Making Local Data Work

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In the Information Age:
Most cities will protect their data. Many will open their data.
A few will harness their data.
mySidewalk helps cities put people at the center of data-driven decisions.
A hypothesis:

Locally reported data is more valuable if it’s not just open, but also easy to consume, integrated with state and federal data, scalable to any geography, and comparable to nearby and lookalike places.
Questions we set out to answer

- How readily available are the most common types of local data?
- Is this data used today to generate actionable insights?
- If not, why not? If so, toward what end?
- What’s the value of a national tapestry of locally reported data?
FOIA is our frenemy
It’s also a signal
Open Data & Context
Move toward standardization
Baltimore, MD: Cost of Commuting

Commute Type
Census Block Groups Visible Within Baltimore

- Drive Alone
- Drive Carpool
- Public Transit
- Taxicab
- Motorcycle
- Bicycle
- Walk
- Other Transit
- Work From Home

Selected Monthly Ownership Costs as a Percentage of Income
Census Block Groups Visible Within Baltimore

- 35 or More
- 30 to 35
- 25 to 30
- 20 to 25
- Less than 20

Gross Rent as a Percentage of Income
Census Block Groups Visible Within Baltimore

Census Block Groups Visible Within Baltimore
Average Percent of Income Spent on Transportation for a Median Income Family: 15.48%

Dataset Source

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