

**Florida Model Task Force
Meeting Notes**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2006
Full MTF Meeting**

Attendees

Voting Members:	
Dennis Hooker	Metroplan Orlando (MTF Tri-Chair)
Shi-Chiang Li	FDOT District 4 (MTF Tri-Chair)
Danny Lamb	FDOT District 7 (MTF Tri-Chair)
Jim Baxter	FDOT District 1
Milton Locklear	FDOT District 2
Jon Weiss	FDOT District 5
Ossama Alaschkar	Broward County MPO
Ming Ma	First Coast MPO
Bud Whitehead	Hillsborough County MPO
Tom Burke	Lake-Sumter MPO
Kenneth Odom	Ocala/Marion TPO
Larry Foutz	Miami-Dade MPO
Paul Larsen	Palm Beach County MPO
Ali Atefi	Pasco County MPO
Ramon Solis	Pinellas County MPO
Mike Maholtz	Sarasota/Manatee County MPO
Mike Neidhart	Volusia County MPO
Gary Kramer	West FL RPC
Jerry Graham	Southwest FL Users' Group (Traf-O-Data)
Dan Beaty	Northwest FL FSUTMS Users' Group (PBS&J)
Ken Kaltenbach	Southeast FL Users Group (Corradino Group)
Elaine Martino	Tampa Bay Applications Group (Martino Planning)
Jeanette Berk	Northeast FL Transportation Applications Forum (API)
Non-Voting Members:	
Tamara Christian	FHWA
Ed Christopher	FHWA Resource Center
Tianjia Tang	FHWA
Warren Merrell	FDOT Systems Planning
Huiwei Shen	FDOT Systems Planning
Yongqiang Wu	FDOT Systems Planning
Vidya Mysore	FDOT Systems Planning
Ed Hutchinson	FDOT Systems Planning
Thomas Hill	FDOT District 2
Min-Tang Li	FDOT District 4
Andrew Tyrell	FDOT District 7
Fawzi Bitar	FDOT District 7
Betty McKee	FDOT
Kathleen Neill	FDOT

Yew Song	Turnpike Enterprise
Lina Kulikowski	Broward MPO
Jinsan Lee	City of Jacksonville
Gus Castro	City of Orlando
Phil Laurien	East Central Florida RPC
Jennifer Willman	Hillsborough County MPO
Wally Blain	Hillsborough County MPO
Sharon Zhu	Pinellas County MPO
Eric Goodman	SFRTA
Zhaoqiong Ohi	Embry-Riddle University
Fang Zhao	Florida International University
Mohammed Hadi	Florida International University
Albert Gan	Florida International University
Yingyau Lou	University of Florida
Yafeng Yin	University of Florida
Siva Srinivasan	University of Florida
David Schmitt	AECOM Consult
Jeff Bruggeman	AECOM Consult
David Bredahl	ACE
Sung-Ryong Han	BCC Engineering
Keli Paul	Cambridge Systematics
Rob Schiffer	Cambridge Systematics
Krishnan Viswanathan	Cambridge Systematics
Tom Rossi	Cambridge Systematics
Wade White	Citilabs
Mike Clarke	Citilabs
Ali Makurachi	Corradino Group
Sunil Saha	Corradino Group
Bob Rutledge	DRMP
Jim Fennessy	Fennessy Associates
Hoyt Davis	Gannett Fleming
Rich Tillery	Gannett Fleming
Chunyu Lu	Gannett Fleming
Kasey Cursey	Gannett Fleming
Hong Ji	GMB
Mary Stallings	Grimail Crawford
Santanu Roy	HDR
Josiah Banet	HNTB
Luis Diaz	HNTB
Paul Rhoads	LTEC
Fang Mei	MCM
Cesar Segovia	PBS&J
Wiatt Bowers	PBS&J
Yolanda Reynolds	PBS&J
Michael Dorweiler	PBS&J

Patricia Campbell	PBS&J
Wongoo Lee	RS&H
Aselia Silva	Tindale Oliver
William Roll	Tindale Oliver
Dan MacMurphy	Traf-O-Data
Rob Cursey	URS
Om Kanike	Wilbur Smith Associates
Rob Bartrom	Wilbur Smith Associates
Gavin Jones	Wilson Miller
Zhuo (Linda) Yu	Wilson Miller

Meeting began at 8:40 AM
Introduction by Danny Lamb

Topic #1: 2006 FSUTMS/Cube Voyager Model Conversion & Support Survey, Danny Lamb, MTF Tri-Chair

- PowerPoint presentation (to be provided on www.FSUTMSOnline.net)
- Discussion items
 - None

Topic #2: Model Task Force Committees, Danny Lamb, MTF Tri-Chair

- PowerPoint presentation (to be provided on www.FSUTMSOnline.net)
 - Four New Committees
 - Data (Gary Kramer, Chair)
 - GIS (Lina Kulikowski, Chair)
 - Transit (Larry Foutz, Chair)
 - Model Advancement (Mike Neidhart, Chair)
- Discussion items
 - Sign up for committees with Keli Paul and indicate your priority if signing up for more than one committee.

Topic #3: Comments from Committee Chairs, Committee Chairs

- GIS Committee - Lina Kulikowski, Chair
 - Noted usefulness of GIS and difficulty keeping track of GIS advancements
 - Build bridge between our models and GIS - Need tools to automatically transfer data from GIS into our model and tools to convert our model output data into GIS
 - Different levels of GIS users (or non-users) needed for committee
- Model Advancement Committee - Mike Neidhart, Chair
 - Looking forward to getting new committee going
- Transit Committee - Larry Foutz, Chair
 - Larry is a model user for 35 years including several New Starts projects
 - Looking forward to getting model to point where ready to go to FTA
- Data Committee - Gary Kramer, Chair
 - Household survey good starting point for conversion to Cube Voyager
 - Coordinating Transportation Land Use training in Orlando on March 27, 2007 sponsored by the National Transit Institute

Topic #4: *National Household Transportation Survey Update*, Huiwei Shen, FDOT Systems Planning

- FHWA had research funding cut due to over ear-marking of projects, therefore, FHWA currently has no funding for national samples.
- Currently, there is a technical bill in the Senate that will correct the over ear-marking problems and provide more research funding to FHWA if passed but there is no guarantee that any additional research funding will be used for the NHTS national samples.
- FHWA is committed to working with the MPOs and States relative to add-ons even if they do not have the national samples.
- We will lose 1,300 samples if there are no national samples but we are purchasing 12,000 samples in Florida through the add-on, so it should be sufficient.
- The MPOAC has allocated \$2.6 million in PL funds to purchase 12,000 samples for all urban areas in the state and FDOT is currently trying to secure additional funds for rural samples. Individual MPOs can purchase additional samples.
- The FHWA Project Manager will be in Florida making a presentation at the January 25, 2007 MPOAC meeting to discuss sampling schemes and coordination efforts.

Topic #5: *Regional Visions: 50-Year Transportation Demand Modeling*, Kathy Neil, FDOT Policy Planning

- PowerPoint presentation (to be provided on www.FSUTMSOnline.net)
- Discussion items:
 - The 50-year visioning process looks at population out to the year 2050 but what about the transportation network? Currently, the visioning process incorporates the FIHS Needs Plan and asks communities to draw where they want new corridors and transit systems on maps at workshop sessions. There has been some discussion on considering MPO Needs Plans. The visioning process is evaluating what is needed to handle the growth without consideration of constraints such as cost and revenue. It is the intent that the output from visioning process will be incorporated into MPO planning process so the MPOs can further refine the visions.
 - Metroplan Orlando is currently presenting household growth scenarios to the public to see where the people want to develop land. Receiving public and political buy-in on the proposed infill development is allowing transportation to drive land use by putting in infrastructure in where they want the development to happen. Integration of land use and transportation is needed to do these new corridors.
 - The MTF needs to look at the 50-year vision as it includes future regional corridors that cross multiple political boundaries. We need new ways of coordinating how these regional models will work since these future corridors cross multiple boundaries.
 - MPO, regional, and statewide travel demand forecasting models were used in identifying some of the future corridors. Currently, the recommendations are at the sketch planning level and will later become more refined as they get further in the process.

- The MTF needs to look at longer time horizons. The reason for the twenty-year planning horizon was that in the 1970's there were limited tools available. We need to take advantage of the advanced tools we have now.
- The visioning process will require us to think about all modes, especially freight.

Topic #6: *The World of Census Data*, Ed Christopher, FHWA Resource Center Planning Team

- PowerPoint presentation (to be provided on www.FSUTMSOnline.net)
- Discussion items
 - www.TRBcensus.com - Link to all Census data
 - Gary Kramer, Data Committee Chair, needs to add himself to the TRB Census data list serve (<http://www.chrispy.net/pipermail/ctpp-news/>)
 - Census Geography and Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) will be beginning next Summer to begin defining census tracts and TAZs.
 - An example of the questionnaire is on the Census website (look under ACS). Essentially, the Journey-to-Work questions are identical to the long form in 2000.
 - Year 2000 TAZs were used which are now out of date. We will never see block-level data out of the long form but will see block group level which can be used to disaggregate TAZ boundaries.
 - The difference in sample size between the new ACS data and the old long form is that the long form sampled approximately 1 in 6 households with a greater rate in rural areas. The overall sample size was approximately 17 percent for the old long form and the overall sample size for the new ACS data is approximately 12 percent. Overall, both the sampling rate and response rate for the ACS data is somewhat lower.

Topic #7: *Summary of Theoretical Framework for Transit Modeling using Cube PT*, David Schmitt, AECOM

- PowerPoint presentation (to be provided on www.FSUTMSOnline.net)
- Discussion items
 - It was clarified that right now the single-path model generates multiple single paths and then the mode choice model allocates the dominant mode to the paths. In PT's multi-path pathbuilder, it's the pathbuilder that allocates the trips to the multiple paths.
 - In the past, the FTA has had an issue with the single-pathbuilder in TRANPLAN as it did not combine headways to calculate effective headway. An example of when combining headways would be appropriate is if two bus routes have two different headways and they follow the same path for a portion of the route and both are destined for the same location. If the headway for one route is 10 minutes and the second route is 15 minutes, the effective headway time for the 15 minute route could in reality be only 5 minutes once the first bus with the 10 minute headway as already come. PT's multi-pathbuilder allows the user to combine these subject headways as long as it is written into the script. Since PT's Best Path, or single-pathbuilder, does not combine headways, further evaluation may be necessary.

Topic #8: *Model Status and FSUTMS Standardization, Yongqiang Wu, FDOT Systems Planning*

- PowerPoint presentation (to be provided on www.FSUTMSOnline.net)
- Discussion items
 - The MPOs and FDOT Districts should let Wu know if they have not received their Cube v. 4.1 CD yet. It includes a license update through December 2007. If the CD is not installed, the software will expire December 2006. The license only includes Cube Base and Cube Voyager. It does not include new extensions, such as Cube Cluster.
 - Specific guidelines for splitting TAZs for the purposes of transit modeling will be finalized in time for the June 2007 workshop.

Topic #9: *Round Table Discussion*

- Work Program for Florida Standard Model
 - Developed by Central Office based on feedback from the FSUTMS User's Survey.
 - Central Office coordinated with Citilabs when developing the work program.
 - Contains staff-level draft recommendations by fiscal year with the first year being this fiscal year going out to the year 2011.
 - Since Central Office does not know their budget five years in advance, the work program is not a cost feasible plan but isn't exactly a needs plan either.
 - The purpose of the work program is to assist Central Office to be more proactive instead of reactive. It will be used to more clearly define the direction we are moving in. The MTF needs to let Central Office know if they are moving in the right direction and have prioritized activities correctly.
 - FHWA was originally supposed to start the NHTS survey in July 2007 but may be delayed until January 2008 delaying receipt of the data until January 2009 which will be too late for the LRTPs. The MPOs were encouraged to let FHWA know at the January MPOAC meeting the urgency of receiving the NHTS data in time for calibrating their models for their LRTP updates in 2009.
 - In five years, Central Office has proposed to have implemented an activity-based land use generator instead of a traditional four-step model and include mesoscopic traffic simulation.
 - The MTF suggested that Central Office illustrate the work program schedule in a gant chart and include LRTP timeframes for the different MPOs.
 - The MTF will assign activities to each of the four new committees as deemed appropriate.
 - Central Office will evaluate available freight modeling resources and determine the best package that can be standardized for Florida use and distribute it for free to the MPOs and Districts. Cube CARGO will not be the only software evaluated.
 - Central Office will put the work program in gant chart format and distribute to the MTF. Comments should be emailed to Huiwei Shen, Central Office.
- The MPOs need to plan for a later horizon year whenever possible in their LRTPs in order to shape our regions as opposed to reacting to our regions. Currently, FHWA is requiring that a twenty-year planning horizon be maintained at all times. This means that if an MPO wants to amend their 2030 LRTP in the year 2010, they would not be able to without a full LRTP update. As a result, MPOs may want to consider

forecasting to the year 2035. This may change after the review of SAFETEA-LU has been complete by FHWA.

- NHTS is good for calibrating the models if local travel survey data is not available. The MPOAC decided to allocate money to NHTS add-ons in order to provide data that could be used all over state as opposed to allocating a little money to each MPO that couldn't do much.
- The GDT street network dataset is provided to each of the MPO modeling coordinators every year in April. Let Vidya Mysore know if you have not received it.
- A State of Freight Planning in Florida meeting is being coordinated by Dennis Hooker. He will let the MTF know when it is in case anyone wants to participate.

Action Items

- Anyone interested in signing up for a committee after the MTF meeting should contact either Huiwei Shen, Vidya Mysore, or Yongqiang Wu at FDOT Systems Planning. Please indicate your priority if signing up for more than one committee.
- Huiwei Shen will format the five-year work program for the Florida Standard Model into a gant chart and will distribute to the MTF. MTF members should provide any feedback to Huiwei via email.
- Tri-chairs will discuss who will be representing each of the four new committees out of the Tri-chairs.