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FMTF Freight Data Subcommittee Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2016

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. EST

Location: GoToMeeting

**Subcommittee Members (Attendees in *Italics*)**

*Joel Worrell (FDOT)*

*Alan Meyers (WSP | PB)*

*Rodrigo Mesa Arango (FIT)*

*Naveen Eluru (UCF)*

Zahra Pourabdollahi (RS&H)

*Aubyn Bell (HDR)*

*Lauren Adams (HDR)*

Stefanie McQueen (HDR)

*Michael Schmedt (HDR)*

*Alex Trauger (HDR)*

*Frank Tabatabaee (FDOT)*

Thomas Hill (FDOT)

*Ameera Sayeed (FDOT) – freight committee chair*

*Santanu Roy (HDR) – subcommittee champion*

**Notes**

* Santanu Roy opened the call by welcoming the attendees, recapping the discussions from our last call, and outlining the purpose of this call.
  + Santanu reviewed the mission statement which was distributed with the meeting notice.
  + Updates on objectives
    - 1. Understand the needs of the freight data customers (build on existing surveys and conduct a new survey as needed).
    - 2. Inventory available freight datasets and how they can be leveraged (build on the freight and modal data inventory matrix).
    - 3. Identify what datasets are needed and how they can be utilized to enhance FreightSIM.
    - 4. Identify/ develop applications to convert freight data into meaningful information for multimodal planning and decision-making.
    - 5. Design training and outreach program to increase freight data awareness and use.
* Thoughts on where we are and what we need to accomplish
  + Ameera: First step should be to identify which datasets can be incorporated into FreightSIM. We also need to begin to coordinate with the Data Committee and MPOs. Ameera will bring this up on Monday during the full committee meeting.
  + Joel: Stressed the importance of coordination with the data, modeling and GIS committees. FHWA working on standardizing data formats. Thomas Hill is discussing with MPOAC. He recently hired a new freight data coordinator.
  + Santanu: One idea is to reach out to FDOT and MPO modeling coordinators and conduct a survey to understand how FreightSIM is integrated in the regional models.
    - Ameera said if we do a survey we need to help lead the respondents because this topic is new and many are not yet familiar with it.
    - Potential questions to lead the respondents could be:
      * These are the datasets we have available, which ones would be most useful to you?
      * These are the datasets the committee is looking at adding to FreightSIM, which would be most useful to your models?
    - The group agreed that many groups do not know what data is out there and these questions would help to educate them.
  + Ameera and Joel agreed that the truck count data could be improved.
    - Santanu added that there is not a standard method for forecasting future truck traffic.
    - Joel mentioned the need for accurate truck counts – coordinate with count program.
    - Alan mentioned that we need to take advantage of what we have and keep up with changing local network characteristics.
    - Ameera suggested another objective of this subcommittee would be to look at the datasets available for improving truck count percentages.
* Next Steps for the December meeting
  + Develop a list of datasets available for freight modeling – build on the inventory Joel developed
  + Develop recommendations for datasets that are needed to enhance FreightSIM
  + Highlight truck count data and % truck forecasting at the December meeting.
* Santanu thanked the attendees for their time and participation. He will schedule a call with the committee members to assign responsibilities.

Meeting Adjourned.