Panel Discussion on Land Use Modeling
Gary Kramer, Chair of the Data Committee, welcomed everyone and commented on absences from the meeting.

Building an Integrated FSUTMS/Land Use Model Framework
Wade White, Whitehouse Group

- All PowerPoint presentations are now available online at [www.fsutmsonline.net](http://www.fsutmsonline.net)
- FDOT is beginning an evaluation of the logistics of incorporating land use models into the FSUTMS transportation modeling framework.
- Why are Land Use Models increasingly being evaluated? More is being asked of models nowadays. There is a broadening of the scope to include operations modeling in addition to the traditional travel demand model applications. Greenhouse gas emissions are increasingly becoming an important planning component and require new approaches for analysis.
- In some areas like the trendsetter state of California, large MPOs are legally required to consider the land use impacts when evaluating transportation alternatives and this trend will likely increase nationwide as time goes by.
- Mr. White continued his presentation mentioning common themes that have arisen from survey results such as political considerations, simplicity of use of any new models, and reproducibility of forecasting results.
- Land use modeling will likely be a large undertaking and input is needed from the new MTF Land Use Modeling Ad Hoc Committee to scope out the general direction to head in.
Items of input requested from the Land Use Modeling Ad Hoc Committee included the type of land use modeling that should be pursued; the current practice regarding land use models which may range from a full empirical and analytic model to a model that resides only in the head of the practitioner; and the applicability of land use modeling integration to Florida models.

The presentation continued with Mr. White going over other issues that came up such as land use elemental data scale; the inherent conflict between academic priorities and the priorities of practitioners; and the role that can be played by universities, etc.

Discussion Items:
- Vidya Mysore gave an overview of the rationale behind the presentation. He explained that input is required from the group regarding the direction with which to proceed and gave a general timetable within which he would like to see the items start being accomplished. One of the items mentioned by Mr. Mysore concerned the differing requirements for land use modeling depending on the application item of interest. For example, he stated that a land use model for agricultural applications and regions would likely be different from a model developed for urban areas. Differences may arise even among urban areas, with smaller urban areas requiring a different approach than larger, more complex urban areas.
- Mr. White then commented on the differences in requirements that a transportation model would have of land use information versus a land use model used solely for land use purposes. It is likely that a land use model that meets the needs of the transportation community and is less detailed than a full land use model may be adequate.
- There was then discussion on the political implications of land use modeling, especially with the new emphasis on greenhouse gas emissions. Also, how can microsimulation fit in and assist or benefit from the process? What can local governments do to assist the process of developing and integrating land use plans, etc.?
- Following that brief discussion, Mr. Mysore asked the group to focus less on the political side of things and more on the general technical requirements for transportation planning applications. He stated that he was looking to have some idea of the direction in which to head so that in approximately two years, the MTF can take concrete action on a specific course of action to pursue regarding land use model integration in Florida.
- There was then discussion of availability of and need for resources that will be necessary to go forward with the interactive land use model exercise, particularly given that the priorities have already been identified.
- Elaine Martino then posed a question to the group asking what do the MPOs and local planning agencies consider important for land use modeling and highlighted the fact that cooperation and buy-in will be required from all the involved agencies. Lina Kulikowski responded describing the agencies involved in land use planning and the resources assigned in terms of staff and time, commenting specifically on the limited role the MPO itself plays when dealing with land use plan development. She also commented on the complexity of current land-use models that the MPO staff finds unsatisfactory. Discussion then ensued regarding using “GAMING” style models that are simpler and may be appropriate for answering some of the questions of the Broward MPO.
- An invitation was then announced by Gary Kramer, Data Committee Chair, on behalf of Vidya Mysore requesting participants in this panel discussion to join the new Land Use Modeling Ad Hoc Committee to shepherd this integrated land use modeling process along going forward.