Florida Model Task Force Meeting
May 15, 2003 - Orlando
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM
MEETING SUMMARY

Introduction & Welcome
The tri-chairs welcomed all members to the meeting and announced that a non-voting member comment period was added to the agenda to allow for the non-voting members to make brief statements.

Non-Voting Members Comments
Four non-voting members spoke. The first speaker was Wade White employed by and representing Citilabs. He thanked the members for their support and emphasized his involvement in the Florida Model Task Force and stated that he and Citilabs were committed to support Florida. Next was Dan MacMurphy, employed by URS and representing himself as a transportation modeler in Florida. He emphasized that it was time to transition into the next generation of transportation modeling, which is visual and mouse based rather than DOS and batch based. The third speaker was Howard Slavin, employed by and representing Caliper Corporation. He stated all the advantages he saw in the TransCAD software. The last person was Wiatt Bowers employed by and representing PBS&J. He stated that after a teleconference with all the firms' transportation modelers, PS&J decided to purchase Cube.

Overview of Model Evaluation Study Process & Model Evaluation Study
Next Ram Pendyala, give a brief overview of the Model Evaluation Study Process and the Model Evaluation Study Overview. An outline of the process can be found at http://www11.myflorida.com/planning/systems/stm/mtf/02docs/BluRibPn.pdf.

Status of Software Vendor Negotiations
The second presentation was a report from Bob McCullough, FDOT Systems Planning Office, on the financial impact associated with migrating to Cube/Voyager and TransCAD. At the March 2003 Model Task Force meeting, it was recommended that the Model Task Force consider both TransCAD and CUBE as equally effective in meeting the planning and modeling needs of the State of Florida and give the Central Office the flexibility to negotiate with both software vendors to work out the best arrangement for the modeling community in the state.

The presentation Bob McCullough made on the Florida Modeling Business Systems was the result of negotiations that had been taken place since the last MTF meeting. The negotiations were based on approximately 50 licensees for the various MPOs, City and State and transit agencies. In addition, the Systems Planning Office also wanted the software provider to give a cost for various sizes of private firms, this to ensure that the consultant firms currently operating in Florida would be able to reasonably purchase the software package. Other issues discussed with the vendors were such items as: training, add on features, and maintenance costs, etc.

The tri-chairs asked both vendors if they understood that Bob McCullough asked them for the best price for their software packages during the negotiations. Wade White from

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Citilabs and Howard Slavin from TransCAD confirmed that they understood and the information presented by Bob reflected their company's best offer.

Open Discussion and Questions
Several questions were asked related to the cost calculations and the negotiations to the Systems Planning Office and to the vendors.

Conclusion/Discussion on Course of Action
The tri-chairs presented the voting member with the following software recommendation ballot:

"As a voting member of the MTF, I recommend migrating the Florida Standard Urban Transportation Model structure (FSUTMS) to FSUTMS using the following software package as its primary engine." The choices were either Cube/Voyager, TransCAD, or "I will support either package, as recommended by the Model Task Force." Tri-chair Danny Lamb, pointed out to the members that once they had voted, it would be important for the members to pass a motion to support the outcome of the vote. The outcome of the votes was: 10 votes for Cube/Voyager, 19 votes for TransCAD and 1 vote to support either package. After the votes were announced a motion was made and seconded for the MTF to support the recommendation for TransCAD to be the new engine for FSUTMS. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

Next a brief discussion took place on what the next steps would be and what the role of the MTF in the process. A motion was passed to allow the Systems Planning Office, on behave of MTF, to go back to the Central Office to secure funding to implement the transition and a viable training program. A motion was made and seconded to assign responsibilities to the Systems Planning Office to provide the resources necessary for the transition and to include in that a viable training program both at a central location and on-site training for the Districts. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

In order to be able to complete the negotiations prior to the end of the fiscal year, an additional motion was made and seconded for Bob McCullough to work with the tri-chairs of the MTF and to allow for the tri-chairs to make decisions on behalf of the MTF in an effort to finalize the negotiations on the transition process. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

Discussion from the floor concluded that chairs of the MTF Technical Committees should also be involved in the finalization of the business plan.

Closing Remarks
The tri-chairs thanked everyone for their participation and recognized their individual and teamwork contributions. The next meeting was scheduled to be held either late September or early October 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM