CITILABS DELIVERS CUBE 5 TO FLORIDA
CUBE NOW INCORPORATES ESRI'S ARCGIS TECHNOLOGY
By: Michael Clarke, Citilabs

Citilabs delivered Cube 5 to Florida, the latest version of the transportation modeling software. This new version of Cube employs ESRI's ArcGIS technology, providing users significant advancements in productivity, analysis, and data-sharing. Cube users will now be able to store transportation networks as ESRI geodatabases, utilizing ESRI feature classes. By storing the data within a geodatabase, the user no longer needs to move data back and forth between Cube and ArcGIS: both software systems use the same file.

The new functions available in Cube 5 continue the strategic integration of tools necessary for transportation agencies and consultants. This software release fulfills Citilabs' promise to our users in Florida. We look forward to working with our Florida clients to understand the power provided with this integration.

Cube 5 allows an existing Cube user the choice to keep the traditional Cube networks or to convert all the data to an ArcGIS personal geodatabase. This capability makes it much easier to use data with ArcGIS applications and Cube applications. This is a two-way capability, so information generated or stored in a Cube model can be passed to an ArcGIS application for further processing and analysis. Conversely, transportation or land use information stored in a geodatabase can be transparently passed to a Cube model. For agencies with significant commitments to ESRI

software and employee training in this area, the improved productivity offered by Cube 5's ability to directly process and store geodatabases will enhance the return on their GIS investments.

Cube 5 users gain access to additional features in the following areas highlighted below.

GIS/Modeling Teamwork

Data from the GIS department can be used directly in Cube transportation models and, data estimated using Cube transportation models can be sent to the GIS department all using a common geodatabase and MXD files.

Sharing Results with Other Applications

All results from Cube transportation models may be stored in the ESRI geodatabase format, enabling the sharing of results with other ESRI-based applications.

In This Newsletter:
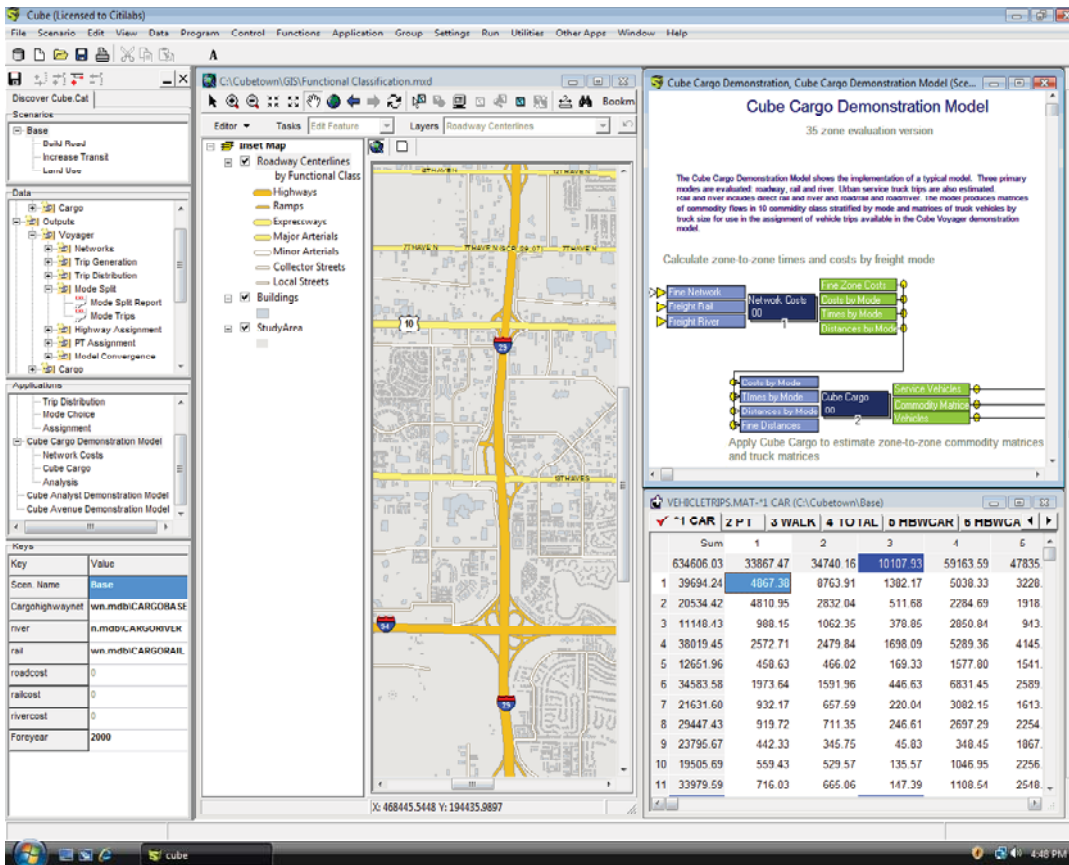
WWW._____.COM

2008-2009 FSUTMS Workshop Schedule is now available on page 7 or online at www.FSUTMSOnline.net

Creating and Printing Beautiful Maps

- Develop road signs and shields using roadway and intersection attributes

- Use the ESRI library of drawing styles and colors, north arrows, scales bars, and legends

- Use advanced labeling functions including one label/many features and curved labels

- Print multiple data frames on the same page

- Use map mark-up tools

Citilabs thoroughly tested Cube 5 in a 3-stage beta program, which included both highway and transit networks in the geodatabase. "Our usage tests included users from several MPOs and US state DOTs as well as many consultants in Europe, Asia and North America," said Matthew Martimo, Citilabs Director of Development. "I am very pleased to help deliver this to our existing users, and I hope this ground-breaking integration of transportation models and ArcGIS will tempt some new transportation professionals to try Cube for the first time."

On July 17, 2008, the FDOT Systems Planning Office sent copies of FSUTMS/Cube 5 to all registered users from public agencies. For further information about FSUTMS/Cube 5, contact Yongqiang Wu at the Systems Planning Office (yongqiang.wu@dot.state.fl.us).

Improved Tools for Data Editing and Analysis

- Save transportation figures such as desire lines as feature classes and store them in the geodatabase

- Edit feature classes and shapefiles using transportation modeling topology rules

- Use shaped networks with incorporated shape points

- Create new shaped features while overlaying CAD files

- Select and simultanously edit multiple features

- Search and find anything on the map

- Set any projection and project on-the-fly

- Full support for Mr Sid and ECW formats

- Measuring tools

FDOT EXPRESS BUS SURVEY CONDUCTED TO SUPPORT TBARTA MASTER PLAN

By Kasey Cursey, AICP, Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Introduction

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 7 recently sponsored an express bus survey to support planning efforts for the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA). The State legislature created TBARTA in 2007 to serve transportation needs in seven counties: Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota. The Authority can plan, design, finance, construct, operate, maintain, and manage the public transportation and roadway systems it develops.

TBARTA must create a regional transportation Master Plan by July 2009, as required by the legislation. The Master Plan will include transit projects to meet the region's growing needs and include a financing plan and implementation strategy. The focus of the plan is transit projects that complement the region's network of highways. Over the next several months, TBARTA is conducting the master planning process in these sequential steps. TBARTA is (1) focusing on identifying significant "connections" in the region; (2) selecting the most effective technology or service type; (3) considering several options such as increasing local bus service, bus rapid transit, new express toll lanes, and passenger rail; and (4) testing the choices developed through research and public input.

TBARTA selected FDOT's West Central Florida Regional Planning Model (WCFRPM) as the travel demand modeling tool. In light of changing travel patterns due to the increased price of gas and other highway network improvements, the FDOT funded an on-board express bus survey to update the travel demand characteristics of the model for the TBARTA Master Plan.

Various agencies and consulting firms that participate on the TBARTA Team designed and implemented the on-board express bus survey during June 2008. The surveyors collected patron information from express bus riders using the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) and the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) bus systems. The FDOT will use the results to validate the premium transit service for the West Central Florida Regional Planning Model. Survey highlights and initial findings are presented in the following paragraphs.

TBARTA Express Bus Survey – Highlights

HART and PSTA provide express bus service during the weekdays. All fourteen express bus routes were surveyed over a three-day span:

- Tuesday June 24, 2008
- Wednesday June 25, 2008
- Thursday June 26, 2008

The surveyors rode the HART and PSTA express bus routes from 5:20 AM to 12:00 noon. The survey effort included 14 express routes and 28 park-and-ride lots.

The TBARTA Team designed the Express Bus Survey effort to include unique features that would improve the overall results. Professional planners conducted the on-board surveys rather than temporary help. The surveyors were educated on the significance of the TBARTA project and trained to assist bus patrons with the survey instrument. The survey instrument did not include a mail-back option, so interviewers were trained to review the results on the bus quickly and help patrons complete questions more accurately, if possible. A copy of the survey instrument (distributed in both English and Spanish) is provided as **Figure 1**, page 4.

The survey effort also included a park-and-ridelot survey. The surveyors collected data at each PNR lot to help cross-check the information given on the bus. For example, the surveyors noted at each lot how many of the patrons drove a car, carpooled, walked, biked, were dropped off, or transferred from another bus.

Preliminary Results

Gannett Fleming, Inc. compiled the survey data for the TBARTA Team. A brief summary is provided below.

Origin/Destination Data – As expected, the initial data indicated that 86% of the patrons began the trip at home and over 90% of the patrons were riding the bus to work. The patrons accessed the bus in many ways: 64% of the riders drove and parked a car, 13% of the riders walked to the stop, 11% of the riders were dropped off, and the remaining riders rode a bike or carpooled. Upon reaching the downtown transfer centers, 85% of the patrons

completed the trip at their final destination by walking from the bus stop, 7% of the riders transferred to another bus, 3% of the riders biked, and a small percentage of the riders were picked up by car.

Demographic Data – The data collected indicated that 89% of the bus riders have a valid driver's license and 78% of the bus riders have a vehicle available if they choose not to use the bus. The most common answer to household income was $50,001 to $70,001. The data showed that commuter bus riders use the bus an average of 4 to 5 days a week. The raw data illustrates that a majority of the express bus patrons are considered "choice riders," versus "captive riders."

Question 13 is, "How long have you been using the public transit system to make this trip?" The raw data for this question shows 65% of the patrons interviewed started using the system less than two years ago. Out of this 65% of new riders, 35% are new to the system in the last six months!

The survey results indicate the potential usage for premium transit if a well-designed transit system is provided, especially with recent gas price increases. This data will be used to update the WCFRPM for the TBARTA study and future alternative analysis.

Additional information about the express bus survey is available by contacting Kasey Cursey (Gannett Fleming, Inc.) at kcursey@gfnet.com. TBARTA Master Plan information is available on Web site: www.TBARTA.com.

Figure 1. Express Bus Survey

Figure 1. Express Bus Survey

INTRODUCING THE NEW
CENTRAL FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GROUP

By: Betty McKee, FDOT, District 5

In late 2007, the Florida Department of Transportation, District 5, reorganized the FSUTMS Users' Group and gave it a new name, the Central Florida Transportation Planning Group (CFTPG). The purpose of the users' group is to address project applications through technical presentations relating to travel demand modeling, transportation planning, growth management, and other transportation planning topics.

The main focus for the Central Florida Transportation Planning Group is "How Shall We Grow." Previous meeting topics included Commuter Rail in Transportation, Visual Techniques and Policy, and Growth Management. Approximately 100 persons attended the Growth Management meeting on July 17, 2008.

The Group meets quarterly and all are welcome. The meetings are held at the Florida Department of Transportation, District 5 Urban Office, Lake Apopka Conference Room, 133 South Semoran Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32807 from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2008 and the topic is ITS and Emergency Evacuation.

For additional information or to add your contact information to the database, please contact Betty McKee by email: **betty.mckee@dot.state.fl**.

THE NEXT TRB TRANSPORTATION PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONFERENCE

The 12th TRB Transportation Planning Applications Conference has been moved from Atlanta, Georgia to Houston, Texas. The Conference is now scheduled for May 2009 with the date and hotel to be announced by August 15, 2008.

The TRB Transportation Planning Applications Conference, held every other year since 1987, provides a forum for the exchange of workable ideas, methodologies, and experiences in all areas of transportation planning. The Conference will feature presentations chosen from abstracts that offer practical and innovative solutions to contemporary planning challenges. Planning policies, planning procedures, and technical analysis methods will be addressed.

The Call for Abstracts for the Conference is posted on the website at www.trb-appcon.org. The closing date for abstract submittal is September 15, 2008. Abstract information can be entered on the website. If you have any questions about the abstracts, please contact Rob Schiffer, Conference Technical Chair, via email at rschiffer@camsys.com or telephone at 850-219-6388.

FSUTMS USERS' GROUP MEETING DATES
http://www.fsutmsonline.net/index.php?/user_groups_pages/user_groups_pages/

Local FSUTMS users' groups have been formed to provide a forum to facilitate and promote understanding and proper application of the models. These groups maintain mailing lists and hold regular meetings that usually feature one or more guest presenters. Meeting dates are provided below.

The **Panhandle Transportation Applications and FSUTMS Users' Group** resides in the Panhandle of Northwest Florida. Sixteen counties are represented, including four MPO/TPO urban areas and two planning councils. Meetings, when scheduled, are usually held on the same day as the quarterly MPO meetings and are held at the Washington County Public Library, 1444 Jackson Avenue (U.S. Hwy. 90), Chipley, FL from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. A notice will be sent to members prior to users' group meetings. For additional information, please contact **Linda Little** by email: linda.little@dot.state.fl.us. No meetings are scheduled at this time.

The **Northeast Florida Transportation Applications Forum** is jointly organized by the FDOT, District 2 Planning Office and the First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization. The meetings are held at the First Coast MPO facility on 1022 Prudential Drive downtown Jacksonville. The meetings are open to the public and private sector. Professionals are encouraged to either bring their own lunch or order pizza by the slice. For additional information concerning the Forum, please contact **Milton Locklear** by email: milton.locklear@dot.state.fl.us. Scheduled meeting date:

Thursday, September 18, 2008

The **Central Florida Transportation Planning Group** meets quarterly to provide presentations on travel demand modeling, transportation planning, and growth management topics. The meetings are brown bag and all are welcome. The meetings are held at the FDOT, District 5 Urban Office, Lake Apopka Conference Room, 133 South Semoran Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32807 from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. For additional information, please contact **Betty McKee** by email: betty.mckee@dot.state.fl.us. Scheduled meeting date:

Thursday, October 16, 2008

The **Southwest Florida Users' Group** meets at the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, 1105 Taylor Road, Suite G, Punta Gorda. For additional information, please contact at **Jim Baxter** (863) 519-2562.

The **Tampa Bay Applications Group (TBAG)** is a transportation planning users' group which meets quarterly to hear speakers address technical issues on travel demand modeling and project applications. Previous meeting topics, newsletters and presentations are available on the www.tbrta.com website under TBAG Archives. The meetings are brown bag and are held at the Florida Department of Transportation, District 7 Office, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa, Florida, 33612 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The meetings are free and open to all transportation planning professionals. If you are interested in receiving meeting notices, the TBAG newsletter and other users' group information, please contact **Danny Lamb** by email: daniel.lamb@dot.state.fl.us. Scheduled meeting dates:

Thursday, August 21, 2008
Thursday, October 23, 2008
Monday, December 8, 2008

The primary objective of the **Southeast Florida FSUTMS Users Group** is to promote understanding and proper application of FSUTMS to the solution of transportation planning and engineering problems. The goal of the group is to enhance the accuracy and reliability of local travel demand models. Membership shall be granted any time during the year to interested individuals involved in FSUTMS applications. General membership meetings will be held quarterly. Special meetings may be held at such other times as considered necessary by the members. Meetings are tentatively scheduled to be held at the FDOT-D4 (Headquarter or Ft. Lauderdale Operations Center) Auditorium from 9:30 AM to noon. For additional information, please contact **Min-Tang Li** at FDOT District 4 at (954) 777-4652. Scheduled meeting dates:

Friday, Aug. 15, 2008 (Broward Operations Center Auditorium)
Friday, Nov. 14, 2008 (D4 HQ 1st Floor Auditorium)
Friday, Feb. 6, 2009 (D4 HQ 1st Floor Auditorium)
Friday, May 8, 2009 (D4 HQ 1st Floor Auditorium)

2008-2009 FSUTMS CUBE WORKSHOPS & SCHEDULE
For workshop descriptions and to register, visit
http://www.fsutmsonline.net/modeling_training.aspx

FSUTMS/Voyager modeling training workshops are offered by FDOT to the Florida transportation modeling community. All workshops are offered on-site in either Orlando or Clearwater. Additionally, the Executive Summary Modeling Workshop will be offered on-line within the next year.

Training workshops qualify for professional development hour (PDH) credit for Florida professional engineers. The number of PDH credits for each workshop is equal to the number of classroom hours. If you would like to obtain PDH credits, please provide your PE registration number to the Systems Planning Office prior to the workshop. Currently, AICP CM credits are not provided. There is no fee to attend the workshops; however, registration is required. **An automated email will be sent confirming your registration. A seat assignment will be sent at a later date.**

FSUTMS Comprehensive Modeling Workshop
Date: September 29–October 3, 2008
Times: Mon. 1:00 p.m. – Fri. 12:00 p.m.
Location: Embassy Suites Orlando –
                 International Drive/Jamaican Court
                 8250 Jamaican Court
                 Orlando, FL 32819
Reservations: 1-407-345-8250
Rate: $99/night
Group Code: FDOT
Res. Deadline: 9/15/08

FSUTMS Transit Modeling Workshop
Date: October 20-23, 2008
Times: Mon. 1:00 p.m. – Thurs. 12:00 p.m.
Location: Homewood Suites
                 2233 Ulmerton Rd.
                 Clearwater, FL 33762
Reservations: 1-727-573-1500
Rate: $109/night
Group Code: FDOT
Res. Deadline: 10/6/08

Executive Summary Modeling Workshop
Date: December 10, 2008
Times: Weds. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Embassy Suites Orlando –
                 International Drive/Jamaican Court
                 8250 Jamaican Court
                 Orlando, FL 32819
Reservations: 1-407-345-8250
Rate: $99/night
Group Code: FDOT
Res. Deadline: 11/26/08

FSUTMS Comprehensive Modeling Workshop
Date: January 5-9, 2009
Times: Mon. 1:00 p.m. – Fri. 12:00 p.m.
Location: Homewood Suites
                 2233 Ulmerton Rd.
                 Clearwater, FL 33762
Reservations: 1-727-573-1500
Rate: $109/night
Group Code: FDOT
Res. Deadline: 12/22/08

FSUTMS/Voyager Scripting Workshop
Date: February 10-13, 2009
Times: Tues. 1:00 p.m. – Fri. 12:00 p.m.
Location: Homewood Suites
                 8745 International Drive
                 Orlando, FL 32819
Reservations: 1-888-697-8745
Rate: $99/night
Group Code: FDOT
Res. Deadline: 1/27/09

FSUTMS Transit Modeling Workshop
Date: March 23-26, 2009
Times: Mon. 1:00 p.m. – Thurs. 12:00 p.m.
Location: Homewood Suites
                 8745 International Drive
                 Orlando, FL 32819
Reservations: 1-888-697-8745
Rate: $99/night
Group Code: FDOT
Res. Deadline: 3/9/09

Executive Summary Modeling Workshop

Date: April 21, 2009
Times: Tues. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Homewood Suites
                   2233 Ulmerton Rd.
                   Clearwater, FL 33762
Reservations: 1-727-573-1500
Rate: $109/night
Group Code: FDOT
Res. Deadline: 4/7/09

FSUTMS Comprehensive Modeling Workshop

Date: May 4-8, 2009
Times: Mon. 1:00 p.m. – Fri. 12:00 p.m.
Location: Homewood Suites
                   8745 International Drive
                   Orlando, FL 32819
Reservations: 1-888-697-8745
Rate: $99/night
Group Code: FDOT
Res. Deadline: 4/20/09

Cube 5 Workshop

Date: June 16-17, 2009
Times: Tues. 1:00 p.m. – Weds. 5:00 p.m.
                   (to be confirmed)
Location: Homewood Suites
                   2233 Ulmerton Rd.
                   Clearwater, FL 33762
Reservations: 1-727-573-1500
Rate: $109/night
Group Code: FDOT
Res. Deadline: 6/2/09

For further information please contact:

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