

Model Advancement Committee

December 6, 2016 – Orlando, Florida

- General Business
 - Welcome and introductions
- Goals Survey Results
 - Background
 - MAC members gave their opinions and suggestions for the goals of this committee
 - Open for roughly two weeks
 - 23 responses from FDOT, MPOs, and University staff
 - Outcomes
 - ELToD applications was the most desirable
 - Guidance for effective modeling techniques was second
 - Status Update
 - Three ELToD workshops were held throughout the state in the Spring of 2016
 - Thomas: consider what you want to do with ELToD or LRTP. What do we want out of it? Think of it from a planning perspective.
 - Tasked with conducting a survey to determine use of FSUTMS models and potential improvements
 - No work has been conducted yet for Goals 3 and 4
- Model Standardization
 - Why standardization?
 - Shared documentation and training materials
 - Ability to learn from one another
 - Replicability of model results when they come from a well-vetted process used throughout Florida
 - Common resources (including MTF) may be able to be more focused, and more relevant to the modeling community
 - Why no to standardization?
 - Different areas have different needs
 - The types of analyses that planners need to do
 - Some areas, notably larger urban areas, have analysis needs that can be aided by more sophisticated modeling tools
 - ABM, DTA, LUAM
 - One size does not fit all for models
 - Survey preliminaries
 - 10 question survey
 - 45 members and friends of the MAC
 - 17 responses
 - 38% response rate
 - Completely anonymous
 - Some themes
 - Agencies want to be the masters of their own models

- But would like some standardization in terms of file formats, naming, structure, etc
 - Adherence to federal and state guidelines is generally a good thing
 - Desire for standards in loaded network attributes
 - Mostly regarding static assignment
 - The definition of “standard” must be clarified and applied appropriately
 - Agreement on agencies deciding ABM approach for themselves
 - But interest in seeing a common FL ABM approach based on experience from other states.
- Which areas of standardization?
 - Common data file formats
 - File naming conventions
 - Model validation guidelines
 - Is there value in saying that a model has been validated according to FSUTMS guidelines?
 - Denise Bunnewith: D2 has ABM, but would not have it if it wasn’t funded by SHRP. Not practical to have standard ABM due to funding. Who’s going to pay for standardization? Need standardization for networks. Need to assess where standardization is going to have the most benefit.
 - Jason Learned: There are other applications beyond standardization that need to be looked at beyond FDOT. Ex. I-4 Ultimate project that requires a special model.
 - Rob Schiffer: the need for a common modeling language is the reason the MAC exists. There’s no reason it can’t be standard if we’re all using the same information.
 - Dan Macmurphy: There are a lot of attributes to be dropped. We should work ourselves into keeping certain output files, because most output files are creating great size in models, but are largely scrap outputs.
 - Mike Escalante: the processes should be annotated so any user can read through it regardless of the platform being used.
 - Tom Rossi: would be good to have some general guidance for the Model Task Force. Do we want to conduct another survey to the general modeling community or have some sort of research conducted?
 - Dan Beaty: Standards doesn’t necessarily mean that every model has to look the same. Shouldn’t have to chase down an output or a script. We are facing making the wrong decisions by looking at the wrong thing.
 - Thomas Hill: We don’t want to lose standardization. FHWA even references the Florida Model Task Force and our standardizations efforts. This standardization helps with training and vendors, so individuals know what the state is generally looking for in their models.
 - Shi-Chiang Li: A lot of the standardization efforts can be completed very easily (such as file names).
 - Jeanette Berk: If you create a statewide network with all the attributes, the rest of the state will follow. They will look to the statewide network as the standard. There also needs to be documentation of the attributes used in models.
- Final Report for Multi-Resolution Analysis
 - Dan Macmurphy: Was value of time done by trip purpose?
 - Did by stochastic distribution?