



Transit and Rail Committee Meeting Notes

July 29, 2010

Attendees

- Jon Weiss (FDOT D5)
- Vidya Mysore (FDOT CO)
- Diana Fields (FDOT CO)
- Frank Tabatabaee (FDOT CO)
- Diane Quigley (FDOT CO)
- Min-Tang Li (FDOT D4)
- Scott Seeburger (FDOT D4)
- Larry Foutz (Miami-Dade MPO)
- Wilson Fernandez (Miami-Dade MPO)
- Jeannette Berk (API)
- Ben Walker (HNTB)
- Mary Ross (Gannett Fleming)
- Chunyu Lu (Gannett Fleming)
- Ashutosh Kumar (AECOM)
- Dan McMurphy (Traf-O-Data)
- Michael Clarke (Citilabs)
- Krishnan Viswanathan (Cambridge Systematics)

New Committee Chair and Agenda Discussion

Larry introduced Jon Weiss as the committee chair and Vidya expressed his appreciation on Jon's willingness to take up the task. Jon walked the group through the agenda and indicated that there were a lot of areas among the MTF priorities where the transit and rail committee had a role to play. Wilson mentioned that Jon should be on the distribution list for all the different MTF committees' correspondence.

Time of Day

Krishnan walked the group through the Time of Day project in terms of scope and status and Vidya suggested that Krishnan should include members of the transit committee in his document transmittal. Jeannette asked where Time of day would be as part of the model stream and Krishnan mentioned that it was right after trip generation.

Intercity Passenger Forecasting

Larry walked Jon through the genesis of the discussion and where things stood as of today. Before the MTF meeting the transit and rail committee had considered intercity passenger forecasting and decided to focus on two tasks: data collection and model development. The initial plan was to get together a group to develop the scope and try to discuss it at the MTF. However, it was decided to put it on hold till FDOT CO reached a consensus on how to proceed. The discussions started anew after the MTF meeting and it was decided to start with data collection for intercity passenger forecasting.

Vidya mentioned that it is necessary to form a group to develop the scope and proposed Mike Clarke and Jeannette Berk as the initial members of the group. Larry noted that a majority of the committee are consultants and asked what the guidelines are for consultant participation in the scope development. Vidya stated that he will consult with the contracts office regarding procedures or guidelines for consultant participation.

Mike Clarke mentioned that he would provide access to different documents around the world. Forecasts are way more political than the urban models. Diane Quigley mentioned that there are already a set of ridership numbers presented to the Federal Rail Administration. Vidya mentioned that SPO is not



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responsible for investment-grade ridership and SPO work will be focused on planning efforts at the local and regional level. Vidya and ISD management feel it is critical to make sure that everything is reviewed before plunging ahead. The group felt it was necessary to have a mix of academic/technical and politically savvy people to develop the scope.

The question of a contracting mechanism was raised and Vidya said it is a little premature to determine whether it will be a new or existing contract. The committee should focus on the technical aspects of the project. Jon asked how the committee would reach consensus on the scope. Larry mentioned that it will be up to the chair and it will be the role of the committee chair to listen to everything and develop a consensus. Jon asked about the activity timeline for scope development; Vidya estimated it will be done in the fall.

Dan McMurphy asked about the Aggregate Rail Ridership Forecasting (ARRF) model for intercity passenger forecasting, but it was mentioned that it is primarily for regional and commuter rail and not necessarily applicable for intercity passenger forecasting.

Training

The need for training was expressed and the transit executive training offered in FDOT D4 was cited as an example to emulate. Vidya mentioned that FDOT CO is developing the training plan for the fiscal year and will update the committee once it is ready.

Miscellaneous

Dan McMurphy mentioned that SW FL is very sensitive to air quality (AQ) implications. He asked what the measures of effectiveness (MOEs) are in terms of the livability. The group felt that it was very difficult to come up with effective MOEs that models can forecast.

While the current focus of the committee is on Intercity Passenger forecasting, Jon brought up the issue of being forward thinking and deciding what should be tackled next by the committee. Given the focus of performance measures in the next reauthorization and livability being one of the national goal areas makes it necessary that the transit and rail committee play an important role in helping define and measure livability at the state and MPO level. The idea to focus next on Mobility and Livability was supported by Larry and Diane and it was decided to discuss it further at the next committee meeting.

Action Items

- The Transit and Rail Committee chair in consultation with FDOT CO Systems Planning and Public Transport Offices will lead the development of the scope of work for data collection for intercity passenger forecasting.
- FDOT CO SPO to consult with the FDOT contracts office to determine consultant participation in scope development.