

FMTF Data/GIS Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Time: 3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. EDT

Where: Web Conference



Attendee	Agency
Christopher Simpron	FDOT District 1
Dan Beaty	HNTB
Dan Macmurphy	Traf-O-Data
Daniel Miller	RK&K
Danyu Shi	BCC Engineering
David Farmer	Metro Forecasting Models
Denise Bunnewith	North Florida TPO
Donnie Arbeau	Central Florida RPC
Elaine Martino	Martino Planning
Frank Tabatabaee	FDOT Central Office
Gabe Matthews	FDOT Central Office
Gary Kramer	Emerald Coast Regional Council
Heath Lupton	Cambridge Systematics
Hoyt Davis	Gannett Fleming
Jasmine Blais	MetroPlan Orlando
Jennifer Fortunas	FDOT Central Office
Jerry Graham	Traf-O-Data
Krishnan Viswanathan	Cambridge Systematics
Nick Lepp	MetroPlan Orlando
Paul Flavien	Broward MPO
Richard Pascoe	Stantec
Rick Harper	UWF
Rob Schiffer	FuturePlan
Roberto Miquel	WRA
Sheldon Harrison	Cambridge Systematics
Soliman Salem	City of Jacksonville
Steve Infanti	Tindale Oliver
Stephen Lawe	RSG

SungRyong Han	BCC Engineering
Terry Corkery	FDOT Central Office
Thomas Hill	FDOT Central Office
Xia Jin	FIU

Meeting started – 3:02pm

Introductions

- Gary Kramer opened the meeting and introduced Dr. Rick Harper as the guest speaker.

Employment Data with COVID-19 Impact

- Dr. Rick Harper from the University of West Florida provided a presentation giving an overview on the impact of COVID-19 on employment in the state of Florida.
 - For more information, refer to the PowerPoint posted along with these minutes on FSUTMSOnline.
- Questions/Discussion
 - Are the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) medium forecasts still advised?
 - Yes, it's the safest forecast to use.

Dun & Bradstreet Employment Data Update & Direction

- Frank Tabatabaee from FDOT/CO opened up the conversation for the pros and cons of using the 2020 employment data and the AADT during the COVID-19 year as follows:
- Modelers are going to have a tough time using the year 2020 as a model base year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- FDOT Central Office purchased 2020 employment data from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) for building the forecasting model base year 2020
 - Hoped to capture pre-COVID and during COVID employment rates in the state of Florida.
 - After a review of January, June, and September databases from D&B, the D&B data didn't show any significant impact.
- Obtained Florida employment data from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to compare with the D&B.
 - The raw DEO data is highly confidential and is not available for public release and consumption due to contractual restrictions DEO has placed upon FDOT upon delivery of the raw data.
 - The DEO data showed a rapid decline in employment in April 2020.
- From that, working with Cambridge Systematics to evaluate these datasets and create an adjustment factor based on the 3 digit NAICS code to be applied to the D&B data.
 - The adjustment factor may be applied to the employer at the county or zone level
 - Krishnan Viswanathan provided a look at the data dashboard built around this effort.

- Thomas Hill suggested to poll the modeling groups in order to understand the modeling group's view on the use of 2010 or 2019 AADT to build our model base year
- FDOT/CO will put together a polling questionnaire and will send out the poll to tally responses and share with the Data/GIS committee members and other committees
- Questions/Discussion
 - Why don't we use 2019 as the base year?
 - The Decennial Census is 2020, despite it being such an anomalous year.
 - Is it reasonable to assume that 2020 is indicative of the future. Should we project 2020 trends forward 20 years?
 - Our forecasts are usually based on some type of control totals mainly from BEBR. What we're really talking about are changes in trip rates.
 - There are 2 different issues. Counts and trip rates. 2020 Counts will be off but then what we've seen is that trip rates will most likely be different in the future.

Meeting adjourned – 4:00pm