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FMTF Data Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2015**

**Time: 11:00 – 12:00 P.M. EST**

**Where: Web conference**

**Attendees List:**

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| Frank Tabatabaee, FDOT Central Office  Terry Corkery, FDOT Central Office  Joel Worrell, FDOT Central Office  Thomas Hill, FDOT Central Office  Samantha Powers, FDOT District 4  Hui Zhao, FDOT District 4  Danny Lamb, FDOT District 7  Andrew Tyrell, FDOT District 7  Gary Kramer, West Florida RPC  Paul Van Buskirk, Van Buskirk, Ryffel & Assoc.  Richard Ranck, Hillsborough County  Xia Jin, FIU | Jeanette Berk, HNTB  Vasu Persaud, Leftwich Consulting Engineers  Paul Flavien, Broward MPO  Krishnan Viswanathan, CDM Smith  Colleen McGue,  Daniel Beaty, Atkins  Daniel Miller, RK&K  Danyu Shi, BCC Engineering  Steve Infanti, Tindale-Oliver & Associates  Stephen Lawe, RSG  Makarand Gawade, RS&H  Heather Lupton, AECOM |

Gary Kramer began the meeting. – 11:05am

## **Item 2: Identification of items to be studied by the Data Committee**

* What are the available data sources that are outstanding?
  + InfoGroup provides residential data that may be interesting to lump into TAZs.
  + We should be talking about the need for the data, not so much the source.
* The focus of the Model Task Force are the activities that we need to tackle as the data committee, so that we have a platform from which to work on.
  + Important to determine the right data sources and where they’re needed.
* It would be useful to have a comprehensive list of all of the data sets we already have in use.
  + Provide some oversight on how we’d like the data stored and how we’d like to see the data collected
* Regarding freight, would be in dire need of light truck movement data.
* We should be looking at probe data and ways of connecting Bluetooth data.
  + What other sources out there provide probe data?
* More than just residential data needs to be considered.
  + It would be worthwhile to determine which areas have similar activities to aid in data sharing.
* Sunshine Laws and how to engage third-party data sources need to be considered.
* To help make data more affordable, it may be useful to have FDOT and MPOs co-purchase data.
* District 3 purchased AirSage data for all of the zones in their regional model, as well as zones in the CRTPA model.
  + Currently determining how useful this information is to the model.
  + Provided trip level and demographic data being pull from Census tracts.
  + Travel surveys have proven difficult in the District, particularly in rural areas.
  + Will be providing a white paper on the process to touch on drawbacks and benefits of the data.
* It would be good to have a system for data sharing within the committee.
  + Possibly a website depository for the data along with a way for individuals to find out what is happening and how it’s being used.
  + There are many issues with the data and its confidentiality.
    - Maybe on the FSUTMS website, it would be helpful to list all of the data available, their years, who owns it, and a small synopsis.
  + We need to ensure that the data is accurate and applicable.
  + In addition to having a depository, we should also have protocols to maintain the data.
* Revisit our file structure to make sure we have a consistent process across the state.
  + Create a consistent nomenclature across our files.

**Action Item:**

* **Schedule a follow-up meeting to further discuss items that need to be studied by the committee in the next 5 to 10 years.**

## **Item 3: InfoGroup Employment Data Purchase Option**

* Data available as far back as 2007.
* We need feedback from the committee on whether this data is needed and how frequently (on a year-to-year basis, on a certain interval, etc.).
* One option being considered is purchasing an enterprise package for InfoGroup, so that the data is always available to a broader spectrum.
  + Currently our license for InfoGroup is limited to model purposes.
  + Are there requests for the InfoGroup data to be used for things that are outside of modeling?
  + As an agency, FDOT will also have to look at other data sources to determine the best fit for our data needs.
    - The data committee is helpful in providing justification of the purchase of a particular data source.
* Typically purchased for the model base year and interim year.
  + May be beneficial to have the data more frequently to help to better monitor the growth trend for population and employment.

## **Item 4: Household Travel Survey Smartphone App Update**

* The last statewide data collection effort was in 2008 and 2009.
  + New data is needed for the next round of model updates.
* Central Office is concentrating on the non-MPO areas.
  + MPO areas are welcome to join and fund survey efforts in their areas.
* NHTS surveys had different goals than what modelers need for data collection.
* Decided to develop a smartphone app to help participants track their travel throughout the day to eliminate estimation.
* Phase 1 is completed and was made available to people who travelled to the Model Task Force meeting.
* Found a few shortcomings, so we are initiating a Phase 2.
  + Need a companion website so individuals can go in and edit their travel log to eliminate lost travel if they forgot to turn on their app.
    - Will help to eliminate erroneous trip records as well.
  + Need a chime to remind participants to turn their app on and off.
* Two issues with MPOs and their survey data collection:
  + There are rural areas within the MPO boundaries for the modeling structures, posing the question, do the MPOs want Central Office to go into those counties or stay out so they can conduct their own survey?
    - Miami-Dade was concerned that there would be overkill in surveys if Central Office also conducted their survey in the region.
* Committee concerns regarding the survey app:
  + A lot of areas in rural areas that don’t have cell phone service, making data collection difficult.
    - Baker County is predominately a national forest with little to no service.
  + It may be asking too much to have participants use the website in conjunction with the app.
  + What’s the incentive for participants to do this?
    - FDOT not allowed to give out any sort of reward, must be completely voluntary for the participant.
    - May be able to go through universities to conduct the surveys in order to provide incentives.
  + Important to consider the age group of individuals willing to participate may cause the data to be skewed.
    - Older participants may have different travel patterns than younger participants.
  + Individuals in a rural area may wish to remain more private with their travel behavior.
  + For cell phone data, you may not necessarily need to install an extra app.
    - Google provides location history that provides a KML map with their previous locations and movements.

## **Item 5: Rand McNally Data**

* Central Office has acquired Rand McNally GPS truck data.
  + Districts 5 and 7’s freight coordinators started the conversation regarding the use of Rand McNally data.
* The data being analyzed may not be directly applicable to a modeling concept or project.
  + There is information on speeds, latitude/longitude information, time of day, and whether the ignition is on or off.
* Need to ensure that their data can be obtained legally and that their agreements are in line with Florida Sunshine Laws.
* Currently in the research phase, with compelling results for trucks with “ignition off” and the GPS responder “on,” which is assumed to be parking lot locations.
* Plan to speak with freight coordinators to determine other uses for the data prior to making a decision to invest in this data.
* The data sample consists of any truck that has a GPS receiver in it within the state of Florida.
  + All participating trucks are classes 6, 7, and 8 (long-haul trucks).
  + The participating trucks are companies who elect to use the GPS receivers, but we cannot determine exactly which companies are using it.
    - Consists of “long-haul companies who wish to manage their drivers.”
* Data can be provided on a monthly or yearly basis (per request).

**Action Item:**

* **Contact Joel Worrell (**[**Joel.Worrell@dot.state.fl.us**](mailto:Joel.Worrell@dot.state.fl.us)**) if interested in a follow-up meeting regarding the data being used.**

## **Item 6: Other Comments**

* What is the status of the Waze and FDOT data sharing?
  + Only providing incident data off of FDOT 511 system to Waze.
  + FDOT is not currently acquiring any data from Waze.

## **Item 7: Concluding Remarks**

* We will have another conference call within the next month to refine the Model Task Force presentation list.
* Leadership conference call is tentatively scheduled for October.
* Next Model Task Force meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in December.

Meeting adjourned – 12:15pm