

# FSUTMS Standardization: To Be or Not To Be

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# Why Standardization



- Shared documentation and training materials
  - Makes it easier for new staff to learn what they need
  - Especially important for smaller agencies where turnover may be higher
- Ability to learn from one another
  - If someone has a question about how to do something, there are many potential people to help answer it
  - There are many people (FDOT, other agencies, consultants, universities) who have the knowledge to help with model development/update/improvement
- Replicability of model results when they come from a well vetted process used throughout Florida
- Common resources (including MTF) may be able to be more focused, and more relevant to the modeling community

# Why No to Standardization



- Different areas have different needs
  - Regional size and density
  - Demographics (household size, age, worker status, etc.)
- But most importantly...The types of analyses that planners need to do
  - Roadway improvements, Traffic impact studies
  - Managed lanes
  - Transit service changes, Active transportation
  - Land use changes
  - Effects of changing demographics
  - And much more...
- Some areas, notably larger urban areas, have analysis needs that can be aided by more sophisticated modeling tools
  - Activity based models
  - Dynamic traffic assignment
  - Land use models

# Standardization Does NOT Imply



Source: <http://castabigger.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Screen-Shot-2014-11-02-at-11.25.59-PM-1152x445.png>

# Survey Preliminaries



- 10 question survey
  - Eight categorical and two open-ended questions
- 45 Members and Friends of Model Advancement Committee
- 17 responses
  - 38 percent response rate
- Completely anonymous

# Some Themes



- Agencies want to be the masters of their own destiny...
- But would like some standardization in terms of file formats, naming, structure, etc.
- Adherence to Federal and state guidelines generally a good thing
- Desire for standards in loaded network attributes

Definition of "Standard" must be clarified. Standard should not be applied to hamper the innovations or the advance of better practice!!!

# Some Themes



- Agreement on agencies deciding ABM approach for themselves local...
- But interest in seeing a common FL ABM approach based on experience from other states.

We should have a standard approach to ABM models. Having everyone creating their own model based on what they feel is needed to get an answer results in unique models that defeats the creation of models that are consistent across the state, and does not promote cooperation within the modeling community. We do not need to train everyone on every model.