Background & Overview

This historical case study looks at the I-35 corridor between San Antonio and Austin, Texas. This area is of special interest to me because I grew up making the commute between the two cities all the time and from the car window, I first handedly saw the physical changes to the land. GIS is used in this study as a framework to analyze the changes off the highway not seen by the car. GIS tools are used to the percentage of social changes to the built environment. The main question of this poster is how land use has changed over time to the I-35 corridor between San Antonio and Austin and what population trends do we see in conjunction with the changing land use.

Land Use Cover & Change

The 2001 Multi-Resolution Land Consortium provides a good look at the land use that covers the I35 corridor (map below). Further down is a Retrofit Change map that illustrates parcels that have changed to urban developed status from 1992 to 2001.

Summary of Analysis

Using Census GeoLytics software the following maps examine physical, social, and demographic changes to the I35 corridor over two census periods. The data is measured by county at the census tract level in a two-mile radius of I35. Using data from the two censuses, the maps calculate the rate of increase or decrease of factors that correlate to development: population, housing units, and households. Population and housing units illustrate urban sprawl that is defining the land between the two cities. To examine a more specific demographic change to the land, Hispanic population change is measure. Hispanic homeownership is included to delve deeper in demographic changes. Households are included to help portray the change in where people are living. Average Income is measured to see if there was a change in income between urban and rural.

Results

The findings of this study startled me. I expected the total population to increase by a significant percentage, but I also believed that the number of housing units would increase at a similar rate. However, total housing units only made changes around Seguin and San Marcos. The Hispanic population and homeownership change made sense and was excited to see growth. The Household change seemed appropriate because the area with most change on the corridor was San Marcos, which is home to Texas State University. Household average income shows that the immediate of San Antonio grew. For all factors, the entrance to the city of Austin illustrates the most growth in development as a whole.

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Sources: MRLC,
Tufts M-Drive,
Census GeoLytics