***NYC Metropolitan Area Walkability Scale Circa 1990***

For the NYU Women’s Health Study we need to develop a measure of walkability for the NY Metropolitan Area - we have operationalized this as the counties included in the NYC CSA NETS data Gina purchased. Once the IRB clears we will be receiving 1990 address data from NYU and the original idea had been to create a walkability measure for 1 Km circles around each address. However, it might be more interesting to take our Walkability in 1 Km circles around every Census Block in NYC concept and expand it to all the Census Blocks in these counties. That way our Z-scores will be across the range of Blocks in these counties as oppose to across the range of Blocks that happen to be where study subjects live.

Our plan for this project was to use the following measures to create a walkability scale.

***Residential density*** – 1990 Census data

***Intersection density*** –TIGER data for 1992.

***Land use mix*** *–* Use the National Establishment Time Series (NETS) data set for the NYC CSA (NY, NJ, CT, PA) from 1990 to get counts of retail, office, education, and entertainment establishments and use Census data to get counts of residential units. Then calculate an entropy measure of land use mix.

***Density of public transit*** – Use the Center for Transit-Oriented Development (CTOD) and Kathy’s data to identify all rail stops in service in 1990.

***“Big box” retailers*** – The “ratio of retail building floor area to retail land area” measure conceptually a proxy for the presence of malls, big box stores, and other stores deeply set back from the street and surrounded by large parking lots. We will use the NETS data to measure the density of malls and “big box” stores in 1990.