

# TBAG

An Open Forum for  
Transportation-Related Issues

TAMPA BAY APPLICATIONS GROUP

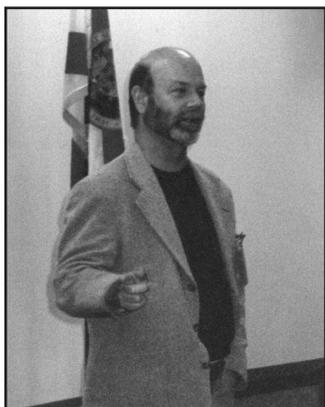
Volume 21 • May 2002

## “FROM THE CHAIR”

by: Christopher Hatton, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.  
2002 Chairman for the Tampa Bay Applications Group

Thanks to all of you who attended our Year 2002 kick-off meeting for the Tampa Bay Applications Group. While the Spring Break traffic around the FDOT-District 7 offices caused some excessive delays (say LOS F?), the program was well worth any inconvenience. Our March 28, 2002 meeting focused on GIS Planning Applications and was attended by almost 60 folks from around the Tampa Bay area.

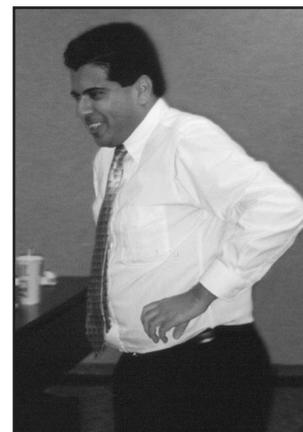
**ATTENTION!!!**  
**WORKSHOP**  
**Land Use and Transportation**  
**May 23, 2002**



Paul Zwick talks to the group about FGDL and GeoPlan's future plans.

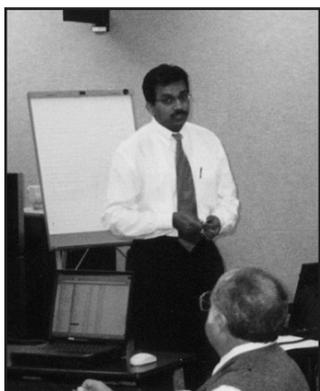
The first presenter was Dr. Paul Zwick (Director of the GeoPlan Center at the University of Florida and Department Chairman for Urban and Regional Planning) who discussed how the data of the Florida Geographic Data Library (FGDL) is being used by FDOT. Dr. Zwick also provided insight into what GeoPlan's intent is for future data and applications.

The next speaker was Imran Ghani (District Modeling Coordinator for FDOT - District 2) whose presentation focused on the customized tools (developed by Fennessy and Associates) being utilized by District 2 to create a transportation network from a GIS database. Mr. Ghani's presentation also included a demonstration on how to use aerials and survey drawings to code future improvements as accurately as possible.



Imran Ghani has a chat with the group after his presentation.

The final presentation was made by Vidya Mysore (FDOT - Systems Planning Office) who enlightened us all with his update on present and future trends of GIS-TM. Mr. Mysore discussed the next GIS-TM upgrade, which will be released on an ArcGIS platform and will focus on a seamless link between model data and other transportation applications.



Vidya Mysore discussing the new GIS-TM upgrade.

A very special “thank you” once again to each of our presenters for their time and outstanding presentations!

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## CLASSES AT USF

### Summer Session A (May 13 - June 21)

EGX CGN 6933 (Ref 52411) Tools for Urban Systems Modeling

Mike Brown, ENB116

Fridays 9 am to 5 p.m.

### Summer Session C (May 13 - July 19)

EGX CGN 4933 (Ref 52413) Transportation and Society

Steve Polzin, CUT202

Tues, Thur 9 am to 11 am

For detailed course and registration information, please call the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at (813) 974-2275.

## TRAVEL MODELING UPDATE FROM TRB

by: Wade White - Gannett Fleming, Inc.

The 81st Annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) meeting took place January 13-17, 2002 in Washington, DC. The annual meeting serves as an opportunity for transportation professionals from around the world to get together to present new ideas, research and methods to approximately 8,000 of their peers.



TRB also acts as a barometer of trends in the travel demand forecasting profession.

One of the main modeling presentations at this year's meeting was a one-day presentation describing the current status of TRANSIMS. TRANSIMS is the next generation travel demand modeling process being developed through funding from FHWA. As with FSUTMS, TRANSIMS is a modeling framework, or a way of performing certain modeling steps. The conceptual framework and initial programming for TRANSIMS were developed by the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which also conducted initial testing of TRANSIMS

in Dallas and Portland. The commercial application of TRANSIMS will be developed by the firm of Price-Waterhouse-Coopers over the next several years with one or more MPOs to be selected by FHWA to participate.

Other modeling topics were presented from both researchers and practitioners via oral presentations and poster sessions. The following list presents, in rank order, the most common travel modeling presentations sponsored by the Passenger Travel Demand Forecasting Committee:

1. Daily, Weekly and Multi-week Travel Activity Analysis
2. Integrated Transport/Land Use Models
3. Auto Ownership Modeling
4. Induced Travel Demand
5. Household Time Allocation Modeling
6. Lifestyle Modeling of Leisure Travel
7. Toll Road Behavior Modeling
8. Real-time Information Decision Making in Route Choice
9. Micro-simulation in Travel Demand Modeling
10. Non-motorized Modes and Neighborhood Accessibility

Should you have questions about these or other TRB presentations, feel free to drop me an E-mail at [wwhite@gfnet.com](mailto:wwhite@gfnet.com).

# BLUE RIBBON PANEL MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO MODEL TASK FORCE

by: Kasey Cursey - Gannett Fleming, Inc.

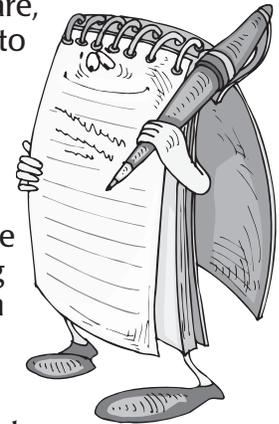
In the March 2002 edition of the TBAG newsletter, it was reported that the Florida Statewide Model Task Force (MTF) is currently in the process of making one of the most important decisions in its history -- a decision to continue using TRANPLAN as the underlying software package on which FSUTMS is built or to migrate to another travel demand software package.

A seven-member Blue Ribbon Panel was assembled in late 2001 to evaluate and compare current travel demand software, including the current TRANPLAN engine that drives FSUTMS. This April, the findings and recommendations of the Panel were presented to the MTF along with a list of important criteria to consider in selecting the final software, as well as a process on how to perform the selection. A description of the list and the process can be found in the document: *Future Direction for Florida's Transportation Models - Report of the Florida Statewide Model Task Force Blue Ribbon Panel*.

As part of the April meeting, the MTF also began forming a Steering Committee based on nominations provided by members. In conjunction with assistance from the FDOT Systems Planning

Office and the University of South Florida, the Committee will be charged with guiding a rigorous evaluation of alternatives throughout this year. The evaluation will include gathering data from vendors and users, conducting interviews regarding key features and the overall capabilities of the software, and applying software to several urban areas.

The April meeting also included group discussions on how to rank the criteria used for the evaluation. The results of the MTF meeting were enough to establish a general direction for the Steering Committee.



For a copy of the Blue Ribbon Panel report listed above, the minutes from the April Model Task Force meeting, or to obtain additional information on the progress of the Steering Committee, please contact Huiwei Shen (FDOT Systems Planning) by E-mail: [huiwei.shen@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:huiwei.shen@dot.state.fl.us) or by phone at (850) 414-4911.

## Upcoming Events

### Freight Modeling Workshop

May 6-8, 2002

Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort  
2637 S. Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118  
Hotel Telephone: (386) 767-7350  
Room Rate: \$80 Per Night  
Start at 1:00 PM Monday (5/6) and  
End at 12:00 PM Wednesday (5/8)

### Basic and Advanced Land Use Modeling Workshop

May 20 - 21, 2002 Basic Land Use Workshop  
May 22, 2002 Advanced Land Use Workshop

Embassy Suites Boca Raton  
661 NW 53rd Street, Boca Raton, Florida 33487  
Hotel Telephone: (561) 994-8200 or (800) Embassy  
Room Rate: \$70 Per Night  
Start at 8:30 AM Monday (5/20) and  
End at 4:30 PM Wednesday (5/22)

### FSUTMS Transit Modeling Workshop

June 3-6, 2002

Homewood Suites  
8745 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819  
Hotel Telephone: (407) 248-2232  
Room Rate: \$85 Per Night  
Start at 1:00 PM Monday (6/3) and  
End at 12:00 PM Thursday (6/6)

Register online for workshops at  
[www11.myflorida.com/planning](http://www11.myflorida.com/planning),  
click on (Training).

If you have further questions, please contact:

Huiwei Shen, FDOT Systems Planning Office  
Phone: (850) 414-4911 • Suncom: 994-4911  
E-mail: [huiwei.shen@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:huiwei.shen@dot.state.fl.us)  
(with a subject line of "Workshop E-mail")

# ATTENTION

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*Bring your lunch and bring a friend to the*

## **TBAG WORKSHOP** **on** **LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION** **MAY 23, 2002**

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

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**Janet Deane (Information Systems - Pinellas County BCC)**  
**Brian Smith (Pinellas County Planning Department)**  
***Internet Access for Pinellas County Property Appraiser Data***

This workshop will demonstrate how to use the Internet to access the Property Appraiser data for Pinellas County. Ms. Deane will discuss what data are available on the public website, and how the County keeps this site updated. In addition, Ms. Deane and Mr. Smith will address other Property Appraiser data and land use data that is maintained by the County, but not posted on the public website.

**Mary Stallings (Grimail Crawford)**  
**Hoyt Davis (Gannett Fleming)**  
***Local and Regional Land Use Databases Available for Counties in FDOT-District 7***

This workshop will include a discussion of the local land use databases available for transportation planning. The session will also address the different formats for each of the counties in District 7. Regional database information, such as existing land use data from SWFWMD, will also be covered.

**Tom Thomson (Hillsborough County Transportation Department)**  
***Hillsborough County Adequate Public Facilities (Concurrency) Methodology***

Recent changes in the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code required modification of the concurrency analysis methodology. The concurrency analysis now uses the updated State definition for de minimis, which limits impacts to no more than 1% of the capacity of the adjacent roadway, with no cumulative trips allowed above 110% of capacity and no additional trips on a hurricane evacuation route. The workshop session will review the methodology and give examples of its application.

**Michael Hallock-Solomon (Gannett Fleming)**  
***Quality Checks for Land Use and Socioeconomic Data***

It is often difficult to analyze newly created or modified ZDATA. This workshop will demonstrate a variety of user-friendly tools to review and quality check land use and socioeconomic data. Tools will include customized spreadsheets, GIS, and the ULAM program.

# BACK TO THE FUTURE IN ST. PETE

by: Bob Rutledge - TBE, Group Inc.

TBE Group, Inc. has been contracted by the City of St. Petersburg to do the Interchange Operational Analysis for the Martin Luther King (MLK) Street Conversion Project. The analysis will focus on changing MLK from a one-way to a two-way facility without procuring additional

right of way. The City of St. Petersburg is considering options for revitalizing the Downtown area along MLK, and hopes that reconstructing MLK to a two-way configuration will help traffic flow and land use access.

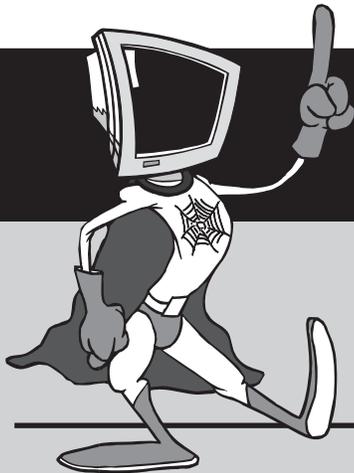
The main analysis goal of the project is to determine the

impact of making these MLK facility improvements on I-175 and I-375 and the respective interchanges, with possible future analysis to determine the affects on the Central Business District and transit usage.

The project will look at both interchanges (Interstates 375 and 175) on MLK St., which are north and south of the City of the St. Petersburg Central Business District. Three alternatives will be analyzed: 1) MLK St. will be converted to a two-way facility and 8th St will remain a one-way facility; 2) both MLK St and 8th St will be converted to two-way facilities; and 3) the no-build alternative. If alternative one or two is chosen, this project could turn back the hands of time to pre-1970 when MLK (also known as 9th St.) was two-way.

The initial data collection has been completed by the City of St. Petersburg. In addition, Judy Lenczyk and Frank Ramirez (Florida Department of Transportation, District 7, Planning Statistics) have provided data for I-375 and I-175 and the respective interchanges.

This project is testing the limits of the CORSIM model due to existing design conditions, such as diagonal parking, left diagonal links, and dropping lanes mid-link. However, the "fatal flaw" for this project would be for the model to produce negative impacts to the ramps connecting I-175 and I-375 with St. Petersburg. Throw into the mix the event traffic from Tropicana Field, and CORSIM has a real stew of alternatives! So, stay tuned for futures progress reports on the project.



## THE WEB WATCHER

With the help of the "Web Watcher" and our readers, this section is dedicated to providing a listing of websites that pertain to TBAG issues.

Property Appraiser data for Counties within FDOT District 7, as well as Department of Revenue and Florida Geographical Data Library sites.

Citrus County Property Appraiser  
<http://www.pa.citrus.fl.us/>

Department of Revenue  
<http://sun6.dms.state.fl.us/dor/property/>

Hernando County Property Appraiser  
<http://www.co.hernando.fl.us/pa/index.htm>

Hillsborough County Property Appraiser  
<http://www.hcpafl.org/>

Pasco County Property Appraiser  
<http://appraiser.pascogov.com/>

Pasco County FTP - Property Appraiser Data online  
<ftp://ftp.pascogov.com/pub/>

Pinellas County Property Appraiser  
<http://pao.co.pinellas.fl.us/>

Florida Geographical Data Library  
<http://www.fgdl.org>

"CHAIR" - Continued From Page 1

Our next meeting will be held on May 23, 2002 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the FDOT - District 7 offices in Tampa. This meeting will be a WORKSHOP on Land Use and Transportation. This topic has been requested by our members for each of the last three years (through our year-end survey) and has traditionally been the largest attended meeting of the year ... so mark your calendars now.

Scheduled to conduct the four workstations are Janet Deane (Pinellas County Information

Systems), Brian Smith (Pinellas County Planning), Tom Thomson (Hillsborough County Transportation Department), Mary Stallings (Grimail Crawford), Hoyt Davis (Gannett Fleming) and Michael Hallock-Solomon (Gannett Fleming). If you would like to read more about the May 23, 2002 workshop, please refer to page 4 for a complete listing of topics.

*I look forward to seeing all of you at this next meeting ... and remember, "It's not just a meeting, it's a workshop!"*

## **BRING A BROWN BAG TO TBAG!**

**August 29, 2002**  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
**Multi-modal Planning**

**October 24, 2002**  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**New Methodologies  
(Workshop)**

### **2002 Awards Banquet (TBA)**

The October meetings is a workshop. If you would like a specific topic covered during the workshop or the other meetings, please call Christopher Hatton at (813) 620-1460.

The Tampa Bay Applications Group Newsletter is published under contract to the FDOT District Seven Planning Office in Tampa. TBAG members contribute all information and material contained in the newsletter. Please contact the editors to submit articles for future issues or to get on the mailing list.

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