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FMTF GIS Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date: Thursday, May 27, 2010**

**Time: 1:00 – 2:30 P.M. EST**

**Where: Web conference**

**Attendees List:**

**Lina Kulikowski Broward MPO**

**Vidya Mysore FDOT Central Office**

**Dr. Albert Gan Florida International University**

**Hoyt Davis Gannett Fleming**

**William Roll Tindale-Oliver**

**Dr. Zhong-Ren Peng University of Florida**

**Dr. Ilir Bejleri University of Florida**

**Santanu Roy HDR**

**Daniel Miller BCC Engineering Inc.**

**Nellie Fernandez Palm Beach MPO**

**Capton Siluvairajan Cambridge Systematics**

**Minhua Wang Citilabs**

**Phil Shad PBS&J**

**Colby Brown Citilabs**

**Daniel Miller BCC Engineering Inc.**

**Thomas Hill BCC Engineering Inc.**

**Fadi Nassar ATEC**

**Hunter Wei ATEC**

**Boyuan Guan ATEC**

**Lixin Huang ATEC**

The GIS Subcommittee chair Lina Kulikowski started the meeting. She stated that this meeting was mainly called for to give people a chance to review the work we have been doing before we go to MTF meeting. She asked for any comments from GIS committee members. Then the presentation started.

Dr. Albert Gan presented the FSUTMS Data Framework.

Lina asked Albert about his comments on creating metadata standards for multiple tables

Dr. Gan replied that in most cases we have attributes for only one table but our metadata has multiple tables included in the same file. He added that, he was considering modifying the metadata implementation to click and show individual metadata for tables.

Lina asked if he can present the modified metadata version in MTF. Dr. Gan replied yes.

After Dr. Gan’s presentation, due to time limitations, the question and answer session was postponed to the end of the meeting.

Dr. Peng and Dr. Bejleri gave the next presentation on “Model Information Exchange System” (MIXS).

Vidya mentioned that the GIS and Data integration is one of the main efforts that the central office has undertaken. He added that we are at main cross roads in our data integration efforts and anything we do now will have far reaching consequences for GIS and Data usage efforts for the modeling community in the next 5 to 10 years. He, therefore, urged the committee members to actively participate with active inputs to the different projects that the GIS Subcommittee is doing.

In response to Dr. Peng’s presentation on data standardization across different models and planning activities, Vidya pointed out that there are many variations in the same data between different agencies and different entities have been operated successfully over the years with these differences. He added that in a way we are victims of our own success. It might not be practical to ask model developers to change their data standards. He said, we have to bring in all the different data standards and try to accommodate the variations in the new database structure that we are proposing.

Dr. Peng replied that, he totally agrees with what Vidya is proposing. He pointed out that FHWA’s approach to similar issue in data difference was to adopt a minimum data standard and enforce only that minimum standard but give enough flexibility to the individual entities to add other data elements to the database.

Lina said she agreed with Vidya’s comment on being flexible. She added that it might be worthwhile to try and set up two pilot studies to see how both the conversion and the translation efforts work. Vidya agreed that this was a good idea.

Marry Stallings pointed out that, there have been past efforts in this kind of data integration and we should try and reuse as much as we can from those projects. As an example she pointed out the Enterprise Geo Database that District 7 has worked on.

Vidya replied that, he agrees with what Mary said. He asked if Mary could share the details of this Enterprise GeoDatabase effort with this project team. Dr. Bejleri also mentioned that he fully understands the concerns and promised to make the best use of past efforts and not reinvent the wheel.

Lina pointed out the work Dr. Gan has conducted few years ago in data integration and recommended that we also consider that for review and reuse.

Vidya pointed out that Eric from URS is working with Safety office in developing a comprehensive Linear Referencing System using NavTeq data and we have to make use of that in our database. Dr. Bejleri added that the Safety Office effort involves developing LRS not only for the highways but also local roads.

Capton made a brief presentation of the new LOS calculator tool developed at the central office.

Vidya requested the GIS Subcommittee members to review the project presentation materials and test the tools and send feedback if any to the project team.

Lina thanked the members and adjourned the meeting.