The "I Love You, You're Perfect" part:

- We've had a long relationship
  - exceptionally competent and enthusiastic technical support
  - workshop an example of this – wanting to be useful

- My own most recent experience – LODES
  - documentation is clear and thorough, data are squeaky clean
  - needed to construct city (place) employment shares within each county (and also the unincorporated employment share) to assign a county level policy coverage variable

- Example using the data from the Atlanta Fed
  - Small City Economic Dynamism Index
  - quantifies churning in a local economy that creates the potential to generate positive economic performance
The Small City Economic Dynamism Index provides a snapshot of the economic trajectory of 400 small and mid-sized cities across the United States. The index and its underlying data set are tools for leaders working in or on behalf of small and mid-sized cities. It is, economic dynamism is defined as churning in a local economy that creates the potential to generate positive economic performance. It includes 13 indicators of economic dynamism for metro and micropolitan areas with populations between 10,000 and 500,000.

This version of the Small City Economic Dynamism Index has been updated with more than 150 new cities, the most recent data available, and several new indicators and data analysis features.

- The index is an interactive tool for mapping and comparing cities across measures of economic dynamism.
- The index ranks 400 small and mid-sized U.S. cities, defined as micropolitan (with an urban core of 10,000 to below 50,000 population) or metropolitan (with 50,000 to 500,000 population).
- Economic dynamism is churning in a local economy that creates the potential to generate positive economic performance.
- Economic dynamism is assessed by changes in 13 indicators in four categories: demographics, economics, human and social capital, and infrastructure.
Small City Economic Dynamism Index

A snapshot of the economic trajectory of 400 small and midsized cities across the United States.

Highlighting:
- Albany, GA
- Ann Arbor, MI
- Billings, MT
- Yuma, AZ
### Small City Economic Dynamism Index

#### Net Commuters from the LODES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany, GA</td>
<td>14,347</td>
<td>12,872</td>
<td>14,127</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Arbor, MI</td>
<td>54,402</td>
<td>63,380</td>
<td>63,765</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billings, MT</td>
<td>11,887</td>
<td>13,673</td>
<td>12,202</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuma, AZ</td>
<td>4,208</td>
<td>7,095</td>
<td>6,604</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany, GA</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Arbor, MI</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billings, MT</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuma, AZ</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Building Permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany, GA</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>182</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Arbor, MI</td>
<td>1,474</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>393</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billings, MT</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>1,298</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuma, AZ</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>766</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Population Density

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany, GA</td>
<td>1,368</td>
<td>1,387</td>
<td>1,387</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Arbor, MI</td>
<td>4,084</td>
<td>4,175</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billings, MT</td>
<td>2,351</td>
<td>2,461</td>
<td>2,461</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuma, AZ</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>780</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"I Love You, You're Perfect" bottom line

• These data products are used, but not well-known among Atlanta Fed researchers
  • I emailed everyone in my department to assess exposure
    • one use reply – Small City Economic Dynamism Index
    • one passing inquiry – tell me about the job transitions data
    • one take-up of QWI data that happened to match what a colleague is currently looking for
  • Lesson: not well-known, but potentially useful

• How do you make the data products more widely known – more "findable"?
  • not obvious - short-sighted and narrow-focused economists
  • products need to be "findable" and useful
The "Now Change" part:

• More useful by relaxing suppression (don't freak out)
  • Examples of data restrictions:
    • no income breakdown greater than $40,000 available in On-the-Map
    • firm age/size not available for geographic areas less than state in QWI
    • can only download LODES data one state at a time (maybe tech issue)

• Suggestion: make public data products available in FSRDCs with finer breakdown and no restrictions
  • yes, LEHD are available in the FSRDCs, but...
    • not every state, may only want to regress aggregates anyway
  • access to public products without restrictions...
    • ...would improve usefulness to researchers
    • ...would increase use of FSRDCs
The "Now Change" part:

• Expose stealthy data – make data more "findable"
  • integrate the LEHD data products into American FactFinder
    • allows someone to find the data by searching on topic...
      • ...commuting patterns (On-the-map, LODES)
      • ...careers, job transitions (J2J)
      • ...employment by industry/race/geography (QWI)

• Play with others
  • coordinate with the BLS to get all LEHD data products on one landing page that describes their differences and usefulness
  • get into widely-used commercial products; e.g., Haver Analytics
    • well-organized browse feature allowing one to find what they need
    • only source for employment data in Haver is BLS
The "Now Change" part:

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (CPIDATA)
Monthly consumer price indexes and relative importance detail by region, MSA and city-size class as published in the CPI Detailed Report. Also includes average prices paid for commodities, utilities and fuels. CPI for older Americans, chained CPI, department store inventory price indexes and CPI research series.

PRODUCER PRICE INDEXES (PPI, PPIR)
Stage of processing, commodity and industry-based price indexes published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the PPI Detailed Report.

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS (LABOR)
Monthly payroll figures by industry from the Establishment Survey reported in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment and Earnings.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (EMPL)
Contains the complete monthly household employment data from the Current Population Survey of households from the BLS.

COVERED EMPLOYMENT & WAGES (CEW)
Monthly and quarterly employment and wage data derived from quarterly tax filings of businesses with employees. Data are presented by 6-digit NAICS and by size of establishments beginning in 1990.

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (OES)
Annual occupational statistics covers employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations by 3-digit NAICS industries.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (IP)
Complete industrial production detail including electric power use for 285 industries and industry groups published monthly in the (G.17) Federal Reserve Board release, Industrial Production and Capacity Utilization.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS (FFUNDS)
Financial accounts (Z.1) from the Federal Reserve Board. Financial assets and liabilities by sector and transaction type as well as Balance Sheet Items.

CAPITAL STOCK (CAPSTOCK)
Complete net stock, depreciation, average age and investment data reported in the BEA publication Fixed Reproducible Tangible Wealth in the United States. Detailed estimates by industry and by type of equipment or structure.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS (USINT)
Detailed international trace in goods and services, international transactions, foreign direct investment in the U.S., U.S. direct investment abroad, foreign transactions in long-term securities (TIC data) by country and product.
The "Now Change" part:

- Create incentives to use the data
  - team up with NSF to design research grants to support addressing policy questions for which these data are particularly well-suited

- Identify high-profile economists using the data products to answer interesting questions and pay for a seminar tour to leading academic institutions
  - with the understanding that part of the person's responsibility is providing details on the usefulness of the data
  - seeing the data in action is powerful
Thank you!