MEETING NOTES – December 5, 2012

Transit & Rail Committee Meeting

Scott Seeburger, FDOT D4

- All PowerPoint presentations are now available online at www.fsutmsonline.net
- Discussion items

  1) T-BEST Presentation (Steve Polzin, USF)
    - Dan MacMurphy (Traf-O-Data) asked if there is any coordination between ABM and T-BEST efforts given that both rely on parcel data. Steve Polzin (USF) mentioned that data is pulled from the Department of Revenue and should be consistent.
    - Scott Seeburger (FDOT D4) asked how to get population traits at parcel level? Steve Polzin (USF) said that capturing walk access is critical and that a lot of data on high density is based on historic data and more recent high density development is towards higher income and influences travel behavior accordingly.
    - Mike Escalante (Gainesville MPO) asked if any ground truthing was involved in checking the data. Steve Polzin (USF) mentioned that it was based on Census data. Mike Escalante (Gainesville MPO) also asked if T-BEST will be useful for LRTP updates and whether on-time performance can be a surrogate measure for congestion. Regarding usage for LRTP updates, Steve Polzin (USF) suggested changing the operating speed and match to schedule. He also suggested that due to the degradation over time because of growth in demand then it is necessary to tweak transit speed to match roadway speed in the future. He also mentioned that Floridaand the nation is going through a transition due to changes in demographics and travel behavior, but per capita changes in demand might not be growing at the same rate as in the past. Regarding on-time performance Steve Polzin (USF) suggested that using the operating speed might be a better option.
    - Sheldon Harrison (CS) asked if there was any research on the quality of service that related to drop off in mode share. Steve Polzin (USF) indicated that longer distance trips people tend to value quality of service as opposed to short trips and also look at the amenities at the stops.
    - Steve Polzin (USF) mentioned that T-BEST was built to be sensitive to walk access and because it is not network and trip table based, park-and-ride is a flag and not behaviorally based. Future improvements include looking into incorporating APC data.
    - Dan MacMurphy (Traf-O-Data) asked if trails etc. are part of the T-BEST network. Steve Polzin (USF) mentioned that it is a based on straight line distances only. He suggested that the focus should be on first getting the transit service quality up and then other features can be incorporated.
    - Scott Seeburger (FDOT D4) asked if the committee has a desire to integrate advancements of T-BEST into FSUTMS. He tasked the committee members to think about how to take advantage of these developments.

  2) Transit Model Update (Rosella Picado, PB Americas)
    - Dan MacMurphy (Traf-o-Data) gave an overview of how the implementation of the updated transit model is going on in Polk County. He mentioned that they were trying to calibrate university trips, and is very happy that there is no longer a gravity model. He also mentioned that they are trying to figure out how to calibrate mode choice and are working on reporting features. Overall the beta testing in Polk is going fine with better reporting with support from FDOT CO and trying to finish model calibration and validation.

- o Scott Seeburger (FDOT D4) asked if the committee feels there is need to develop a strategy for implementation by model/urban area type. Since concerns regarding costs, implementation etc. were expressed the committee needs to decide how to move forward.
- o Mike Escalante (Gainesville MPO) suggested that the model should be able to distinguish between the transit coercive (have cars but forced to take transit due to parking not available) versus transit captive.

3) **Data Driven Methodology for Small Starts Transit Corridor Studies (Ashutosh Kumar, AECOM)**
   - o Scott Seeburger (FDOT D4) asked for more details about the on/off survey and corridor specific data. Ashu Kumar (AECOM) said that the method creates a trip table more representative of the sample. And the data is a mix of typical O/D data with ons/offs and APC data.
   - o Rosella Picado (PB) asked if it is similar to a destination choice model. Dave Schmitt (AECOM) mentioned that the objective is to serve existing riders better. Implemented in different cities and that FTA likes it.
   - o Steve Polzin (USF) asked how fare issues are treated since there are multiple fare modes and how does the model capture/understand these.
   - o Dan MacMurphy (Traf-o-Data)suggested talking about implications of MAP 21. Dave Schmitt (AECOM) mentioned that we still need user benefits but the focus is on cost/trip. User benefits will be useful for model & project QC POV but not from a project justification POV.

Action Items
- o Committee to decide how to incorporate T-BEST with FSUTMS
- o Committee to decide strategies on how best to implement transit model updates.
- o Next meeting in February/March

GIS Committee Meeting
Nellie Fernandez, Palm Beach MPO
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- Discussion items
  - o **MIXS Update, Iler Bejleri (UF)**
  - o Frank Tabatabaee (FDOT CO) asked Ilir Bejleri (UF) to mention the relationship between MIXS and the cloud. Ilir mentioned that the work being done lends itself to this approach. Easier to upload/download via the cloud and MIXS will be easier migration to cloud based modeling. Finalize the structure and add more models to it
  - o Has it been tested with transit? Not yet tested but plan to be tested with SERPM. Nellie Fernandez (Palm Beach MPO) mentioned that Ilir's group will conflate the network from GTFS to NAVTEQ.
  - o Mike Escalante (Gainesville MPO) asked how will TAZs, when they are aggregated from model to regional to statewide impact model results. Ilir said that the zones will remain as they are and will require more thought is required. Currently there is consideration of parent child framework but that is not trivial.
  - o Mike Escalante (Gainesville MPO) does the NavTeq coverage have all roads or is it missing local roads. Ilir mentioned that it is constantly updated. Transit is being incorporated into MIXS as a test project in SERPM and it will take the GTFS and convert it to MIXS and then NavTeq.

- o Gabe Mathews (CDM Smith) mentioned that GTFS is now the gold standard for transit and has all the information available for building the routes and showing it on the network.
- o **GIS Committee Mission and Strategic Plan**
- o Nellie Fernandez (Palm Beach MPO) asked everyone to participate and give input on what is the need of the modeling community and assist with the GIS committee strategic plan.
- o Interface with the data committee to see how they can work together.
- o Frank Tabatabaee (FDOT CO) asked whether the GIS community has the resources to provide this oversight. Ilir Bejleri (UF) asked if the thought was on standards for the broader community. Nellie Fernandez (Palm Beach MPO) clarified that the resolution was specific to projects with a GIS component that were initiated by the MTF and funded by FDOT CO.
- o Frank Tabatabaee (FDOT CO) mentioned that it is necessary to increase awareness about projects happening at the districts.
- o Sue Faulkner (Collier MPO) asked if information can be shared that led to the adoption of the resolution. Nellie Fernandez (Palm Beach MPO) mentioned that previous research projects have not been used and adopting this resolution will help advance the adoption of these research projects by the MTF community.
- o Ilir Bejleri (UF) mentioned that there needs to be a better job of communicating and coordinating among the different communities of the MTF.
- o Scott Seeburger (FDOT D4) mentioned the need for coordination is critical, have periodic conversations to discuss what each committee s doing. Official review and oversight group might be too strong. Incompatibility of zone systems requires the need for standardization. Scott Seeburger (FDOT D4) suggested the language be revised to read "**The MTF GIS committee should serve as the MTF clearinghouse for GIS and Visualization projects provided and funded through FDOT Central Office.**
- o Mike Escalante (Gainesville MPO) suggested not using the word visualization as it is too general.
- o Nellie Fernandez (Palm Beach MPO) proposed having more face to face meetings via the various model user groups to determine how various communities were using GIS in their model stream.

Action Items
- o Update the resolution before the Dec 6, 2012 Full MTF meeting.
- o Continue work on the strategic plan.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 PM