



# Transit Committee Meeting Notes

February 3, 2012

## Attendees

- Babuji Ambikapathy (GMB Engineers & Planners)
- Jeanette Berk (API)
- Terry Corkery (FDOT Central)
- Bob Crawley (FDOT District 1)
- Hoyt Davis (Gannett Fleming)
- Michael Escalante (NCFRPC)
- Neelam Fatima (St. Lucie County TPO)
- Larry Foutz (Miami-Dade MPO)
- Sheldon Harrison (Cambridge Systematics)
- Li Jin (Kittelsohn & Associates)
- Xia Jin (FIU)
- Evangelos Kaisar (FAU)
- Ken Kaltenbach (Corradino Group)
- Ashutosh Kumar (AECOM Transportation)
- Milton Locklear (North Florida TPO)
- Dan Macmurphy (Traf-O-Data)
- Vidya Mysore (FDOT Central)
- Rosella Picado (Parsons Brinckerhoff)
- Sandeep Puppala (Parsons Brinckerhoff)
- Diane Quigley (FDOT PTO)
- Tom Rossi (Cambridge Systematics)
- Santanu Roy (HDR)
- Steve Ruegg (Parsons Brinckerhoff)
- Sunil Saha
- David Schmitt (AECOM Consult)
- Scott Seeburger (FDOT District 4)
- Myung-Hak Sung (Gannett Fleming)
- Krishnan Viswanathan (CDM Smith)

## Introduction/Roster

New Committee Chair Scott Seeburger welcomed the participants to the teleconference. He is honored to serve on the Committee and looks forward to working with the talented group, expecting it to continue to provide valuable ideas and guidance for FSUTMS transit modeling improvements and practice. It is an interesting time for transit in Florida given development of new tour-based models in Jacksonville, Tampa, and SE Florida; new hard-earned credibility in Florida transit modeling from FTA; plus the recent Sun-Rail funding and construction so the Transit Committee can serve an important role.

Vidya Mysore mentioned that the committee was doing well and heading in the right direction.

Scott introduced the agenda that was drafted in recognition of the Committee not having met for some time and that there are issues to be addressed in directing the Committee's future work.



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## Recent Publications

- 1) FTA New/Small Starts Notice of proposed rulemaking was issued in January with comments due by March 26, 2012. The Transit Committee will not submit comments as a group to Central Office.
- 2) CUTR TBEST guidance documents are posted on TBEST websites. These are the final documents where one can find guidance for districts.
- 3) A FDOT-sponsored "Case for Project Workshop" will be held in Orlando with announcements for dates coming out soon.

## MTF Committee's Accomplishments and Committee Direction

Scott Seeburger had reviewed four years of Committee and MTF notes and found that a lot has been undertaken; it appeared that some activities may still be active, and others may have been completed or are no longer relevant. The meeting handout lists the accomplishments plus those of two other MTF committees. The following summarizes the discussion on the direction of the various activities that the Committee has undertaken:

- **MTF Committees**--The MTF committees have undergone change recently. Neelam Fatima mentioned that the Dynamic Traffic Assignment committee is now the Advanced Traffic Assignment committee and will look in to Dynamic Traffic Assignment, Toll Modeling, Speed Model, plus the ISSTA tool (DTA pre-/post-processor) recently developed by FIU. Terry Corkery mentioned that the ABM and Time of Day Modeling Committees were merged into the Advanced Model Structure Committee, and that the Land Use Committee is a subcommittee of the Data committee.
- Vidya Mysore talked about incorporating freight modeling and tourism data into the statewide model. He wanted to leverage the discussion on freight to Model Task Force meeting and see if the Tri-Chairs want to have commercial vehicle movement models added to regional models.
- The discussion moved to the Intercity Passenger Forecasting business plan. Steve Ruegg said that he, Jeanette Berk and others formed a working group and will announce the business plan to the MTF. Vidya Mysore suggested revising the vision as the High Speed Rail project is stopped. He suggested that the Committee forward a memo to Bob Rooming to know about the state policy. Terry Corkery mentioned that the Intercity Passenger Forecasting project was a multimodal approach to intercity travel and that Florida stepped back from this approach.
- The Committee has been reviewing the TBEST short range operations type model. Myung-Hak Sung said that the TBEST is designed for traditional route planning, and does not provide sufficient information for FTA Small Starts projects. Neeland Fatima indicated that a number of smaller transit operators are using TBEST for TDP studies so she is interested to review the new guidelines published on the TBEST website.
- Diane Quigley said that she is working on a tool that geocodes bus stop locations at parcel levels. Li Jin said that he is working on deriving bus travel times from APC data and that APC data in



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collaboration with TBEST can be a good merge to show activity by stop. CUTR did a study to use APC data to show boarding and de boarding by stop.

- It was proposed that the Transit Committee get involved in modeling airports, parks, and malls. Tom Rossi mentioned that many places use separate models for airports, parks, malls and other special generators. It was suggested that this is not an appropriate topic for the Transit Committee, and it was decided that this initiative needs and should be addressed by some other committee.
- Dan Macmurphy mentioned that there seems to be huge gap between users at MPOs and the model developers, and that model training in mode choice in particular would be valuable.
- Scott Seeburger's review of the membership list suggests that the Committee could benefit from increased representation of universities (particularly CUTR/USF), Tier A and B MPOs, and some transit agencies. This could help in formulating useful transit research and development efforts, gaining insights into transit modeling and analysis needs of smaller urban areas, and for identifying analytical needs for short-term transit operations and market segmentation analyses. Vidya Mysore suggested contacting new director Jason Bitner at CUTR.

## Committee Goals and Objectives

Scott Seeburger had reviewed the Committee's Goals and Objectives and it seems that some changes are in order. The following summarizes the discussion:

- It was agreed that Objective 2.1 concerning refining of the transit mode of access process is completed.
- The Committee discussed transit data:
  - Bob Crawley would like central office to put together guidelines on the types of transit data needed for modeling and how to collect and use the data.
  - Larry Foutz mentioned that different levels of data collection are needed for ABM versus trip-based regional models. People who are changing to ABM see data needs as an important issue and need some guidance on how to collect and what data to collect. He mentioned that the document that PB will have on transit modeling will be great to work from a surveying point of view and will help MPO staff to initiate a program to collect data every 5 years.
  - Dan Macmurphy mentioned that small transit systems do not conduct ridership surveys. Krishnan Viswanathan suggested a look into the transit on-board survey for Atlanta, as it was very well received by FTA.
  - Larry mentioned the state of good practice report that puts together all the good work done in last four years. This report is being produced through the Transit Model Update project.
  - Improving transit networks coding was suggested. The experience has been that the model is getting numbers of buses that are not even close to what transit operators are using. Larry



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mentioned that we cannot replicate service decisions of transit agencies as FSUTMS models are not operations models. Steve Ruegg commented that transit headways is specified as basic route input data.

- Diane Quigley mentioned that Google Transit is the standard reference for transit agencies, and TBEST is looking at creating data for transit agencies, but keeping it updated is an issue. Rosella Picado said that PB has a set of scripts that link stop locations from Google to NAVTEC, and use CUBE to build routes.
- Larry Foutz proposed a new objective for consideration: Identify on-board and household data needs to improve transit forecasting for each of the model tiers.

## MTF Meeting

The Model Task Force will meet March 5-7 in Orlando. The first session will be a Transit Committee workshop, and so far two topics are on the agenda:

- 1) Transit Model Update Project presentation—the project is being performed by Parsons Brinkerhoff. Rosella Picado with PB gave a brief overview of the topic. The project's results include a working model and documentation. The model is near completion, will be a prototype, will not be fully calibrated, and will need to be further calibrated and validated using local data.
- 2) Deriving Bus Travel Speed/Dwell Time Using Automatic Passenger Counter (APC) Data presentation--Diane Quigley said that she has a contract with Kittelson Associates to develop methodologies for collecting transit travel and dwell times. Li Jin with Kittelson indicated that he is getting good results, so the process may turn out to be a cost effective way of developing transit information.

## Other Items

It was agreed to have quarterly Transit Committee meetings, with dates announced early. Subcommittees can meet more frequently if they have something to work on.

Members should send updates of their contact information to Scott Seeburger.

## Action Items

- 1) Coordination with MTF Committee Chairs to coordinate activities (Seeburger)
- 2) Look into information regarding the Atlanta On-Board Transit Survey (Viswanathan)
- 3) Complete list of MTF Committee activities and accomplishments (Corkery/Fields)
- 4) Contact transit agencies for Committee participation (Quigley)
- 5) Contact CUTR for Committee participation (Corkery)
- 6) Provide proposed revision of the Goals and Objectives to Committee (Seeburger)