Research question: Do roads impact development?

JEL codes:

1. O18: Agriculture • Natural Resources • Energy • Environment • Other Primary Products
2. R21: Housing Demand
3. R42: Government and Private Investment Analysis • Road Maintenance • Transportation Planning

Literature review:

1. Asher, Sam, and Paul Novosad. 2020. "Rural Roads and Local Economic Development." American Economic Review, 110 (3): 797-823.
2. Yogita Shamdasani, Rural road infrastructure & agricultural production: Evidence from India, Journal of Development Economics, 2021
3. Ren Mu & Dominique van de Walle (2011) Rural Roads and Local Market Development in Vietnam, The Journal of Development Studies
4. Gollin, Douglas, and Richard Rogerson. Agriculture, roads, and economic development in Uganda. No. w15863. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2010.
5. Howe, John, Peter Richards, and J. D. G. F. Howe. Rural roads and poverty alleviation. Routledge, 2019.
6. Burgess, Robin, Remi Jedwab, Edward Miguel, Ameet Morjaria, and Gerard Padró i Miquel. 2015. "The Value of Democracy: Evidence from Road Building in Kenya." American Economic Review
7. Fernald, John, G. 1999. "Roads to Prosperity? Assessing the Link between Public Capital and Productivity." American Economic Review, 89 (3): 619-638.
8. Leduc, Sylvain, and Daniel Wilson. 2017. "Are State Governments Roadblocks to Federal Stimulus? Evidence on the Flypaper Effect of Highway Grants in the 2009 Recovery Act." American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 9 (2): 253-92.
9. Huet-Vaughn, Emiliano. 2019. "Stimulating the Vote: ARRA Road Spending and Vote Share." American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 11 (1): 292-316.

Data:

* Sources

1. Ohio voting data: 1991 to 2018, Ohio Secretary of State’s office:
2. CoreLogic housing data: property values
3. U.S. Census data: county level characteristics

* Period: 1991-2018

Method/ Econometrics:

RDD

Results:

1. Main table with coefficient estimate

Checking Assumptions:

1. Covariates balance test:
2. Density tests i.e. Manipulation of the running variable
3. RD plots: “jump” at cutoff
4. Continuity in covariates test

Things to address:

1. Framework assumptions:

Notes:

1. Ohio’s population did not dramatically increase or decrease from 1990 to 2018 (source: [link](https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/OHPOP#0))