXCESS VALUE	TOTAL REVENUE
NYC: -OUTBOUND	AA						
	TW						
JFK	UA						
	FT						
	•						
	SUBTOTAL						
LGA	AA						
	EA						
	BN						
	•						
	SUBTOTAL						
777.77D	•						
EWR	TOTAL OUTBOUND						
NYC: - INBOUND	AA						
JFK	BN						
	•						
	SUBTOTAL						
EWR	TOTAL INBOUND						

TABLE III

			0 &	D TRAFFIC	FLOW,	BY RATE C	LASS	- DOMESTIC A	AIR FRE	IGHT	QT	YEAR
FROM	TO	RATE CLASS		NO. OF SHIPMENTS		NO. OF TONS		REVENUE TON MILES		ENUE E HAU	L	AVERAGE YIELD
ORD	JFK	DM DG DS : SUBTOTAI	<u> </u>									
ORD	LGA	DM DG SUBTOTAL	ú									
ORD	EWR	DM : SUBTOTAL										
CHI-NYC	ONE-WAY	TOTAL										
JFK	ORD	DM • SUBTOTAL	ū									
LGA	ORD	DM • SUBTOTAL										
EWR	ORD	DM • SUBTOTAL	1									
NYC-CHI	ONE-WAY	TOTAL										

^{**}NYC-CHI** BOTH DIRECTIONS TOTAL

TABLE IV

	OUTBOUND	AND	INBOUND	TRAFFIC	FLOW	- BY	AIRPORT,	BY RATE	CLASS	- D	OMESTIC A	IR FR	EIGHT	QT	YEAR
						NO.	OF	NO. OF	NO.	\mathbf{OF}	REVENU	E	AVER		
CITY	FLOW		RAT	E CLASS		SHI	PMENTS	TONS	RTM		LINE-H	AUL	YIELI	O/RTM	
NYC:	OUTBOUND														
ċ	JFK			DM											
			:	DG											
				DS											
				DP											
				DC											
				DD											
				DX											
				DE											
			SUB	TOTAL											
	LGA			М											
			•	G											
				•											
				•											
E	WR		TOT	AL OUTBO	DUND										
NYC: 1	NBOUND														
J	ΓFK			М											
				G											
				•											
				•											
				•											
			TOT	AL INBO	JND										
NYC:E	OTH DIRECT	ONS	TOTA	AL											

TABLE V

	SHIPMENTS	BY CARRIE	R & BY	WE IGHT	GROUP (POU	NDS) - DO	MESTIC AI	R FREIGHT	QT YEA	R
		Under	100-	500-	1000-	2000-	3000-	5000-	10,000	
CARRIER		100	499	999	1999	2 999	4999	9999	and over	TOTAL

AA No. of shipments

% of Total

No. of Pieces

% of Total

\$ of Revenue

% of Total

No. of Pounds

% of Total

Average Revenue Per Shipment

Average No. of Pieces/Shipment

Average No. of Pounds/Shipment

Average No. of Pounds/Piece

BN No. of Shipments

TABLE VI

REVENUE AND RTM BY	O & D CITY PA	, BY COMMODITY, - DOMEST	TIC AIR FREIGHT QT	YEAR
O & D CITY-PAIR	COMMODITY CODE	· .	OTAL TOTAL REVENUE	YIELD PER
CHI-NYC	•	AA BN TW		
NYC-CHI	: •	<u>AA TW UA · · · </u>		
BOTH DIRECTIONS TO	OTAL			
CHI-ORF	:	CO <u>UA</u>		

TABLE VII

SUMMARY	BY COMMODITY CODE	E OF DOMESTI	C AIR FREIGHT	QT	YEAR	
	NO. OF	NO. OF	NO. OF	REVENUE	YIELD	EXCESS
COMMODITY CODE	SHIPMENTS	TONS	RTM	LINE-HAUL	PER RTM	VALUE CHARGE

TABLE VIII

	OUTBOUND	CONTAINER TRAFFIC	FLOW, BY CITY, BY	CONTAINER, BY	CARRIER - D	OMESTIC AIR	FREIGHT QT	YEAR
Container Type	No. of container shipments	Total Net Weight (Pounds)	Average weight per container	Airline share of net weight	Revenue (Line Haul) (\$) U.S.	Av. Rev.	Airline share of Revenue	Average Yield (\$) Per CWT
NYC:								
A Containers AA BN								
: Subtotal % of Grand Total			·					
B Containers AA								
: : Subtotal % of Grand Total								
B2 Containers								
: Subtotal % of Grand Total								
LD-3 Containers AA								
Subtotal % of Grand Total								
D Containers RD								
: Subtotal % of Grand Total								

21

Grand Totals

TABLE IX

	<u>0 8</u>	D CITY-PAIR CONTAINER	TRAFFIC FLOW BY CA	RRIER, DOMESTIC A	IR FREIGHT	QT	BAR	
NYC-LAX Carriers	No. of Container	Total Net Weight (Pounds)	Av. Weight Per Container	Airline share of net weight	Revenue (Line Haul) (\$) U.S.	Av. Revenue Per Container	Airline Share of Revenue	Av. Yield (\$) per CWT

NYC-LAX

AA FT

•

Subtotal

% of Grand Total

LAX-NYC

RD

ΑA

Subtotal

% of Grand Total

Both Directions

RD

ΑA

Final Total

% of Grand Total

B - INTERNATIONAL AIR FREIGHT

- Table X. O & D Traffic Flow
- Table XI. Outbound and Inbound Traffic Flow by Airport, by Carrier
- Table XII. 0 & D Traffic Flow by Rate Class
- Table XIII. Outbound and Inbound Traffic Flow by Airport, by Rate Class
- Table XIV. Shipments by Carrier, by Weight Group (Pounds)
- Table XV. Revenue and RTM by O & D City-Pair, by Commodity
- Table XVI. Summary by Commodity Code of International Air Freight Flow

TABLE X

	0 & D T	RAFFIC FLOW	- INTERNATION	AL AIR FREIGHT	P Q	YEAR	1
CITY-PAIR	ROUTING	NO. OF	NO. OF	NO.		REVENUE	
	,	SHIPMENTS	TONS	OF RTM		(\$) U.S.	
				LINE	EXCESS	TOTAL	AVERAGE
				HAUL	VALUE	REVENUE	YIELD/RTM
CHI-LON	AA-NYC-PA						,
	BA						
	PA						
	SB						
	TW						
*CHI-LON*ONE-WAY	SUBTOTAL						
LON-CHI	BA						
	TW						
	PA-NYC-UA						
*LON-CHI*ONE WAY	SUBTOTAL						
BOTH DIRECTIONS	TOTAL						
CHI-LUX	KL-AMS-LG TW-LON-LG						
*CHI-LUX*ONE WAY	TOTAL						
FRA-LON	PA TW						
*FRA-LON*ONE-WAY	TOTAL						
LON-FRA	PA TW						

TABLE XI

ITY FLOW	CARRIER	NO. OF SHIPMENTS	NO. OF TONS	NO. OF RTM	REVENUE - \$U.S.
YC:OUTBOUND	AF				
JFK	TW				
	UA				
	FT				
	1				
	i				
	SUBTOTAL				
LGA	AA				
	EA				
	BN				
	•				
	SUBTOTAL				
	1				
	1				
EWR					
	TOTAL OUTBOUND				
C:INBOUND					
JFK	BA				
	TW				
	1 1				
	SUBTOTAL				
LGA	AA				
LOA	BN				
	DN				
	SUBTOTAL				
EWR					
	TOTAL INBOUND				

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION. (SEE RECOMMENDATION #7)

TABLE XII

		NO. OF	NO. OF	NO. OF	
CITY-PAIR	RATE CLASS	SHIPMENTS	TONS	RTM	
CHI-LON	EM				
	EG				
	ES				
	EP				
	EC				
	ED				
	EX E F				
	TOTAL				
ON-CHI	IM				
	IG				
	IS				
	IP				
	IC				
	ID				
	IX				
	IE				
	•				
	•				
OTH DIRECTIONS	TOTAL				
RA-LON	FM				
24. 201.	FG				
	•				
_	•				
•	•				
	TOTAL				
LON-FRA	FM				
	FG				

26

TABLE XIII

OUTBOUND AND IN	NBOUND TRAFFIC FLO	W BY AIRPORT,	BY RATE CI	ASS - INTE	RNATIONAL AIR FR	EIGHT QT_	_YEAR
CITY -FLOW	RATE CLASS	NO. OF SHIPMENTS	NO. OF TONS	NO. OF RTM	REVENUE-\$ US (LINE HAUL)	AVERAGE YIELD PER	RTM
NYC:OUTBOUND							
JFK	EM EG ES EP ED EX						
	SUBTOTAL						
LGA	EM EG •						
EWR	TOTAL OUTE	BOUND					
NYC: INBOUND							
JFK	IM IG : TOTAL INBO	DUND					

NYCBOTH DIRECTIONS TOTAL

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION. (SEE RECOMMENDATION #7).

TABLE XIV

	SHIPMENTS B	Y CARRIER,	BY WE	IGHT GI	ROUP (PO	OUNDS) -	Τνιτι ΈνιΣ	TIONAL	AIR FREIGHT	QTYEAR
		UNDER	100-	500-	· 1000-	2000-	3000-	5000-	10,000	
CARRIER		100	499	999	1999	29 99_	4999	9999	and over	TOTAL

No. of shipments % of total

No. of Pieces % of total

\$ of Revenue
% of total

No. of pounds % of total

Average Revenue Per Shipment

Average No. of Pieces/Shipment

Average No. of Pounds/Shipment

Average No. of Pounds/Piece

TW No. of shipments

•

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION. (SEE RECOMMENDATION #7.)

TABLE XV

REVENUE AND RTM BY	O & D CITY-PAIR,	BY COMMODITY -	INTERNATIONAL AIR FRE	IGHT QTYEAR
O & D CITY-PAIR	COMMODITY CODE	AIRLINE SHARE	OF REVENUE/TOTAL RTM	REVENUE (LINE HAUL) YIELD (\$) U.S. PER RTM
CHI-LON	•	<u>TW</u>	<u>PA</u>	
	:			
LON-CHI	•	<u>BA</u>	<u>TW</u>	
	•			

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION. (SEE RECOMMENDATION #7).

TABLE XVI

	SUMMARY BY CO	OMMODITY COD	E OF INTE	RNATIONAL AIR FREI	GHT FLOW	QTYEAR	_
COMMODITY CODE	NO. OF SHIPMENTS	NO. OF TONS	NO. OF	REVENUE (LINE HAUL) \$-US	YIELD PER RTM	VALUE EXCESS CHARGES	

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SEE RECOMMENDATION #7)