

Meeting Summary: Florida Model Task Force

11/30/2010 – 12/2/2010

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Model Task Force Committee Chair Updates:

Ed Hutchinson, Manager of the State Planning Office, offered his support for MTF activities, but emphasized the importance of getting good value for the resources offered.

GIS Committee: Nellie Fernandez had a formal presentation. Areas of interest included

FSUTMS data framework, MIXS coordinated data structure, CUBE Sugar network editor. The Tri-Chairs welcomed Nellie to her new role, and thanked her for her participation.

Data and Land Use Committee: Gary Kramer

NHTS data has been presented and completed in 2009. TPOs will need to sign a letter of confidentiality before use.

InfoGroup employment data and AWI employment data is now available

A point was raised that there remained errors in the data, and that a data checking pre-processor is needed. The reply was that such a program is in the SPO scope, but as yet is not funded.

Transit and Rail Committee: Jon Weiss

An Inter-City passenger rail “ad hoc” committee was formed to develop the purpose and need presented yesterday. This committee will continue to work to develop this topic. FSUTMS is also being tasked to support mobility planning and air quality.

FTA/New Starts issues, especially livability, land use and economic benefits are areas where the model can contribute. South Florida recently received a grant from HUD related to community sustainability, which has some transportation aspects. This work will hopefully support future New Starts applications.

Model Advancement Committee: Wilson Fernandez

Time-of-Day, phase I completed. Phase II scope is being developed.

Advanced toll subcommittee still has many issues with the toll model to be resolved, including integration into FSUTMS and assessment of transferability.

The DTA subcommittee will sponsor a presentation this afternoon at today’s meeting, as well as a workshop on Thursday afternoon. A survey of members will also be distributed regarding DTA views.

A new subcommittee, Activity-Based Modeling, is being established, with Milton Locklear as the chair. Those volunteering for the committee were reminded to give their names to Diana Fields.

The Land Use Modeling Project was presented by Wade White. This project is now complete. There was discussion on the role of and acceptance by local governments to the use of land use models.

Other discussion included the following topics:

- Model interface between land use models and travel demand models
- The use of independent variables, including lifestyle variables
- The role of zoning
- Policy variables as input and output
- The need for scenario planning, as emphasized by Federal planning regulations
- Use of land use models as a visioning tool
- Cost-feasible constraints on transportation, vs. non on land use planning

A research project involving a land use model is being developed at the University of Florida. This was presented by Zhong-Ren Pen. It used elements of UrbanSim and CubeLand, and was validated through comparisons with year 1990-2000 and year 2000-2007 time periods. It is integrated with the transportation model, and includes feedback and iteration design. The model achieved an 89.9% agreement with past observed land use growth trends. The work is in progress and is due next August, with more details to be presented next spring. Factors being considered include economic factors, zoning and comprehensive plans.

Current Transit Model Practice Update: Presentation by Bill Davidson

A discussion followed regarding various aspects of the project, including:

- Potential CUBE software improvements as a part of this project
- The importance of training, as there are a lot of staff new to transit modeling
- Calculating Walk accessibility – the need for an application, and pitfalls of too much automation
- The importance of keeping model run time reasonable
- Transit and auto speed relationships
- Desirability to include a “Make the Case” webinar or training opportunity next spring, possibly in conjunction with the Spring MTF meeting
- Jim Ryan’s (FTA) participation

The Model Task Force approved the concept of the project by vote (all in favor, none opposed)

Census TAZ-Up presentation: Elaine Murakami by phone and with a slide presentation

She discussed Census CTPP data, and that the TAZ-UP software will be available December 2010 or January 2011. Howard Slavin from Caliper Corporation discussed TAZ size and design requirements, stating that they should nest into census geographies. MPOs have the responsibility to create the TAZ system.

NHTS Status: Krishnan Viswanathan

Krishnan gave a presentation on the NHTS guidebook that is due out by 2011.

InfoGroup and AWI: Frank Tabatabaee

Frank presented the status of the InfoGroup and AWI data. It is currently available to the MPO's and Districts. Please let FDOT central office know by the end of the year if there are problems with the data.

Discussion followed, covering the following topics:

- Data limitations of ArcGIS prevent inclusion of all data fields, but associated data file contains the full set. MS Access is the data format
- Definitions of "nixi" (out of business) and "suspect" (unconfirmed) data sets
- Other potential data sources that may be used in the future (such as Dunn and Bradstreet)

Visioning Advanced Modeling in Florida – Activity Based Model & Dynamic Traffic Assignments:

Wilson Fernandez, Fred Ducca -- presentation

A discussion followed regarding AB models. Topics included:

- Jacksonville AB model
- DTA model requires more research and is yet to be useable
- Integration of AB and DTA is as yet an unresolved issue
- Transit modeling in an AB model framework, and how it is different from a trip-based model environment
- How Non Home Based trips, and tours are represented in AB models
- Use of AB models in LRTPs – example (Sacramento, CA)
- Transferring AB model parameters – feasibility
- Approach to using trip based and/or AB models for LRTP where both exist

MTF Advanced Modeling Priorities Survey: Steve Ruegg

Presentation on the results and implications of the MTF on-line survey. Raw data is available upon request.