Canadian Challenges and Opportunities

Michael Scrim
Statistics Canada

UNECE WP.6 Transportation Data
Geneva, Switzerland
June 13, 2019

Delivering insight through data, for a better Canada
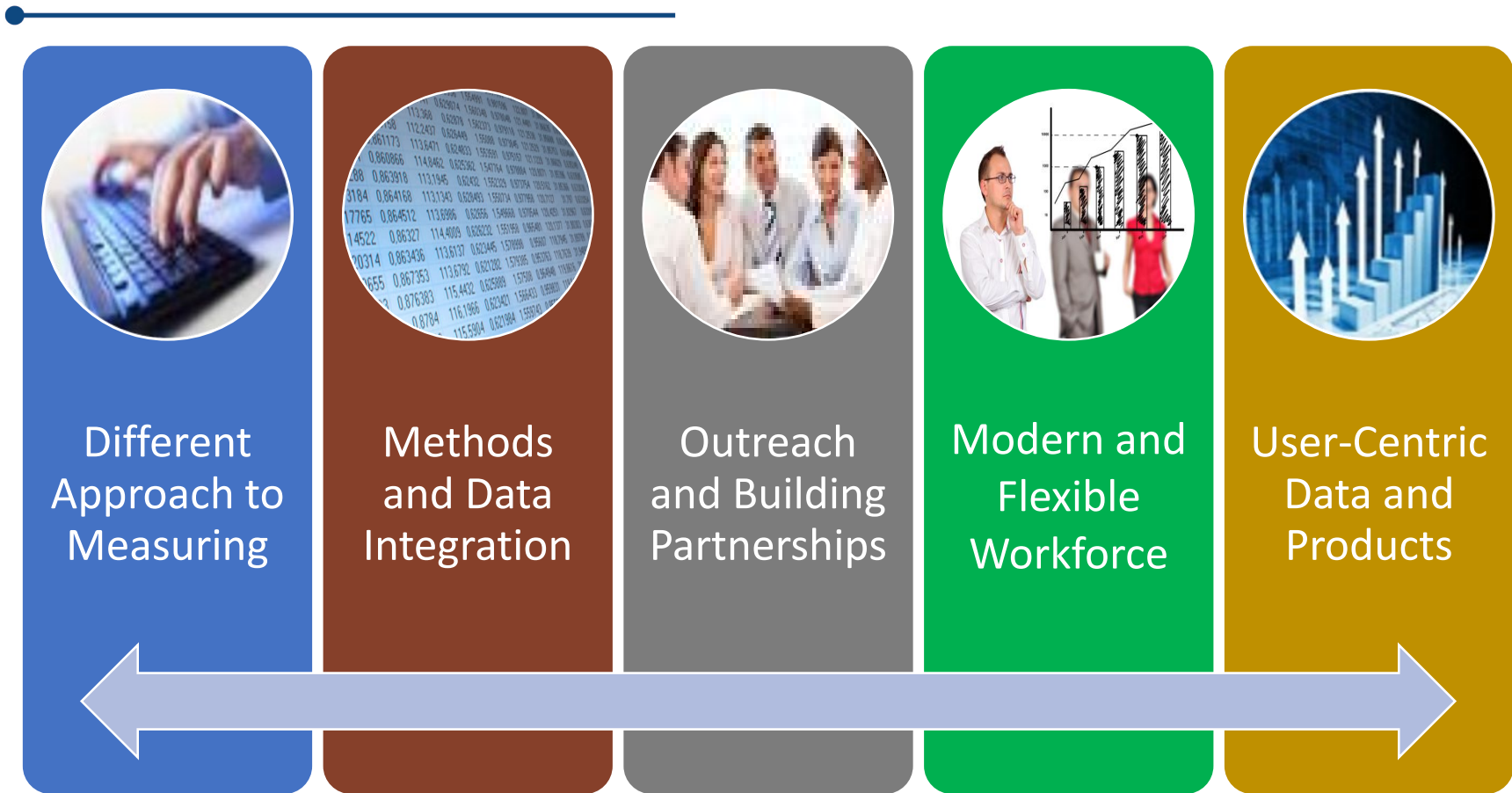
Themes:

Transportation Statistics Beyond Traditional Surveys

- Technology: The "Data Revolution"
- Modernization: Adapting the "Statistical Culture"
- Emergence: A New Suite of Thematic Products
- Challenges: Navigating in a World of "Big Data"
- Implications: International Partnerships

In response, we have embarked on a modernization journey

Different Approach to Measuring	Methods and Data Integration	Outreach and Building Partnerships	Modern and Flexible Workforce	User-Centric Data and Products

3

Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

Canada

3 transportation-related iniatives:

The Canadian Centre on Transportation Data

- Co-managed by Statistics Canada and Transport Canada
- Feature - The Transportation Data and Information Hub

The Canadian Transportation Economic Account

- The contribution of transportation services to the economy
- Consists of own-account as well as household estimates

The Canadian Freight Analysis Framework (CFAF)

- Measure of freight flows by mode across the country
- CFAF development illustrates the value of NATS partnership

Challenges: Navigating in a World of "Big Data"

- The benefits of this new approach are obvious:
  - Reduced response burden on Canadian household and businesses;
  - Data products that are more timely and granular; and
  - Product Innovations from forging new partnerships.

- But there are challenges with relying on big data sources:
  - HR – The availability of appropriate skill sets and resistance to change;
  - IT – The Infrastructure required for harnessing big data sets; and
  - Others – such as privacy concerns, costs and sustainability of source.

- Transportation data sources are exploding as devices to track people, freight and vehicles are ubiquitous but, national policy and statistical agencies no longer have a data monopoly!

Implications: International Partnerships

- Traditional role of North American Transportation Statistics Interchage (NATS) included:
  - Harmonizing concepts, statistical methods and classifications;
  - Sharing best practices among the member countries; and
  - Producing comparable (tabular) data accessible in one place.

- Possible roles of NATS going forward:
  - Continue to ensure harmonization of concepts, methods and measures
  - Continue to share best practices (e.g. TiVA and Satellite Accounts); and
  - Pursue a continental perspective with data products (e.g. NAFAF)?

- Develop and maintain other key domestic and International partnerships