

# Model Task Force: A Look Back

Terry Corkery, FDOT



# Early 1970s

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FHWA/UMTA\* develop UTPS  
Computer Package

\*Urban Mass Transportation Administration

## The Urban Transportation Planning System (UTPS)

An Introduction for Management  
June 1980



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Urban Mass Transportation Administration  
Federal Highway Administration  
Office of the Secretary



HF  
5548.4  
U8  
U72

# 1976

Florida has 15 MPOs, all with separate models

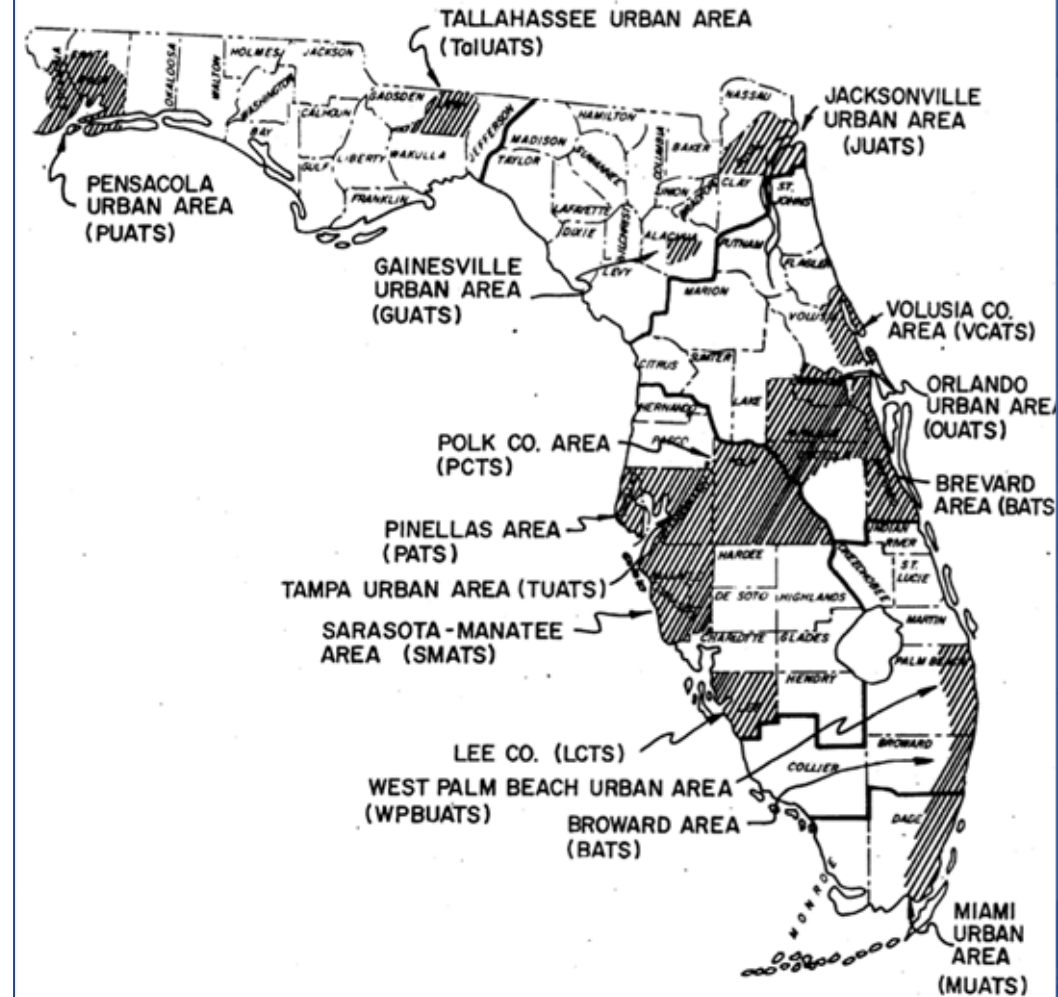


Figure 2  
FLORIDA'S URBANIZED AREAS

Source: FDOT Model Update Task A, by Ken Kaltenbach,  
Schimpeler Corradino Associates

# Late 1970's

- UTPS mainframe-based software
  - » All models housed in FDOT Central Office
- Original Model Task Force established
  - » Representation from MPOs, Transit Agencies, and FDOT
  - » **Creation of FSUTMS** for mainframe computers

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## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### URBAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING MODEL UPDATE

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#### Task A

#### Standard Model Application Procedure

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#### FINAL REPORT

JULY 1979

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- Florida's Standardized UTPS Process
- Florida Standard Urban Transportation Model Structure
  - » Agreement on which options to use within UTPS
    - Allowed sharing data and modeling expertise in all MPOs
  - » Developed GEN module
    - Florida-specific Trip Generation model
  - » Creation of FSUTMS-Mainframe
    - All Florida modelers used FDOT Burns Building mainframe computer

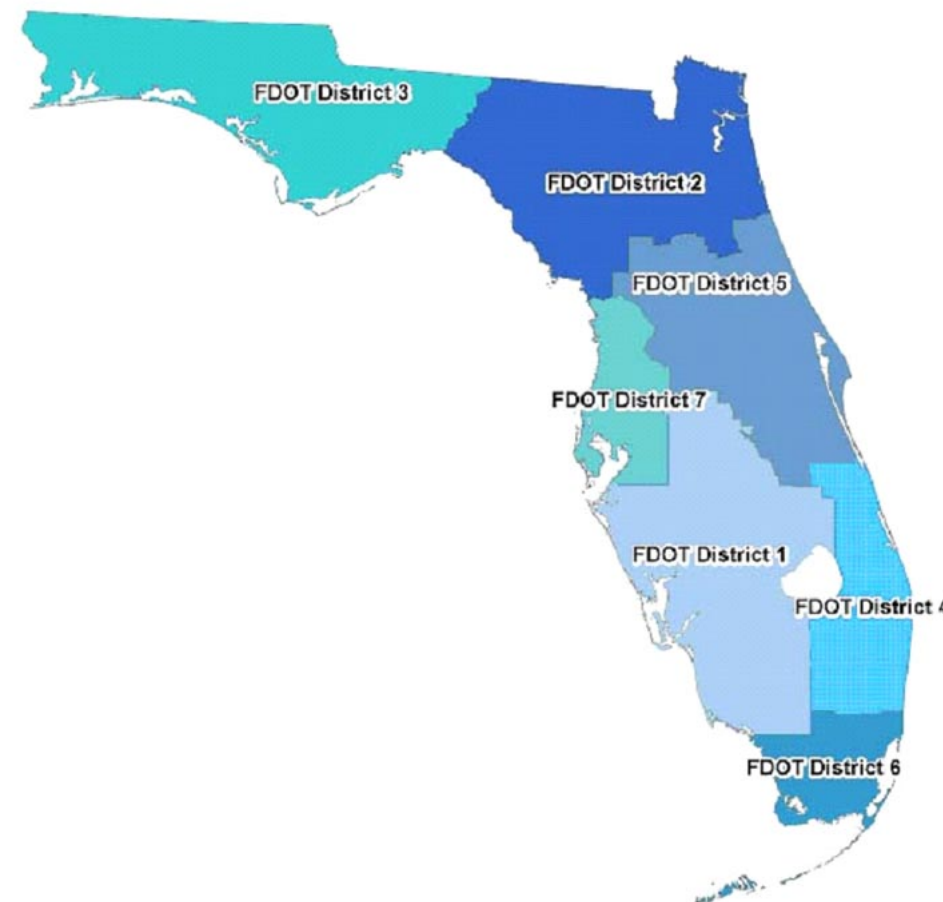
A TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA

# FSUTMS

# Mid to late 1980's

- FDOT Decentralization, Planning Office Reorganized
- Model Task Force inactive
- Microcomputers become widely available
  - » Some MPOs develop in-house models with MinUTP, Tranplan, and other PC-based software
- FDOT creates "Micro-FSUTMS" powered by TRANPLAN

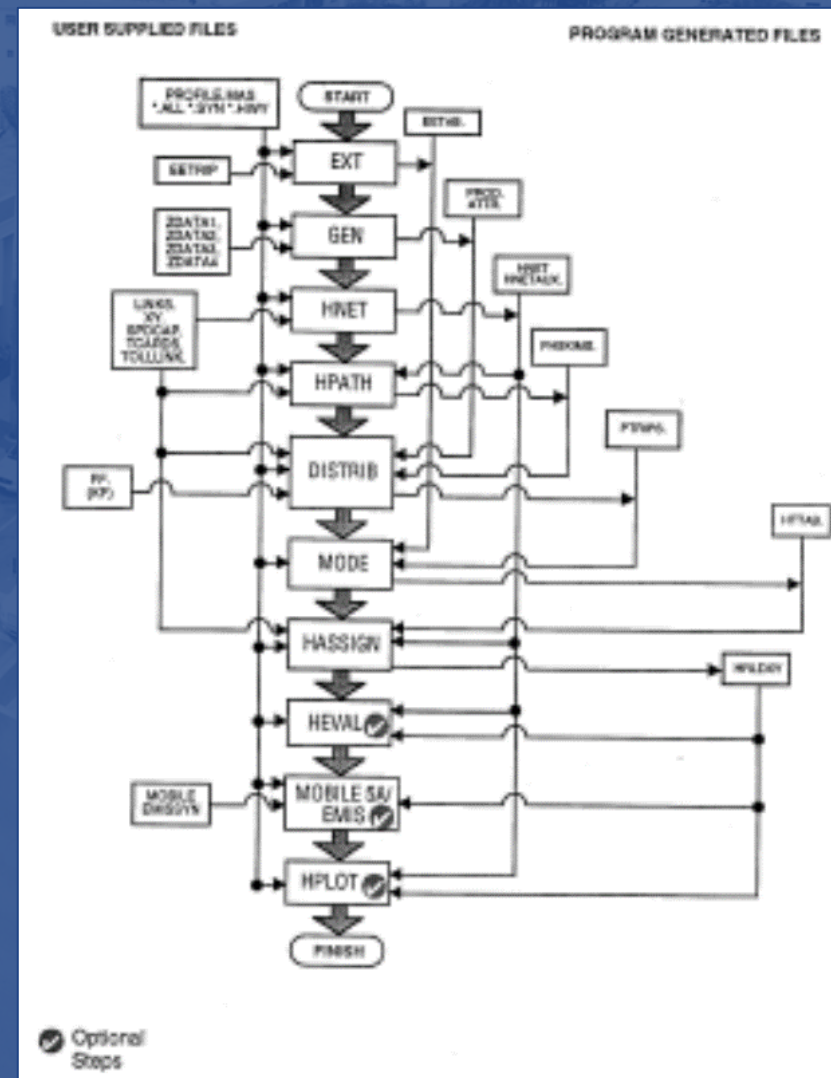
## FDOT Districts





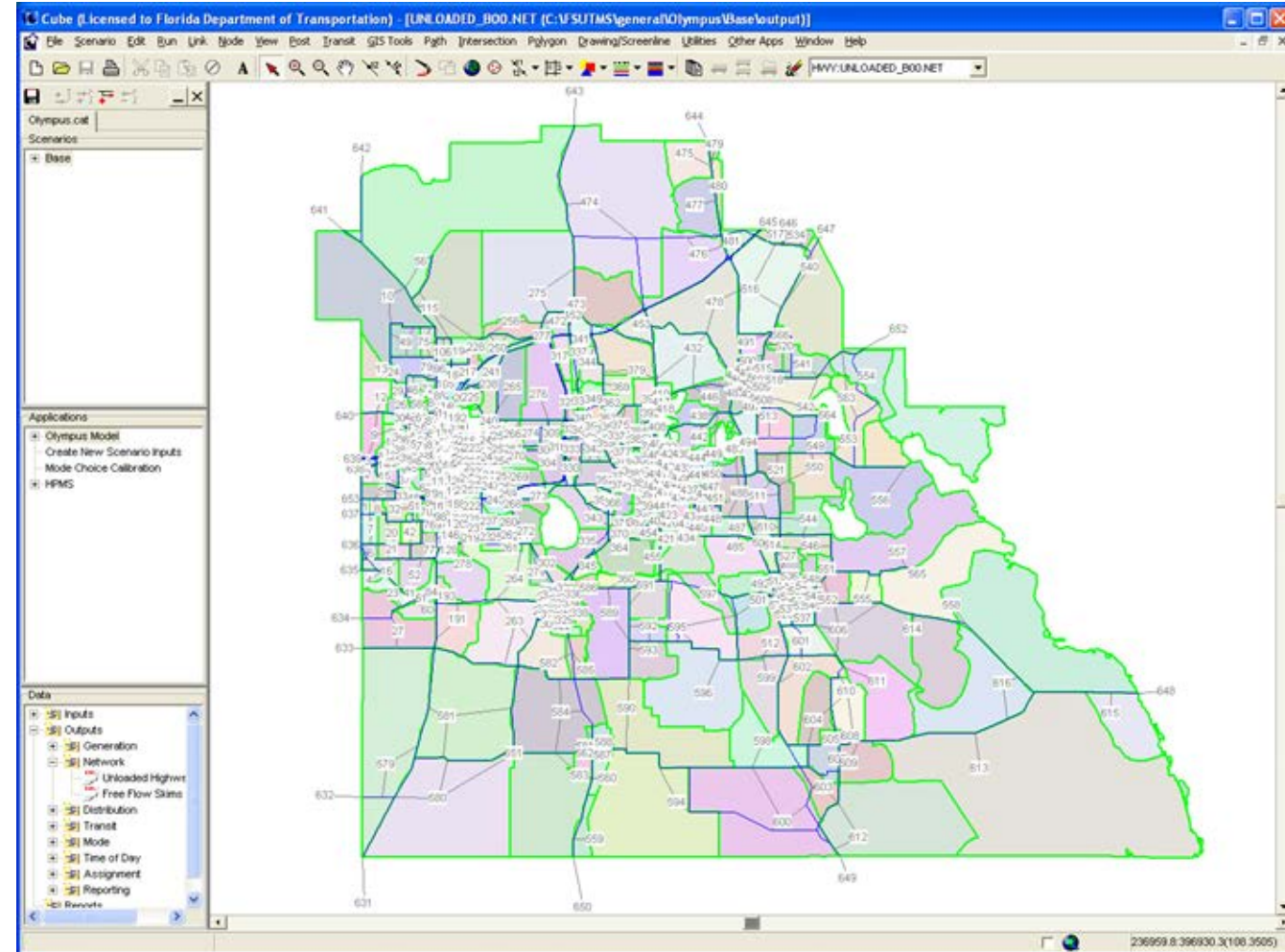
# 1990's

- **Early 1994: New Model Task Force established to discuss standardization issues**
- RS-6000 mini-computers for larger models
- 32-bit Windows operating system enhances PC-based software



# Late 1990's to Early 2000's

- Blue-Ribbon Panel and Model Evaluation Study Committee
  - » Studied alternative software engines to run the next generation of FSUTMS models
- TransCAD, Cube Voyager and New FSUTMS Standards





# Today's Challenges

- Fragmenting Standardization
  - » Activity-based and Four-step models
  - » Differing software platforms
- Increased computer processing power
- New approaches to planning
  - » Predictive Analytics
  - » Artificial Intelligence
  - » Dashboards / Quick-to-Deploy tools
- FSUTMS NextGen



# Model Task Force Accomplishments



A word cloud of accomplishments from the Florida Model Task Force. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'collaboration' and 'networking' being the largest and most central. Other prominent words include 'community', 'data', 'forum for mpo input', 'flexible standards', 'benefits of sunshine law', 'easy access to models', 'unique forum in nation', 'example to others', 'national exposure', 'test bed for new ideas', 'lessons learned', 'communication with fdot', 'software', 'nested logit model', 'federal participation', 'special studies', 'structured process', 'legal defense of model', 'opportunities to present', 'sharing new methods', and 'standards'. The words are in various colors including blue, green, orange, red, and purple.

legal defense of model  
structured process  
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community data  
forum for mpo input  
test bed for new ideas  
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national exposure  
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unique forum in nation  
flexible standards  
example to others  
benefits of sunshine law  
easy access to models



**HAPPY 30-YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY**

