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FMTF Transit Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date: Friday, April 22, 2016**

**Time: 10:15 – 11:30 A.M. EST**

**Where: Web conference**

**Item 1: Administration**

* Technical Presentations
	+ The Transit Office offered to provide a presentation of TBEST 4.2. The Committee expressed interest, with specific interest mentioned regarding TBEST GTFS (General File Specification) data import, conversion, and network editing capabilities. The presentation will be placed on the June Committee agenda.
* Next meetings
	+ The next Committee meetings will be scheduled for June and September. The agendas will continue the discussions of the four Subcommittee topics.
	+ A Model Task Force (MTF) meeting will be held in December. A Transit Committee meeting will be considered. Suggestions for agenda topics are welcome.
* Roster updates
	+ Be sure to send contact update information to Gabe or Scott

**Action Item:**

* **Send any roster updates to Gabe Matthews (gabrielle.matthews@dot.state.fl.us) or Scott Seeburger (****scott.seeburger@dot.state.fl.us****).**
* **Agenda topics for potential Committee meeting at December MTF meeting to Scott.**

**Item 2: District 5 Intercity Transit Research**

* Brenda Young, District 5 Passenger Operations Manager, presented research performed in her unit on intercity bus services. The motivation for the research includes FAST Act MPO requirements for coordinating intercity bus services with intercity rail, recommendations in the previous Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) regarding intercity rail connectivity, and the new FTP update.
	+ Conversed with Districts 4, 5, 6, and 7 plus MPOs and local transit agencies in D5 to find there is interest and need to understand intercity transit services and demand.
	+ Local transit needs to understand “the big picture” and how to fit into it in order to identify needs for coordinating with intercity services.
	+ Looked at existing and future congestion throughout the state.
	+ Looking at current strategies and investments identified locally and regionally in District 5 with aim of developing a regional transit system plan.
	+ Intercity bus usage is not large but was found to be the fastest growing transportation mode nationally. It has been growing since 2006, where previously it was declining.
	+ Many companies provide services largely between Miami, Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville, and the Panhandle (Greyhound, Red Coach, Florida Express Bus, Megabus).
	+ Companies providing services limited to between Orlando and Southeast Florida include Jet Set and All Tour.
	+ Companies serving college markets include HBCU Shuttle and CMG Transport.
	+ Estimated 2.1 million riders per year based on fares, capacity, and profitability assumptions.
	+ Public/private cooperation examples were mentioned (HART and Red Coach sharing a terminal)
	+ Main challenges with intercity bus services include:
		- Funding
		- Awareness
		- Local regulations
		- Safety and security
		- First and last mile connectivity
	+ Brenda asked the Committee to consider how intercity bus demand estimation might be developed in Florida either through the Statewide Model or some other approach.
* Committee discussion
	+ Different mode choice variables and sensitivities than in urban models
	+ Intercity rail forecasting is mature and documented and should be investigated
	+ All Aboard Florida EIS methodology was mentioned as a good approach
	+ Length of trip defines set of travel choices
	+ Parametric approach is possibly better than a network model particularly if mode shift impacts to other modes not important to know
	+ Charter buses mentioned
	+ Does a statewide model need to consider other intercity modes (air, auto, rail)?
	+ Important to understand what local agencies want to know in order to plan for their needs

**Action Items:**

* **Scott Seeburger will develop an outline to frame the problem for the Committee after review by Brenda Young and Larry Merritt (District 4 Passenger Operations Manager)**
* **Committee will discuss and consider moving forward with this topic**

**Item 3: Task Subcommittee Updates**

* STOPS
	+ Charged with advancing education on STOPS, developing FAQs, and formulating guidelines for application consistency.
	+ Upcoming training in May on STOPS geared toward model users.
	+ Also, the Transit Office is preparing an executive level, one-day training that is may be available in September or later in the fall.
	+ Volunteers to assist on this Subcommittee will be welcome.
* Model Update Process Advancement
	+ A model advancement task team looked into FSUTMS improvements to produce credible ridership forecasts for New Starts applications. Many model steps were improved that would be valuable to to highway only, single-period transit, and multi-period transit models.
	+ The Subcommittee is crafting scope statements for updating the urban models through LRTP updates and including the interrelations between model components that will need to be addressed for various model improvement scenarios
	+ A good draft was prepared that is in review prior to release to the Committee for final review and acceptance.
* GTFS-FSUTMS Transit Networking and Pathbuilding
	+ The Subcommittee is considering ways to integrate GTFS transit data into Florida planning models to facilitate the development and coordination of STOPS and regional model networks
	+ Two approaches will be explored for potential development. These vary in complexity and levels of adjustment to FSUTMS. One is to investigate import and conversion tools to create FSUTMS transit networks. The second is to fully integrate GTFS into FSUTMS including networking, pathing, and skimming.
	+ The first approach appears more practical and will likely be the recommended approach for reasons of practical expediency.
	+ TBEST, Citilabs, PTV, and run schedulers have GTFS converters in various stages of capability, pricing levels, and propriety.
	+ The Subcommittee is developing a paper that will support Central Office testing and expanding TBEST and/or Citilabs. The paper will define what is needed from the research such as determining import and conversion capabilities, editing capabilities, and the level of effort needed to cleanup results to insure correct location of transit routes, integration with the highway network, connections between modes at stations, and stop consolidation.
* Modeling of Emerging Technologies
	+ Need to identify what has been done so far and what is known by checking with institutions including universities, CUTR, APTA/FPTA, etc.
	+ Need to identify data sources such as for ride-source companies
	+ A new set of regulations have appeared regarding AV3 and AV4.
	+ Review of what institutions are doing with emerging technologies.
	+ User choice vs. high/medium/low projections
	+ Levels 3 and 4 appear to be a future given Florida’s policies and platforms for development in the state.
	+ The future effect of millennial travel has not been fully realized.
	+ Existing taxi modeling processes are fairly primitive and the issues related to ride sourcing and millennial behaviors are not well understood.
	+ Considering approaches being investigated by District 4 related to the SERPM ABM as a starting point
	+ New LRTP updates must consider emerging technologies since some yet to be determined levels of deployment is expected in the new time frames of the new planning year, so the Subcommittees efforts are valuable

**Action Item:**

* **STOPS Subcommittee working on training tentatively scheduled for the fall plus will start on STOP FAQs**
* **Model Advancement Subcommittee will finalize draft scope language for full Transit Committee review**
* **GTFS Subcommittee to create white paper that specifies considerations for with integrating GTFS into the FSUTMS/STOPS processes and a list of items for Central Office to investigate**
* **Emerging Technologies Subcommittee to further develop concepts through meetings and coordination with the Model Advancement Committee**