



Transit and Rail Committee Meeting Notes

November 8, 2010

Attendees

- Jon Weiss (FDOT D5)
- Vidya Mysore (FDOT CO)
- Terry Corkery (FDOT CO)
- Diana Fields (FDOT CO)
- Vladimir Majano (FDOT CO)
- Diane Quigley (FDOT CO)
- Dan Harris (FDOT CO)
- Min-Tang Li (FDOT D4)
- Derek Muira (FDOT D4)
- Neelam Fatima (St. Lucie MPO)
- Bud Whitehead (Hillsborough MPO)
- Sunil Saha (Corradino)
- Jeannette Berk (API)
- Quan Han (BCC)
- Chrissie Sherman (Gannett Fleming)
- Myung Sung (Gannett Fleming)
- Ashutosh Kumar (AECOM)
- Dave Schmitt (AECOM)
- Dave Powers (WSA)
- Steve Ruegg (PB)
- Matthew Martimo (Citilabs)
- Sheldon Harrison (Cambridge Systematics)
- Krishnan Viswanathan (Cambridge Systematics)

Committee Business

Jon Weiss went over the minutes of the last meeting and as per Jon there were no action items that came up from that meeting. Vladimir Majano requested that the meeting minutes be posted to FSUTMS online.

Intercity Passenger Forecasting

Jon Weiss went over the Intercity Passenger Forecasting (ICPF) statement and the purpose of the document was to clarify the need for intercity passenger forecasting. The document is aimed towards decision makers and makes the case as to why there is a need for intercity passenger forecasts that are defensible. Steve Ruegg summarized the ICPF statement and laid out the groundwork for pursuing the effort.

Dave Powers indicated that the document does not seem to recognize the existing studies for the Tampa-Orlando leg and the Orlando-Miami study. Dave Powers suggested that the existing models might offer some insights into existing demand and what will happen in the future. He also suggested that while the models themselves are not transferable, the procedures can potentially be transferred.

As per Dave Powers the distinctions between investment and planning grades are getting blurred. One of the major innovations is to use cell phone data. Major effort in Florida has been to capture seasonal affects and data has been collected multiple times of the year to account for seasonal affects.

Jon Weiss asked Vladimir Majano if CO is looking at ways to gather this information. Dave Powers mentioned that they worked with AirSage to get the cell phone data and the pilot study report is expected in Feb 2011. As per Dave Powers, there are commercial secret issues that are being resolved recognizing that most of the information is coming to FDOT. The expectation is that the data will produce work commute trip tables, visitor trip tables, and resident trip tables and this dataset will be worth exploring as FDOT dwells deeper into ICPF.



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Jon asked the group regarding the next steps for the document. Suggestions included incorporating Dave Power's comments and developing scope of work. A need was also felt to back it up with travel data. Ashutosh suggested including travel data from the National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), Census Transportation Planning Package (CTPP), visitor surveys or other sources. Dave Powers suggested including data from the FOX survey.

Steve Ruegg mentioned that he did not want to put much technical detail into the document and moving forward felt that the data elements should be used in the business plan.

Terry Corkery asked if the plan was to take the document to the full MTF. Dan Harris mentioned that it was unclear who the target audience for the document was and there is a need to nail down and define the needs before proceeding further.

Jon Weiss mentioned that the business plan will flesh out more details before the scope is developed. Dave Powers mentioned that FDOT senior management should not be blindsided by a document which does not allude to other studies around the state.

Jeannette Berk mentioned the need for any new data is useful towards LRTP efforts and has to be consistent with the MPOs long range plan. The group felt that there was a need to share data and processes between various planning initiatives. In this context, the question arose on how the document fits in with some of the planning efforts around the state. The question of adding existing studies should be resolved either at the full MTF or another venue.

Business Plan for ICPF Model

The business plan will be a document that will put in place what needs to be done to forecast intercity passenger movements. The business plan will dwell upon the modes, timings, data needs, and basic framework of what the ICPF model will do and define a performance specification for the model. Steve Ruegg suggested having it done by spring 2011. Dave Powers mentioned that WSA would be happy to present on cell phone data as a source of OD matrices.

HSR industry forum

Jon Weiss asked if any members were aware of the agenda for the HSR forum and whether there was some level of policy/technical discussion. Bud Whitehead mentioned that it was more policy oriented and mentioned that any products that come out of the forum be included in the ICPF business plan.

FSUTMS Transit Model Update

The immediate need for the FSUTMS transit model update was to improve AA/New Starts related applications. Steve Ruegg went over the scope outline for good practice and what was acceptable to FTA. As part of this effort, there is a need to include station access/egress information. Vladimir Majano proposed that other consultants who worked on the projects around the state be included in the discussions.

As per Vidya Mysore, there was a need to move fast to get the funds encumbered and to ensure FTA involvement. Dan Harris suggested that it might be worth having a meeting with PTO to refine and clarify the scope further.



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Vladimir Majano asked if it is possible to continue working in parallel with the Transit Model update and the ICPF. He suggested having PTO take over and focus on the ICPF business plan. Jon Weiss stated that the schedule is such that it might be possible that the 2 studies will complement each other.

MTF schedule

Jon Weiss went over the MTF agenda. Dan Harris mentioned that the PTO effort is complete and it will be worth having a short presentation on the work done by Gannett Fleming (GF). Steve Ruegg mentioned that the 4 to 5 PM would be mainly devoted to MAC with some time towards the end to discuss the ICPF.

Jeannette Berk suggested discussing the new transit model update followed by Gannett Fleming's presentation. As per Dan Harris, the work being done by GF is critical to PB's work and it might make more sense for GF to present first but will defer to Vidya regarding scheduling.

Jeannette Berk asked if there was a chance to review the scope and Jon Weiss mentioned that it was his goal to circulate the scope before the MTF.