Transportation Forecasting Forum
December 11-12, 2025

Speaker Biographies

It's a Bird, It's a Plane, it's AAM

Moderator

Thomas Hill is the State Modeling Manager for the Florida Department of Transportation. Thomas holds both his Undergraduate degree and Master's degree in Urban Planning from Florida State University. During his 24-year career, he has worked in transportation demand forecasting from many perspectives, including local government, private industry, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and state-level positions. Additionally, he is a guest lecturer, contributor, and presenter at workshops, conferences, and universities, with a focus on travel demand modeling applications, microsimulation, and growth management. Thomas is a member of the Census Transportation Planning Package Oversight Board and the Transportation Research Board Microsimulation Committee.

Speakers

Becky Marsey is the Manager of the Systems Forecasting and Trends Office at the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).   Before serving in this role, she was the Manager for the Systems Performance side of the office, where she oversaw the development of the FDOT Source Book, a reliable resource for tracking the performance metrics of Florida's transportation system. Before these roles, Becky worked in the Office of Policy Planning, where she oversaw the development of the Department's federal discretionary grant applications.

Michael Rose is a transportation planner with HDR specializing in travel demand modeling. He has worked in the passenger transportation industry for more than 35 years, with the last 20+ years at HDR. He has expertise in several travel demand modeling software platforms and experience evaluating, improving, and applying travel demand models for transit and highway projects.

Makarand Gawade is a Senior Transportation Planner at HDR with 15 years of experience in transportation planning and data analytics. He has worked on complex data analytics projects associated with statewide and regional plans. Makarand has expertise in development of performance measures for traditional modes and emerging trends which include electric vehicle infrastructure, freight, and other emerging modes. He has authored multiple peer reviewed journal articles and presented them at national conferences. He is an active member of TRB and ITE as well.

Tools to Develop Strategies for Congestion Relief

Moderator

Brittany Nichols (Moderator) is a Transportation Modeler/Planner with the Florida Department of Transportation – District One, where she leads the development and maintenance of the regional travel demand model and provides technical oversight for traffic impact studies, corridor planning, and socioeconomic data validation. With over six years of experience in transportation planning, she has played a key role in streamlining permitting processes, developing GIS-based planning tools, and training stakeholders on modeling methodologies.

Speakers

Dr. Mohammed Hadi, P.E., is a professor and director of the Lehman Center for Transportation Research at Florida International University. He has more than 35 years of experience in transportation engineering (10 years in the private sector and the rest in academic and research institutions). His expertise is in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), Connected and Automated Vehicles, Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO), data analytics and decision support, performance measurements, and multi-resolution transportation system simulation. His research has been funded by the Florida Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the National Academy of Sciences, and other transportation agencies.

Joe Ulatowski is a technical advisor at HNTB with 14 years of experience. He has worked on many projects in southeast Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota, and Louisiana involving complex freeway environmental studies, arterial reconstruction, transit planning studies, and construction mitigation planning. Joe is currently leading the forecasting and traffic modeling tasks for the I-794/Lake Interchange Study in Milwaukee. Joe is a registered PE in Wisconsin and a certified Professional Traffic Operations Engineer. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville.

Govardhan Muthyalagari, PE, PTOE, serves as a section manager with HNTB and has more than 20 years of experience overseeing the transportation systems planning and operations group. He has completed numerous modeling and traffic studies, including arterial and intersection operations and safety studies, signal warrant studies, and signal retiming studies. His areas of expertise include modeling (Travel demand and micro-simulation), concurrency management, transit feasibility planning, PD&E, Interchange Access Requests, sub-area/corridor studies, including interstate systems planning to intersection operations and safety studies, and access management. In addition, he currently serves as a transportation engineering advisor for various agencies throughout Florida.

Like Liu is an associate planner at Kittelson Associates Inc. She has led transportation projects by developing travel demand models, forecasting future transportation system dynamics, conducting mesoscopic or microscopic simulations, and interpreting data into compelling stories. Like has served as a consultant and subject-matter expert for state DOTs, MPOs, local agencies, private developers, and the federal government over the last 11 years.

Mix and A-Mingle

Host

Thomas Hill is the State Modeling Manager for the Florida Department of Transportation. Thomas holds both his Undergraduate degree and Master's degree in Urban Planning from Florida State University. During his 24-year career, he has worked in transportation demand forecasting from many perspectives, including local government, private industry, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and state-level positions. Additionally, he is a guest lecturer, contributor, and presenter at workshops, conferences, and universities, with a focus on travel demand modeling applications, microsimulation, and growth management. Thomas is a member of the Census Transportation Planning Package Oversight Board and the Transportation Research Board Microsimulation Committee.

Facilitators

Jeanette Berk is a project manager with GFT. She brings a combination of technical and policy skills, which she applies to quantitative analyses of travel demand and ridership forecasts for transit and roadway alternative analyses, using different models to identify the impact of policy decisions on mobility and accessibility across a variety of geographic areas.

Claudia Paskauskas, PMP, GISP, MCSD, SSGB serves as the CEO of InNovo Partners LLC. Claudia graduated in Computer Science with a focus on data management and holds a Master's in quality control. She brings over 25 years of experience in the technology industry, including successfully implementing enterprise applications across transportation, planning, energy, and GIS. For the last 15 years, Claudia has focused on the transportation industry. She has introduced multiple industries to the practice of critical thinking about how to use big data management to improve efficiency.

O Come All Ye Modelers, Technology is Here!

Moderator

Erin Sterk is the Toll Studies & Forecasting Manager at Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, where she leads strategic evaluations to guide infrastructure planning and support Florida's future growth and mobility needs. With over 14 years of experience in local government planning and transportation management, Erin helps drive key transportation initiatives across the state in her roles as District Interchange Review Coordinator and District Model Coordinator.

Speakers

Venkat (Amar) Sarvepalli is a Senior Travel Demand Modeler with Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, bringing over 20 years of experience in model development, forecasting, and data-driven innovation. As the principal architect of the Turnpike State Model (TSM), he has advanced statewide modeling through innovations in land use, route choice, congestion pricing, market-based tour models, and AI-built user interfaces. His expertise spans open-source modeling platforms, programming in Python, R, C++, Java, and Pascal.

Dave Schmitt, AICP, is the Executive Vice President at Insight Transportation Consulting and has worked in transportation planning and demand modeling for over 30 years. He holds dual bachelor's degrees in Statistics and Mathematics and a Master's in Planning, all from Florida State University.

Dr. Md Mobasshir Rashid is a Travel Demand Modeler at Insight Transportation Consulting, applying AI to improve travel demand forecasting. He has a PhD in Transportation Engineering from UCF and an MS in Civil Engineering from FSU. His work includes emergency evacuation planning with social media data, incident-focused corridor management, and large-scale traffic forecasting using AI algorithms.

Panelists

Guy Rousseau is the Transportation Models & Travel Surveys Manager at the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and has held this position since 1998. In this role, he handles model development and travel surveys. Previously, he worked as a transportation modeler for Atlanta's Department of Public Works and MPOs around the country. He is also part of various TRB Committees and NCHRP projects.

Xuesong (Simon) Zhou is a Professor of Transportation Systems at the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, Arizona State University. His research focuses on advancing methodologies in multimodal transportation planning, including dynamic traffic assignment, traffic estimation, and prediction. Dr. Zhou chairs the TRB Committee on Transportation Network Analysis (AEP13) and directs the ASU Transportation+AI Lab, where he leads the development of open-source tools.

Vivek Yadav, a Travel Demand Modeler at Cambridge Systematics, has 9 years of experience in travel demand modeling, data analytics, and transportation planning. He is skilled in statistics, discrete choice modeling, travel behavior analysis, and survey analysis, with strong expertise in transport data tools. Yadav has worked on projects involving data collection, organization, and analysis using Python/R, providing data-driven recommendations. He has also led workshops on AI tools for programming.

Do You See What I See? Communicating Model Outputs in Visually Engaging Ways

Moderator

Terry Corkery has worked in the travel demand modeling section of FDOT Central Office since the 1990s. He holds a master's degree in urban and regional planning from Florida State University and a bachelor's in city planning from the University of Virginia.

Speakers

Roberto Miquel, AICP, is a transportation planner and travel demand modeler with WRA. Roberto's 22 years of experience have included updating and enhancing statewide travel demand models, developing small urban-area and MPO models, conducting project-level traffic forecasts, estimating user benefits for project prioritization, and delivering travel demand model training courses. He has also served as the technical lead for hurricane evacuation studies in Florida, Virginia, Delaware, and Maine. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning, both from Florida State University.

Tim Shortly is the GIS Manager for the North Carolina Capital Area MPO. He's been working for CAMPO since 2015 as their GIS analyst. He holds an MGIST degree from NCSU (2013). His background is in traditional cartography, database development, data analysis, project management, web mapping, application development, and administration. He is an avid bicyclist, indoor rock climber, and home cook. He is passionate about using GIS to illustrate common problems in and opportunities to improve transportation infrastructure for the public and other stakeholders in our region.

Gerald Daniel is a Travel Demand Modeler for the North Carolina Capital Area MPO. He is a graduate of Florida State University with over 20 years of experience in using macro and microsimulation travel demand models in both the public and private sectors. Gerald's interest in planning for equitable and highly accessible transportation systems stems from his experience using the mass transit system in Broward County, Florida, to access shopping centers, medical offices, and the community college campus with ease and reliability from his childhood home. His interest in his current role as a travel demand modeler stems from his observation that modelers make more money than transportation planners, and they do not have to talk as much.

Jeanette Berk is a project manager with GFT. She brings a combination of technical and policy skills, which she applies to quantitative analyses of travel demand and ridership forecasts for transit and roadway alternative analyses, using different models to identify the impact of policy decisions on mobility and accessibility across a variety of geographic areas.

Hoyt Davis is a Chief Transportation Planner with GFT. His responsibilities include developing and applying travel demand forecasting models. He is a computer programmer and develops GIS applications, including conversions of FSUTMS models for GIS mapping and analysis purposes, and traffic analysis zone-based applications for socio-economic data and transit analyses.

Jiangchuan (JC) Hu is a senior transportation planner with GFT He has 10 years of experience working with travel demand modeling, operational analysis, and data analysis. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering and has held a Florida P.E. license since 2019.

Tianyi Wei is a transportation planner with BCC Engineering. She specializes in travel demand modeling, contributing to the development of both the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Model (TBRPM) and the Northeast Regional Planning Model (NERPM). She is proficient in modeling platforms such as CUBE and PTV VISUM and has extensive experience training others in their application. She is also highly skilled in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), with hands-on experience managing and integrating data across ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, and ArcGIS Field Maps. In addition, her programming expertise spans multiple languages—including Python, C++, R, MATLAB, and SQL—which she leverages to automate workflows and develop custom tools. Her adaptability extends to web development, where she has utilized HTML and related technologies to create interactive, web-based visualization tools for clients throughout Florida.

SungRyong Han is a Chief Planner and Lead Technical Professional with BCC Engineering. He specializes in travel demand modeling, long-range transportation planning, and corridor studies. He has extensive experience with Cube Voyager, FSUTMS, HCS, Synchro, TP+, Visum, VISSIM, ArcGIS, and TransCAD. His expertise and contributions have advanced numerous statewide and regional transportation planning efforts.