



# Transit Committee Meeting Notes

June 20, 2012

**Start: 2:05 p.m. 6/20/2012**

**Action Items in bold type and listed at end of these notes.**

**Attendees:**

Scott Seeburger, FDOT District 4 -- Chair  
Diana Fields, FDOT CO  
Babuji Ambikapathy, GMB Engineers  
Min-Tang Li, FDOT District 4  
Sandeep Puppala, PB  
Bud Whitehead, Hillsborough County MPO  
David Schmitt, AECOM  
Neelam Fatima, St. Lucie County MPO  
Vladimir Majano, FDOT CO  
Hoyt Davis, Gannett Flemming  
Diane Quigley, FDOT Transit Office  
Betty McKee, FDOT District 5  
Evangelos Kaisar, FAU  
Jeanette Berk, API  
Jerry Graham, Traf-O-Data  
Larry Foutz, Miami-Dade MPO  
Krishnan Viswanathan, CDM Smith  
Steve Ruegg, PB  
Sunil Saha  
Thomas Rossi, CS  
Sheldon Harrison, CS  
Ashutosh Kumar, AECOM  
Dan Macmurphy, Traf-O-Data

## **Item 1: Introduction:**

Scott Seeburger began the meeting with member introductions, request for updates to member contact information changes, and summarization of the agenda topics.

Three new Friends of the Committee joined: Lois Bollenbach with the Volusia TPO, Betty McKee with FDOT District 5 Intermodal Systems Development Unit, and Jerry Graham with Traf-O-Data Corp.

## **Item 2: Updates from the Model Task Force (MTF)**

Noteworthy activities at the March MTF meeting were presented by Scott. Presentations can be found on the FSUTMSOnline website.

- a. A Freight Committee was formed at the MTF meeting. Juan Flores, the State Freight and Logistics Administrator, gave a presentation at the meeting that stressed FDOT's intentions of expanding freight to strengthen Florida's economy. This committee has been formed to assist Central Office in advancing freight modeling in the state.



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- b. The Cube 6/Cloud Services software update is available and was presented by Citilabs at the MTF meeting.
- c. INRIX data is now made available by FDOT and was presented.
- d. A “Case for the Project” workshop was held in May. The pilot course was held in December in Miami that involved a number of MTF members including Jeanette Berk, Larry Foutz, Wilson Fernandez, Dan Macmurphy, Diane Quigley, Scott Seeburger, and Myung Sung. This course is a very good one, particularly for those involved with FTA projects. It could be conducted again by CO next year depending on the demand.
- e. Transit modeling improvements work – Underway for 15 months. A working group was involved including Committee members (Berk, Foutz, Macmurphy, Quigley, Ruegg, Seeburger, Sung). The purpose of the effort was to add state-of-the-practice modeling processes to improve transit forecasts to meet federal expectations. A 3-hour Transit Committee workshop was conducted as the first part of the MTF meeting to introduce the improvements to the Committee. Not all Committee members were present although there were many others that attended. Questions were raised as to the costs and schedule for implementation. Also, it was recommended that a follow-up presentation be provided to the Transit Committee and that it address implementation statewide at a future Committee meeting.

The list of deliverables was included in the meeting materials and was discussed by Scott. Diana Fields will transmit the deliverables immediately to the Committee for familiarization of the work performed and the updates made to the FSUTMS transit process. The transit model will be the subject of a future Committee meeting to answer questions and to discuss deployment. The prototype model will be available in about two weeks. Presentation of the updates by PB to the committee is an option.

Next time we meet, we can talk about the implementation. There are several updates to the model practice in many of the model steps. Smaller areas without transit may not need all of these improvements, but larger areas with transit projects might find all of them useful. The Committee might work on drawing up guidelines on when and under what circumstances this might be implemented. Also, the Committee might work on estimates of costs for implementation. CO support has been promised.

Jeanette: The timing of these reports--when will we be reviewing them? Members may want to familiarize themselves to prepare for a future presentation, but should likely wait until after the August MTF Leadership meeting.

Ashutosh: Is PT functionality available? Ruegg: PT keywords are implemented in Cube 6.

Ashutosh: Improvements in fare implementation – he would like to see what has been included in Version 6.02.

**ACTION: Diana Fields will transmit the Model Update tech memos/deliverables to the Committee.**

- f. Other--Ft. Lauderdale was awarded \$18m for a new streetcar system from FTA through the TIGER program, representing 22% of the total system cost. This was originally a small starts project. Other TIGER funds were granted in Florida, but this was the largest of the two awards in Florida (Tampa Downtown Multimodal Improvements) and third largest in the Country. (See <http://www.dot.gov/tiger/fy2012tiger.pdf>)

Dan Macmurphy asked about how to use the cloud services but will address this via email.



## Item 3. To Do Items:

### a. Coordination with Committee Chairs

Scott had prepared an incomplete list of activities and accomplishments of the various MTF committees that was distributed last meeting. Terry thought it is worthwhile to complete the list and will pursue it.

**ACTION: Terry/Diana will pursue completing a list of accomplishments of the various MTF Committees. Scott will contact MTF committee chairs to coordinate activities and with the Transit Committee.**

### b. Representations on the Committee by Transit Properties

Diane – do you want them to be on the committee and provide guidance? Scott – there had been some past topics related to operational models. Transit operators might be useful to provide input on this plus pursuing capture of data from transit properties to support planning activities.

Larry indicated that he had exhorted Miami-Dade Transit and Broward County Transit to provide representatives but they have not participated; however, transit properties need to be involved particularly those involved in major projects. Diane indicated that most transit operators depend on the MPOs in a New Starts process. A New Starts committee is being formed by the CO Transit Office at the request of some of the districts, but this would not be a part of the MTF. There might be some overlap with this Committee, but it involves a lot more.

Scott: Issues that the transit properties deal with may not be immediately apparent to planners so there representation would be invaluable. Examples are short-term transit planning, comprehensive operational analyses, and survey methodologies. Diane: Data and survey are good overlaps.

Jeanette: Models are getting more operational so we should include transit operators, at least contact them and try to get their involvement. Scott agreed but also cautioned that their focus tends to be near-term, day-to-day operations with long range planning horizons of five years at best. Diane reiterated that they may not be interested and cautioned that they may not accept.

**ACTION: Scott will craft a purpose statement for these properties to be involved and send it to Diane so she can make the contacts with the properties and direct them to contact her.**

### c. Representation on the Committee by USF/CUTER

Regarding representation from CUTR/USF, Scott indicated that Terry had volunteered to reach out to them. Terry observed that no one from CUTR attended the MTF.

Jeanette: Why the academics? Scott responded that there was a call last January for TCRP research proposals so he thought that the Committee might want to put an application together for next year and that tapping into the university types might be a good thing in this regard. Also, the Committee has shown interest in pursuing operational modeling practice such as TBEST so the involvement of CUTR/USF might be worthwhile.

Diane: TBEST was developed under contract with the transit office. Steve Polzene was to be asked to make a presentation to the committee. Rodney (now at CUTR) is the programmer. Also, parcel level data capabilities will be incorporated into TBEST soon.

Scott: Dan Macmurphy mentioned that TBEST has powerful network editing capabilities that FSUTMS does not have so would like to see this developed.

**ACTION: Terry Corkery will pursue CUTR/USF for involvement in the Committee.**



## d. On-Board Survey Information

Scott: Questioned if anything needed to be done with this, and if so what. It was mentioned at the last meeting that small transit properties and urban areas do not have much experience in conducting on-board surveys and they need a resource for information.

Krishnan volunteered to get information from an ARC (Atlanta) survey that is considered state-of-the-art at this time. He did provide this and it will be added to the On-Board Survey Resource on FSTUMSOnline. Steve Ruegg indicated that a Synthesis of Practice for on-board surveys is one of the Transit Model Update deliverables. Dave Schmitt indicated that FTA does not want to establish specific processes nor be “data police” since the field is changing and a specific procedure might be quickly outdated. GCRTA (Cleveland) recently released a good RFP for on-board surveys and that he would provide a copy to the Committee. Terry indicated that CO is beginning to discuss a Florida Travel model survey – household and other types of surveys. Steve added that the plan is to have a state-driven survey that can support MPOs and districts with Terry indicating that the funding is not yet in place, but the plan is to provide CO funding.

**ACTION: Dave Schmitt will obtain/transmit the GCRTA survey RFP. Scott will provide this plus the ARC information to Diana to load up on FSUTMSOnline, and notify the MPOs and transit properties of the resource.**

## Item 4. Revised Committee Goals and Objectives:

Scott received comments from a number of members on Committee objectives, which were incorporated into a revised set of goals and objectives that were included in the agenda package. He indicated that he missed adding something about preparing models that achieve FTA acceptance based on a comment from Diane. He asked for feedback.

**Goal 1:** No comments. No objections were voiced.

**Goal 2:** Thomas Rossi indicated that some of the objectives are possibly being addressed by other committees such as non-motorized modeling. He suggested coordinating with the other Committees before finalizing. Also, Network Editing is addressed by two objectives; one will be eliminated.

**Goal 3:** This goal relates to supporting continued training. The user-friendliness objective was eliminated in Scott’s version since it seemed out of place. No objections were voiced. Diane questioned whether additional training for data-driven methodologies will be held and thought that Transit Planning could pick up the cost. Diana Fields will look into this.

**Goal 4:** This is a new goal with five objectives that promote effective and efficient data collection for transit modeling. Scott reviewed specific objectives. No objections were voiced.

**ACTION: Scott will finalize the objectives list and send it out to the Committee members to approve and to prioritize them for this year. Diana Fields will investigate future scheduling of training on data-driven methodologies.**

## Item 5: Other

Terry indicated that the next MTF is tentatively scheduled for October. It was suggested that the Transit Committee should meet before this. Scott suggested that we meet in late August or early September with a tentative agenda including Committee priorities, involvement and issues at the upcoming MTF meeting, and deployment of the Transit Model Updates.

The teleconference adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

## ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Diana Fields will transmit the Model Update tech memos/deliverables to the Committee.
- 2) Terry/Diana will pursue completing a list of accomplishments of the various MTF Committees.



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- 3) Scott will contact MTF committee chairs to coordinate activities and with the Transit Committee.
- 4) Scott will craft a purpose statement for these properties to be involved and send it to Diane so she can make the contacts with the properties and direct them to contact her.
- 5) Terry Corkery will pursue CUTR/USF for involvement in the Committee.
- 6) Dave Schmitt will obtain/transmit the GCRTA survey RFP. Scott will provide this plus the ARC information to Diana to load up on FSUTMSOnline, and notify the MPOs and transit properties of the resource.
- 7) Scott will finalize the objectives list and send it out to the Committee members to approve and to prioritize them for this year.
- 8) Diana Fields will investigate future scheduling of training on data-driven methodologies.