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FMTF Data Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date: Friday, October 17, 2008**

**Time: 10:00 – 11:00 A.M. EST**

**Where: Web conference**

**Attendees List:**

**Gary Kramer West Florida RPC**

**Vidya Mysore FDOT Systems Planning**

**Terry Corkery FDOT Systems Planning**

**Lina Kulikowski Broward MPO**

**Mike Maholz Sarasota/Manatee MPO**

**Andrew Tyrell FDOT District 7**

**Keli Paul Cambridge Systematics**

**Tom Rossi Cambridge Systematics**

**Capton Siluvairajan Cambridge Systematics**

**Krishnan Viswanathan Cambridge Systematics**

**Roberto Miquel Wilbur Smith Associates**

**Welcome and Introduction**

*Gary Kramer, Data Committee Chair*

**Activity Based Modeling Research Efforts**

*Tom Rossi, Cambridge Systematics*

* Cambridge Systematics (CS) recently submitted the first draft of the ABM report titled “*Review of Activity Based Models*” to FDOT for review. Upon their review, FDOT will share the report with Data Committee members at their request. Comments on the ABM report will be compiled and distributed.
* Tom Rossi presented a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the report, including study background and objectives, models studied, study findings, and data for activity-based models. The PowerPoint presentation will be provided online at www.fsutmsonline.net.
* Discussion items:
  + Where do we go from here in the short- and long-term?
    - It will be the MTF’s decision, but there are many advantages to ABMs. Of the 25 largest metropolitan areas in the U.S., 23 either have, are developing, or planning to develop ABMs, including the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Model (TBRPM) and the Southeast Florida Regional Planning Model (SERPM).
    - A demonstration project may be the way to go taking advantage of the new NHTS data coming out in 2009.
  + What are the steps to converting a four-step model to an ABM?
    - *Step 1: Model Design* – The draft ABM report recently completed by CS on behalf of FDOT reviewed common features in existing ABMs or ABMs currently under development. The MTF would need to decide on which features to include in FL ABMs (for example, household interactions).
    - *Step 2: Data* – We could either wait for the NHTS data expected in late 2009 or conduct a demonstration project in an area that has a recent household survey. Regardless, the data will need to be translated into daily activity patterns.
    - *Step 3: Model Estimation* – We would need to decide what software to use and how. Citilabs should be involved to see how much they are willing to do in Cube, as they have been researching the effort internally.
    - *Step 4: Validation* – Not only will it be critical to make sure that the validated ABM isn’t worse than the 4-step model, but ABMs also have more components to validate that work together. A clear validation plan with additional reporting will need to be developed. Once the ABM is validated, it can be compared to the 4-step model to determine the benefit of the ABM.
  + What criteria should be considered when recommending an area as the demonstration project for converting a 4-step model to an ABM?
    - A large area will cost more to convert. Although a small area will be more cost effective, it may not have all the analysis needs as a larger area.
    - Areas with recent survey data should be considered.
    - The MTF needs to give some thought as to what is more important, the size of the area or recent survey data.
    - FDOT Central Office will discuss the possibility of being a test case with FDOT District 7 (TBRPM). Once this discussion as taken place, the MTF can make a recommendation for what area should be the test case, or demonstration project.

**National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) Add-On Status**

*Krishnan Viswanathan, Cambridge Systematics*

* Krishnan Viswanathan presented a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the NHTS add-on status. Approximately 45 percent of the target surveys have been completed. The PowerPoint presentation will be provided online at www.fsutmsonline.net.
* The NHTS add-on data can be used for intra-household interactions for activity-based modeling if the MTF chooses intra-household interactions as a feature.
* The NHTS add-on data will be provided to FDOT in October 2009. FDOT will not have an opportunity to preview the data formats prior to receipt.
* Since FDOT will be receiving the data late, it will not be ready in time for the 2009 LRTPs. Instead, it can be used for the base year 2010 models for the 2012 updates and any ABM efforts.
* If a demonstration ABM project is conducted, FDOT would need to determine if the NHTS sample size is big enough for the area.

**Quarterly Census Employment & Wages (QCEW) Database**

*Capton Siluvairajan, Cambridge Systematics*

* Capton Siluvairajan presented a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the QCEW database with the idea of using it as a main source of employment data for planning and modeling. The PowerPoint presentation will be provided online at www.fsutmsonline.net.
* There was discussion as to whether the QCEW data should replace InfoUSA data since it doesn’t include sole proprietorships. Since the QCEW data is free and is updated quarterly, it can be obtained on a regular basis, whereas the InfoUSA data can be purchased every 2-3 years and checked against the QCEW data.
* The QCEW data has strict confidentiality constraints. As a result, it might be a good to have a workshop on how to use the data and what can be shared with the public.
* It was suggested that FDOT work with AWI to determine what makes the data so confidential and if there are items that can be hidden for data distribution.

**Data Committee Priorities**

*Gary Kramer, Data Committee Chair*

* The MTF Leadership will be meeting on December 15-16, 2008 to discuss MTF priorities. Each Committee chair has been asked to compile a list of their respective committee priorities to present to the MTF Leadership in December.
* The following is a list in order or priority of the MAC priorities, as discussed during the meeting:
  1. Coordination between the MPOs and the 2010 Census to ensure consistency between the TAZ structure. The TAZup program will start in April 2009.
  2. Investigate activity-based modeling in Florida, dependent upon outcome of discussion with FDOT District 7.
  3. Investigate the confidentiality issue of the Quarterly Census Employment and Wages database and compare it to InfoUSA.
  4. Land use modeling data.

**Action Items**

* Upon FDOT’s review, FDOT will distribute the “*Review of Activity Based Models*” report to the Data Committee members at their request. Comments will be compiled and distributed.
* FDOT Central Office will discuss the possibility of being a test case with FDOT District 7 (TBRPM). Once this discussion as taken place, the MTF can make a recommendation for what area should be the test case, or demonstration project.
* It was suggested that FDOT work with AWI to determine what makes the data so confidential and if there are items that can be hidden for data distribution.
* Communicate Data Committee priorities at MTF Leadership meeting in December.