

# TBAG

TAMPA BAY APPLICATIONS GROUP

An Open Forum for  
Transportation-Related Issues  
February 2006



## “FROM THE CHAIR”

By: Michael Dorweiler, AICP  
2006 Chairman for the Tampa Bay Applications Group

The new TBAG 2006 calendar is already in place and I want to invite all of our members to attend our first exciting meeting on **February 23, 2006**. We will be covering Regional Transportation Planning and Modeling, as detailed on page 4.



In addition, I have included our TBAG meeting dates for the year. Please take a moment to put them on your calendar.

- February 23, 2006
- May 18, 2006
- August 24, 2006
- November 2, 2006

The 2006 FSUTMS Cube Training Workshops include an **FSUTMS Comprehensive Modeling Workshop in Tampa on May 15-19, 2006**, see page 6 for more details. This training uses Cube Voyager and will be a very good introduction to the new upcoming software. Seating is filling quickly, so don't delay in registering for the workshop.

We had a very successful 2005 Year and the TBAG year-end banquet at Landry's Seafood House was an appropriate way to thank all of our presenters and volunteers.



Secretary Skelton was the guest speaker at our TBAG banquet.

Secretary Don Skelton, Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven, was our guest speaker. We were glad to have the chance to thank Secretary Skelton for his continued support and interest in the topics covered by our TBAG presenters.

The Applications Group exists because of the volunteer time and effort of our transportation planning community. Through generous award contributions from our supporting members, we were able to recognize all of our excellent presenters and authors. Please see page 5 for a list of **TBAG award recognitions for 2005**.



This year's banquet also included entertainment from an emerging rock group: **Dr. TBAG and the Peak Periods**. Dr. TBAG's Greatest Hits is bound to make the Top Ten of some obscure chart, especially if the Peak Periods can work on their karaoke skills!

A big Dr. TBAG thank you to everyone who attended the 2005 TBAG banquet, in particular our banquet sponsors! Together we are better, and our transportation planning community continues to make this a successful FSUTMS group.



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# Don't Worry, Be Data Happy! FloridaTravelSurveys.Org is Here...

By: Ram M. Pendyala and Amlan Banerjee, Dept of Civil and Environmental Engineering,  
University of South Florida, Tampa

The transportation modeling and planning community in Florida relies heavily on travel survey data to develop, calibrate, and validate travel demand forecasting models; to evaluate alternatives; assess impacts of policies and multimodal plans; and quantify travel demand by purpose, time, location, and mode. Various metropolitan areas and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Districts have spent considerable resources over the past 10-15 years collecting detailed travel survey data to serve as a basis for developing accurate travel demand forecasting models within a FSUTMS context. More recently, there has been widespread interest in the development and validation of transit models that require reliable and accurate on-board transit survey data for calibrating mode choice models and checking ridership forecasts.

Despite the widespread interest and the explicit recognition of the importance of collecting local travel survey data, many small- and medium-sized areas simply cannot afford such data collection efforts. Travel surveys are expensive, labor intensive, complex, and time-consuming. The Statewide Model Task Force (MTF) established the Travel Survey and Data Committee in May 2004 to help facilitate the collection, sharing, and analysis of travel survey data in the state.

## Your online travel surveys resource [www.floridatravelsurveys.org](http://www.floridatravelsurveys.org)

One of the initiatives of the MTF Data Committee is the establishment of an online survey data clearinghouse that will serve as a data archive and resource for the modeling and planning community in the state. The online resource, [www.floridatravelsurveys.org](http://www.floridatravelsurveys.org), is being developed with funding from the FDOT Central Office. The website will include data sets from recent household travel surveys and on-board transit surveys conducted in the state. In addition to the actual (cleaned and documented) data sets, the website will offer an exhaustive set of tabulations, charts, graphs, and descriptive statistics for a wide variety of socio-economic, demographic, and activity-travel characteristics.

At this time, the website is live and a comprehensive analysis of the Northeast Florida Household Travel Survey sample has been completed and compiled on the site.

Within the next month, the website will feature data sets and analysis results for the 1996 Tampa Bay Household Travel Survey, 1999 Southeast Florida Regional Travel Characteristics Study, and the 2001 National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) Florida sample. Following that, data sets and analysis results from a series of recent on-

*Travel Surveys - Continued On Page 3*

Table 1.  
Distribution of Households by Income and Vehicle Ownership  
(Northeast Florida Household Travel Survey, 2000)

Income	Group Statistic	Motor Vehicle Ownership					Total
		0	1	2	3	4+	
\$0-19,999	Count	97	471	256	50	30	904
	Within Income Group	10.70%	52.10%	28.30%	5.50%	3.30%	100.00%
	Within Vehicle Ownership	78.90%	38.00%	14.70%	8.90%	12.60%	23.10%
	% of total	2.50%	12.00%	6.50%	1.30%	0.80%	23.10%
\$20,000-29,999	Count	18	266	189	40	7	520
	Within Income Group	3.50%	51.20%	36.30%	7.70%	1.30%	100.00%
	Within Vehicle Ownership	14.60%	21.50%	10.80%	7.10%	2.90%	13.30%
	% of total	0.50%	6.80%	4.80%	1.00%	0.20%	13.30%

**Travel Surveys - continued from Page 2**

board transit surveys will be made available at the site. Finally, the site will be completed by providing a set of "best practice" survey instruments and procedures that areas may use when conducting a local survey or data collection effort. The website is easy-to-use with descriptive statistics organized into various categories including "Demographics," "Trip Production," "Trip Distribution," "Mode Split," "Time of Day," and "Activity and Time Use."

Did you know that nearly 80% of households with no vehicles have incomes less than \$20,000 per year? And that only about 10% of households in this income bracket have zero vehicles? If you want to know more about how households are distributed by size, dwelling unit, income, and vehicle ownership in a multidimensional cross-classification context, [www.floridatravelsurveys.org](http://www.floridatravelsurveys.org) is your one-stop shop for the information you need. **Table 1** (on the page 2) shows a small piece of a cross-classification tabulation included at the website.

The website will continue to be updated with new information over the next few months. Comments

**ATTENTION!!!**

**TBAG Year 2006 Meeting Dates:**

**February 23, 2006**

**May 18, 2006**

**August 24, 2006**

**November 2, 2006**

and suggestions are welcome to help make the website a truly useful resource to the community; please convey your suggestions either to **Terry Corkery** at [terrence.corkery@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:terrence.corkery@dot.state.fl.us) or **Ram Pendyala** at [pendyala@eng.usf.edu](mailto:pendyala@eng.usf.edu).

**Regional Reconstruction of I-64  
(St. Louis Urbanized Core):  
Using Transportation Models to Mitigate Congestion**

*By: Todd Brauer, Crawford, Bunte, Brammeier, Inc.*

Beginning late 2006, The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) will redesign and reconstruct 12 miles of I-64, an urban interstate located within the heart of the St. Louis region. The effort is the MoDOT's first design-build project and it includes reconstructing 13 interchanges. The project will include public involvement; travel demand forecasting, traffic simulation and evaluation of construction staging scenarios; and community sensitive aesthetic design. The project website is [www.thenewi-64.org](http://www.thenewi-64.org)

I-64 was originally designed to handle traffic at 45 miles per hour, as the majority of the highway was constructed in the 1940s and 1950s. Today, it carries over 170,000 high-speed vehicles a day. It is "functionally obsolete" and heavily congested. Entrance and exit ramps are short and loop ramps are tight. Hills along the roadway decrease sight distances and increase stopping distances, especially in rain or snow. I-64 has one of the highest accident rates within the region.

Originally planned to be completed in 18 years, the design-build schedule will complete reconstruction in three years. Various management of traffic plans have been considered, including a full-closure of the entire highway for the extent of the project.

Four separate consultant teams, in cooperation with adjunct communities, will develop management of traffic plans using the latest travel demand forecasting and traffic simulation techniques – including some we haven't thought of yet. The project and the travel demand forecasting techniques will be addressed at the TBAG meeting on February 23, 2006. Like open heart survey, planners will need to determine the best way to divert traffic to other "arteries" without killing the patient.

# ATTENTION



## Tampa Bay Applications Group

**February 23, 2006**

*FDOT District Seven Office from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
(Auditorium Opens at 11:30 a.m.)*



## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & MODELING

**Cassandra Ecker, Carter & Burgess, Inc.**

***Strategic Regional Transit Needs Assessment (SRTNA) - Overview and Unique Features***

The FDOT, Districts Seven and One are working in cooperation to define regional travel patterns, traveler mode choice options, and transit needs and opportunities over the region's eight-county area. The ultimate objective of the SRTNA project is to design an assessment plan that assists the FDOT in prioritizing funding for regional transit infrastructure and service enhancements. This project has provided unique opportunities to engage regional transit shareholders and advocates through a web-based comments collection system website and to incorporate lessons learned from agency experts across the country who have been involved in regional initiatives. This presentation will provide an overview of the SRTNA, as well as highlight unique aspects of coordinating a project of this magnitude.

**Todd Brauer, Crawford, Bunte, Brammeier, Inc.**

***Regional Reconstruction of I-64 (St. Louis Urbanized Core): Using Transportation Models to Mitigate Congestion***

The Missouri of Transportation (MoDOT) is in the process of redesigning 12 miles, including 13 interchanges of I-64, an urban interstate located within the heart of St. Louis. I-64 carries over 175,000 vehicles a day, more than any other interstate in the region. The project includes an EIS document, large amounts of public involvement, travel demand forecasting, traffic simulation and evaluation of proposed design options, community sensitive aesthetic design, and traffic evaluation of construction staging scenarios. This presentation will provide an overview of how transportation models will be used to mitigate congestion during construction, while retaining sensitivity to the needs of the local communities.

**Rich Tillery and Hoyt Davis, Gannett Fleming, Inc.**

***Development of the West Central Florida Regional Planning Model (WCFRPM)***

A regional transportation model encompassing the entire West Central Florida area has been developed to analyze regional traffic patterns. In addition, the WCFRPM is being used as the primary tool for alternative testing in two current regional studies. The WCFRPM includes eleven (11) counties located within FDOT, Districts One and Seven. This presentation will provide an overview of the methodology used to integrate several existing travel demand models to form the new regional model.

# TBAG AWARD RECOGNITIONS FOR 2005



## Best Presentation for 2005

### *Hernando County: Managing Growth along the SR 50 Corridor*

Dennis Dix, Hernando County MPO  
Hugh Pascoe, Planning Advisor for  
Hernando County MPO

## Best Article for 2005

### *Major Transit Survey Effort Completed for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Model*

Cristy Mayer and Mary Ross,  
Gannett Fleming



## Best Presentation With Supporting Article

### *Preserving the Future: The Pasco County Corridor Preservation Program*

David Goldstein, Pasco County  
Attorney's Office  
William E. Roll, Jr., Tindale-Oliver  
and Associates

## Overall Contributions to TBAG During 2005

Grimail Crawford - Mary Stallings,  
Jim Anderson and Jason Collins



## NEW AND IMPROVED RTA WEB SITE!

**TBRTA.com** is home to the new and improved Tampa Bay Regional Transportation Analysis website.

Log in to explore the TBAG Newsletter archives or download the TBRPM model files and documentation.

New features include an interactive site to track model change requests and a user community page where you register your contact information.

The screen capture to the right shows an example of the new model support request function from the RTA web site.

The screenshot shows the RTA Tampa Bay logo on the left and the main header "REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS". Below the header, there is a navigation menu with "Home", "TBRPM 5.1 Downloads", "TBAG Archives", "2000 Urban Area Boundary / Functional Classification Maps", "NEW Model Support Requests", "NEW User Community", and "Contact Us". The main content area is titled "Home > Model Support Requests" and includes a "Request Tracking" section with an "Add New Request" link. Under "Request Tracking", there are checkboxes for "Socio-Economic Changes", "Model Structure Changes", "Network Changes", and "Technical Support", along with a "Refresh" button. Below this is a table titled "Existing Requests" with columns for Request Date, Description, Model Years, Submitted By, Status, Change Date, and Model Version.

Request Date	Description	Model Years	Submitted By	Status	Change Date	Model Version
02-03-06	(Cube, TBRPM v5.1) Hope TBRPM v5.1 can do selected_multiple_zones for DRI study, like for TAZs "1-5, 9, 12-16".	Cube, TBRPM v5.1		Submitted		
02-03-06	(Cube-TBRPM 5.1)Path for Input/Output files in DATA section should be updated to c:\tsums\td7\TBRPM51\CUBE.TPL. Or set path to {SCENARIO_DIR}, it will save efforts to copy revised files to project directory.	Cube-TBRPM 5.1		Submitted		

# 2006 FSUTMS CUBE WORKSHOPS & SCHEDULE

## FSUTMS Comprehensive Modeling Workshop REGISTRATION IS FULL AT THIS TIME

Dates: February 20-24, 2006  
Starting Time: Monday at 1:00 p.m.  
Ending Time: Friday at noon  
Location: Hilton Altamonte Springs  
350 Northlake Boulevard  
Altamonte Springs, FL  
Rate: \$99/night  
Phone: 407-830-1985/1-800-678-4380

**Res Deadline: January 21, 2006**

## FSUTMS Model Scripting Workshop

Dates: April 17-20, 2006  
Starting Time: Monday at 1:00 p.m.  
Ending Time: Thursday at noon  
Location: Marriott Lake Mary  
1501 International Parkway  
Lake Mary, FL 32746  
Rate: \$99/night  
Phone: 1-800-380-7724

**Res Deadline: March 27, 2006**

## FSUTMS Executive Summary Modeling Seminar

Date: May 2, 2006  
Starting Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Ending Time: 5:00 p.m.  
Location: Homewood Suites  
8745 International Drive  
Orlando FL 32819  
Rate: \$99/night  
Phone: 407-248-2232

**Res Deadline: April 15, 2006**

## FSUTMS Comprehensive Modeling Workshop

Dates: May 15-19, 2006  
Starting Time: Monday at 1:00 p.m.  
Ending Time: Friday at noon  
Location: Doubletree Guest Suites  
USF/Busch Gardens Tampa Bay  
11310 N. 30th Street  
Tampa, FL 33612  
Rate: \$99/night  
Phone: 813-971-7690

**Res Deadline: April 30, 2006**

## FSUTMS Model Scripting Workshop

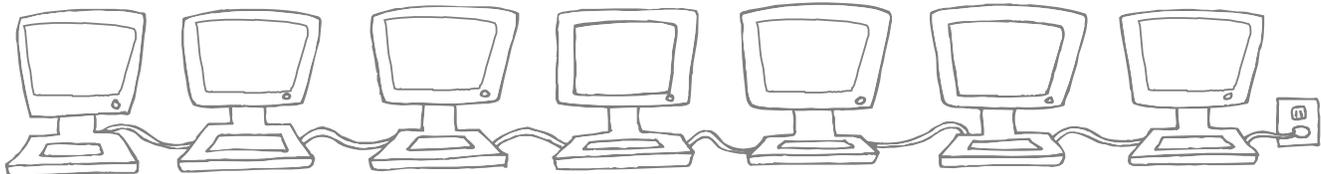
Dates: June 12-15, 2006  
Starting Time: Monday at 1:00 p.m.  
Ending Time: Thursday at noon  
Location: Homewood Suites  
8745 International Drive  
Orlando FL 32819  
Rate: \$99/night  
Phone: 407-248-2232

**Res Deadline: June 1, 2006**

Detailed Workshop Descriptions are available at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/systems/stm/training/default.htm>.

## Registration Information

For registration information, log on to the FDOT Systems Planning Office Model Training Web site: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/systems/stm/training/default.htm>, or contact **Ms. Sandy Colson:** [sandy.colson@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:sandy.colson@dot.state.fl.us), 850-414-4937.



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