WHAT SHAPEFILES ARE AVAILABLE?

5-digit ZIP Code Tabulation Areas

Alaska Native Regional Corporations

American Indian/Alaska Native/Native
     Hawaiian Areas

American Indian Area Tribal Subdivisions

Blocks

Block Groups

Census Tracts

Combined New England City and Town
     Areas

Congressional Districts

Consolidated Cities

Counties and equivalents

County Subdivisions

Landmarks (Point and Area)

Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Areas

Metropolitan Divisions

Military Installations

New England City and Town Areas

New England City and Town Area Divisions

Places

Public Use Microdata Areas

Roads, Rails, Rivers, etc.

School Districts – Elementary, Secondary,
     and Unified

State and State Equivalents

State Legislative Districts – Upper and
     Lower

Tribal Block Groups

Tribal Census Tracts

Urban Areas

Voting Districts

And Many More

TIGER/Line® is a Registered Trademark of the
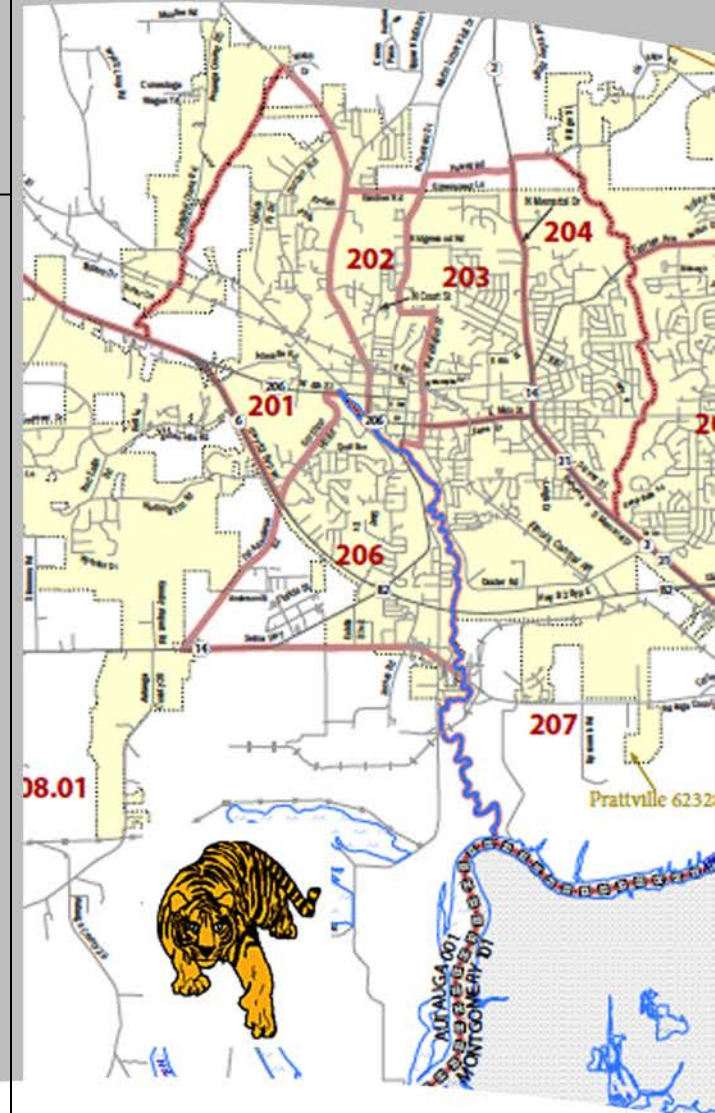U.S. Census Bureau.

Questions

Visit:

http://www.census.gov/geo

E-mail:

geo.tiger@census.gov

Call:

(301) 763-1128

Downloading
TIGER/Line® Shapefiles
Working with TIGER/Line® Shapefiles

United States Census Bureau

GETTING STARTED

There are four methods for downloading TIGER/Line Shapefiles from the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Website Interface
- Direct from FTP site
- Connect via FTP client
- Direct from Data.gov

To download the shapefiles you will need an Internet Browser or an FTP client, as well as a utility that can unzip files. The examples in this brochure are from the 2012 version but can be used for any TIGER/Line Shapefile versions.

WEBSITE INTERFACE

The website interface download method requires the least amount of technical knowledge.

Start at the U.S. Census Bureau's TIGER website: http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/tiger-line.html.
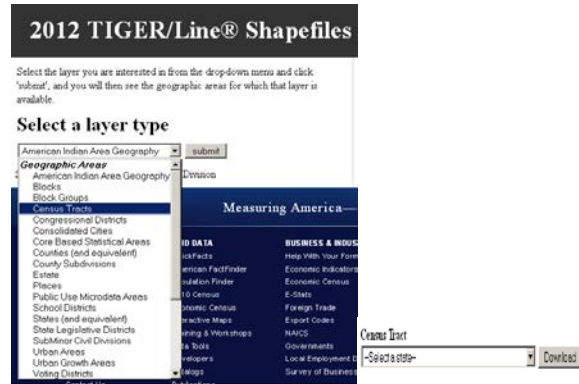
Select the tab for the version of TIGER/Line Shapefiles (e.g. 2012) you would like to download. Click on Download and choose Web interface.

Select the geographic entity from the drop down menu you would like to download (e.g. census tracts) and click submit. Choose the state and click Download. Save

the file to your computer or open the zip file. Repeat as needed.

All versions not available via this method.

DIRECT FROM FTP SITE

Another option is to go directly to the Census Bureau's FTP site through a web browser. The address for the TIGER/Line Shapefiles is ftp://ftp2.census.gov/geo/tiger/.

From the FTP site, navigate to the version of the TIGER/Line Shapefiles to download (e.g. TIGER2012). Refer to the 2012_TIGERLine _Shapefiles_File_Nam e_Definitions.pdf for shapefile naming conventions.

Web browsers have the option to display ftp pages in a "windows explorer" type

format. Entire directories (folders) can be copied at a time using copy and paste or drag and drop.

CONNECT VIA FTP CLIENT

To access a large number of files the best option is to use an FTP client software to connect to the Census Bureau's FTP site. There are many free FTP clients.

The host name must be the Census Bureau's main FTP site: ftp2.census.gov. Use "anonymous" for the user name and password.

DATA.GOV

The TIGER/Line Shapefiles are available through the Data.gov website. Under the Data dropdown, select "GEO DATA." Search by keyword and/or agency to find the individual shapefiles. As new TIGER/Line Shapefiles become available, they will be added to Data.gov.

Refer to the TIGER/Line Shapefiles technical documentation about the shapefile naming conventions and contents.

UNZIPPING FILES

The files downloaded are zipped to save space and to ensure you download all of the necessary files.

Most systems have an unzipping utility built-in to the operating system. However, there are several free or low cost unzipping utilities such as WinZIP.