

**Florida Model Task Force
Transit Committee Teleconference
Tuesday, July 20, 2004
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

Summary Minutes

Attending:

Kevin Feldt, Jacksonville Transportation Authority
Frank Baron, Miami MPO
Dennis Hooker, MetroplanOrlando
Jeff Bruggeman, AECOM Consulting
Myung Hak-Sung, Gannett Fleming
Ken Kaltenbach, The Corradino Group
Tom Rossi, Cambridge Systematics
Mike Doherty, URS Corp.
Jeanett Berk, API
Dan McMurphy, TRAF-O-DATA
Ram Pendyala, USF
Dave Schmitt, AECOM Consulting
Maria Fischer, FDOT D4
Carmen Chronister, RS&H
Tara Bartee, FDOT PTO
Ike Ubaka, FDOT PTO
Jon Ausman, FDOT PTO
Huiwei Shen, FDOT SPO
Christopher Francis, FDOT SPO

Welcome from the Committee Chair

Kevin Feldt welcomed everyone to the Florida Model Task Force Transit Committee Teleconference and asked the participants to introduce themselves.

Transit Modeling Data Requirements

The discussion started with Tara Bartee emphasizing the need for Transit O/D survey data. Tara pointed out that currently transit agencies focus on market surveys. Coordination is needed to tie in the transit O/D data requirements. Tara recommended that the Data Committee should address the details of data requirements for transit planning.

Ken Kaltenbach pointed out that the change in software engine for FSUTMS does not change the data requirements for transit modeling. There are travel surveys done throughout the state that would help identify data requirements. Myung Hak-Sung said that not having a recent, local O/D survey was one of the reasons why the Tampa new starts project was rejected. Jim Ryan at the April meeting in Tampa with the Transit Committee, made a comment that it would help to have a good O/D survey in Miami. Miami has virtually all major transit modes. A good transit travel survey there would help FTA and the Model Task Force develop good relationships or trade-offs between bus and rail in the mode choice models, especially for cities that do not have rail, but have studies in the new starts streamline. Myung also pointed out that the deadline for submitting new starts is mid August. When designing and implementing transit O/D surveys, we should keep this date in mind.

Frank said that as the chair of the Data Committee, he would work closely with Tara and other members of the Committee to prioritize the activities and develop guidelines for data collection. Frank said that he came up with some names for the Data Committee and said that those with interest or worked previously

on data collection and surveys are welcome to join. Huiwei reminded that the Data Committee would have a member from each of the MTF Committees as decided in the November Meeting. Tara requested that Ike Ubaka and Jon Ausman be also on the committee as they work on different aspects of transit analysis.

Transit Network Management Issues

Jeff Bruggeman started the discussion on transit network management issues. AECOM is working on the Districtwide model in FSUTMS/TransCAD for District 5. An INET-like procedure was developed to establish a linkage between the highway and the transit network. There is a first version of a database storage for transit networks. In terms of transit access coding, Plan A is to use existing procedures and Plan B is to use native TransCAD processes. Jeff indicated that discussions on similar issues were occurring in Denver, Colorado and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Ken said that in the process of working with the converted Palm Beach and Broward models, he uses the TransCAD program for walk access, which allows 2.5 miles an hour on highway links. This approach seems to provide satisfactory results. In terms of calculating percentage walk in a zone, Ken is using Tiger line files and flagging those streets/links that are within walking distance to transit stops. Then this number is compared with the number of streets/links within the TAZ that are not within walking distance to transit stops to derive the percentage walk in a zone. Caliper built separate AM and PM transit networks for the converted models. It would be better to develop one transit network and use attribute selection sets to define the AM and PM networks.

FDOT Central Office Update

Tara Bartee and Huiwei Shen gave a brief update of Central Office initiatives. Tara said that the TransCAD -Transit Workshop held at Tallahassee in April was very successful. We should offer a few more to transit agencies.

Huiwei talked about the restructuring of MTF Committees. MTF has 9 technical committees so far and there is a lot of overlap. A Survey will be administered next week to evaluate business/technical support from Caliper, SPOs administrative and technical support to MTF activities from key Florida modelers. The Systems Planning Office is working on two main research projects this fiscal year: Enhancing Transit Modeling and Development of Transportation Survey Data. The Transit and Data Committees will be acting as the steering committees for these projects.

Transit Model Enhancement Research Scope

Ram Pendyala, the principal Investigator of the research project said that the scope was prepared based on guidelines and recommendations of several MTF and Transit Committee meetings and some FTA reports. He said the research scope went through FSUTMS transit-specific modules and listed tasks under each module. The proposal also considered TransCAD capabilities and best practices recommended by FTA. The deliverables will be enhancements to existing FSUTMS procedures.

Jeff alluded to the fact that Jim Ryan's concerns are based on inputs from the Congressional Committee members. Travel time has become USDOT's yardstick for measuring transportation system performance and evaluation. The question is how accurately are we measuring highway speed?

Ram suggested that a kick-off meeting, an all-day event be arranged to have the input from the members on Task 1, Development of Detailed Study Plan and Methodology which provides the necessary orientation to the research project. It was suggested by Kevin that it might be a good option to have the kick-off meeting in conjunction with the Summit workshop.

Ike suggested that deliverables for each module should be clearly defined. Ike also suggested that a Peer Review Panel be formed to facilitate an outside evaluation of the research product. After

deliberating on this issue, it was agreed upon that a group of independent experts would be identified. Interim and final project reports will be sent for their evaluation. Ram said Honorarium can be given to the experts for this activity and can be accommodated under the budget.

Discussions

Jeanette Berk said that the size of a TAZ would be a major determinant to the outcome of any analysis. We need to define the proper size of a TAZ since would impact the calculation of the walking distance to transit. The procedures adopted to delineate TAZs are outdated and need to be reevaluated. It was decided that a recommendation be sent to the Land Use Committee to look in to it and suggest criteria to arrive at appropriate size of TAZ.

Dan MacMurphy raised the question on how to handle demand-response transit services. Tara indicated that these services served trips that otherwise would not have been made. It might be a good idea to treat them as automobiles with high occupancy rate.

Action Items

Kevin summarized the discussions and listed the action items:

1. Ram Pendyala to revise the research scope to include independent expert review of interim and final products and to better define deliverables for the project.
2. Jeanette Berk to draft a letter from the Transit Committee asking the Land Use Committee to address the TAZ Size/Boundary Issues.
3. Huiwei Shen and Kevin Feldt will jointly propose a time and location for the research project face-to-face Kick-off meeting.

The teleconference was adjourned at 4:00 PM.