

History of the Tennessee Model User's Group (TNMUG)

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Acknowledgments

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 - Jeanne Stevens
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 - The many presenters and contributors
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 - Stephanie Ivey
 - Daniel Badoe
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 - Mike Conger
 - David Metzger



TDOT Constraints - 2003

- Institutional knowledge
- Limits on technical staff hiring
- Multiple roles and expectations
- Relationships with MPO staffs
- Out-of-state travel limitations

TN MPO Constraints – 2003

- Multiple roles and expectations
- Modeling expertise
- Technical capacity
- Staff turnover
- 11 MPOs spread across the state

Example Model User Groups - 2003

- Event Emphasis - Alabama
 - Training orientation – MPO based
- Single Metro Area - Atlanta & NY City
 - Distribute model results, perform QA/QC, discuss model improvements
- Regional - Multi-state
 - Midwestern - Iowa DOT based with CTRE assistance
- Florida - Two levels
 - Florida Model Task force & District Level User Groups
- Oregon - OR Modeling Improvement Program
 - Cutting edge, state-of-the-art modeling
- Ohio - DOT based
 - Broad mission statement
- Kentucky -DOT based
 - Well organized, but informal - Good example for TN
 - Weakness - Driven by a single individual

MUG Characteristics - 2003

- Formality and structure of organization
 - Varies and depends on purpose of MUG
- Technical Topics
 - Usually include research, modeling techniques, data and application issues
- Activities
 - Norm is regular meeting with structured technical agenda
 - Most variable parameter
- Membership
 - Ranges from anyone to only agency staff
- Frequency of meetings
 - Bimonthly to annually
- Continuity
 - Ongoing support is critical
 - State DOT support is most feasible option

TNMUG -History

- Developed based on 2003 examples
- Formally began in January 2004
- Quasi-formal group
- Leadership - chair and a vice-chair from among the voting members



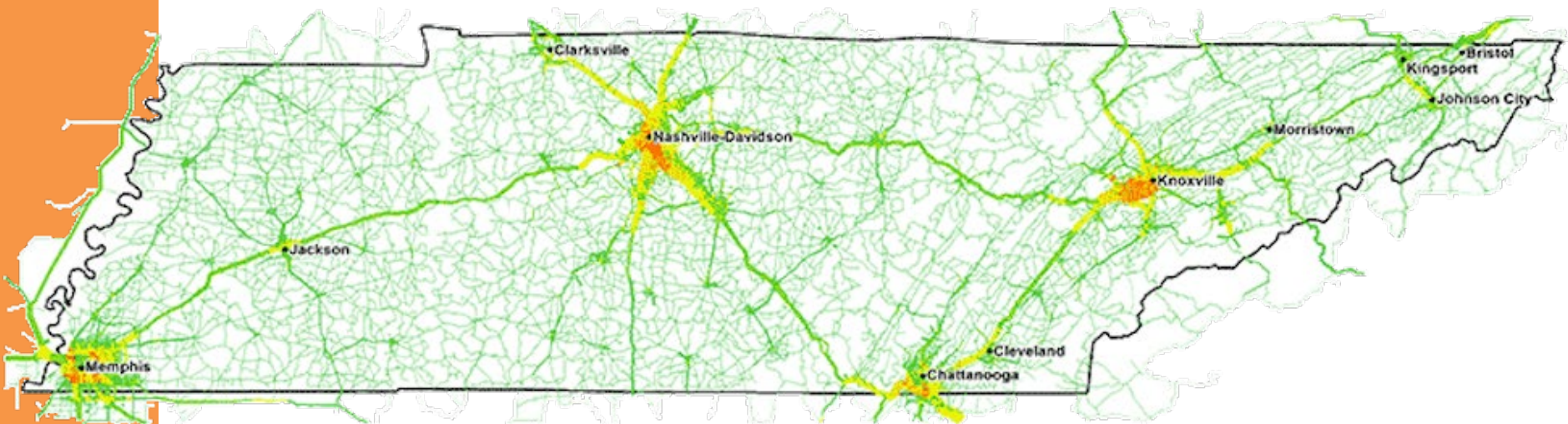
TNMUG -Overview

- Designed to improve state of the practice of modeling & forecasting in Tennessee
- Oriented to MPOs
- Cooperatively developed by CTR and TDOT
- Financial support provide by TDOT



TNMUG –Mission Statement

The mission of the Tennessee Travel Model User Group is to serve as a forum for improving the state-of-the-practice of travel demand modeling and related endeavors in the state of Tennessee



TNMUG –Membership

- Each MPO in the state has one official member and one vote
- TDOT may have up to three official members each with one vote
- Consultants, academicians, local governments, other state agencies, advocacy groups and others are welcome to participate as nonvoting members



TNMUG: Quasi-Formal Role

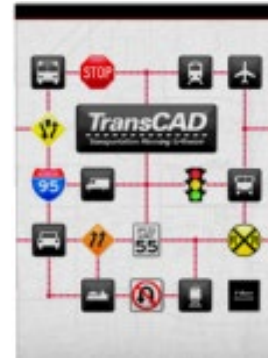
- TNMUG serves as a technical working group for travel model related issues in TN
- TNMUG strives for a consensus of opinion
- The decisions of the MUG are presented to TAMPO, TDOT, FHWA and FTA as appropriate
- Ex. – “Minimum Travel Demand Model Calibration and Validation Guidelines for the State of Tennessee”



"We can't even agree on a lunch order...seriously?"

TNMUG - Key Activities

- ✓ Holding 3 to 4 meetings/year with technical presentations
- ✓ Facilitate sharing of modeling experience between TN MPOs and TDOT
- ✓ Improve proficiency in TransCAD through training, seminars and information exchange
- ✓ Serve as a forum for linking TDOT statewide modeling & data collection to MPO modeling and data collection
- ✓ Help planning staff members to stay up-to-date on modeling activities in other areas
- ✓ Organize and/or sponsor training related to travel modeling such as introduction to travel demand modeling, CTPP, and travel model applications



TNMUG – Operation of Organization

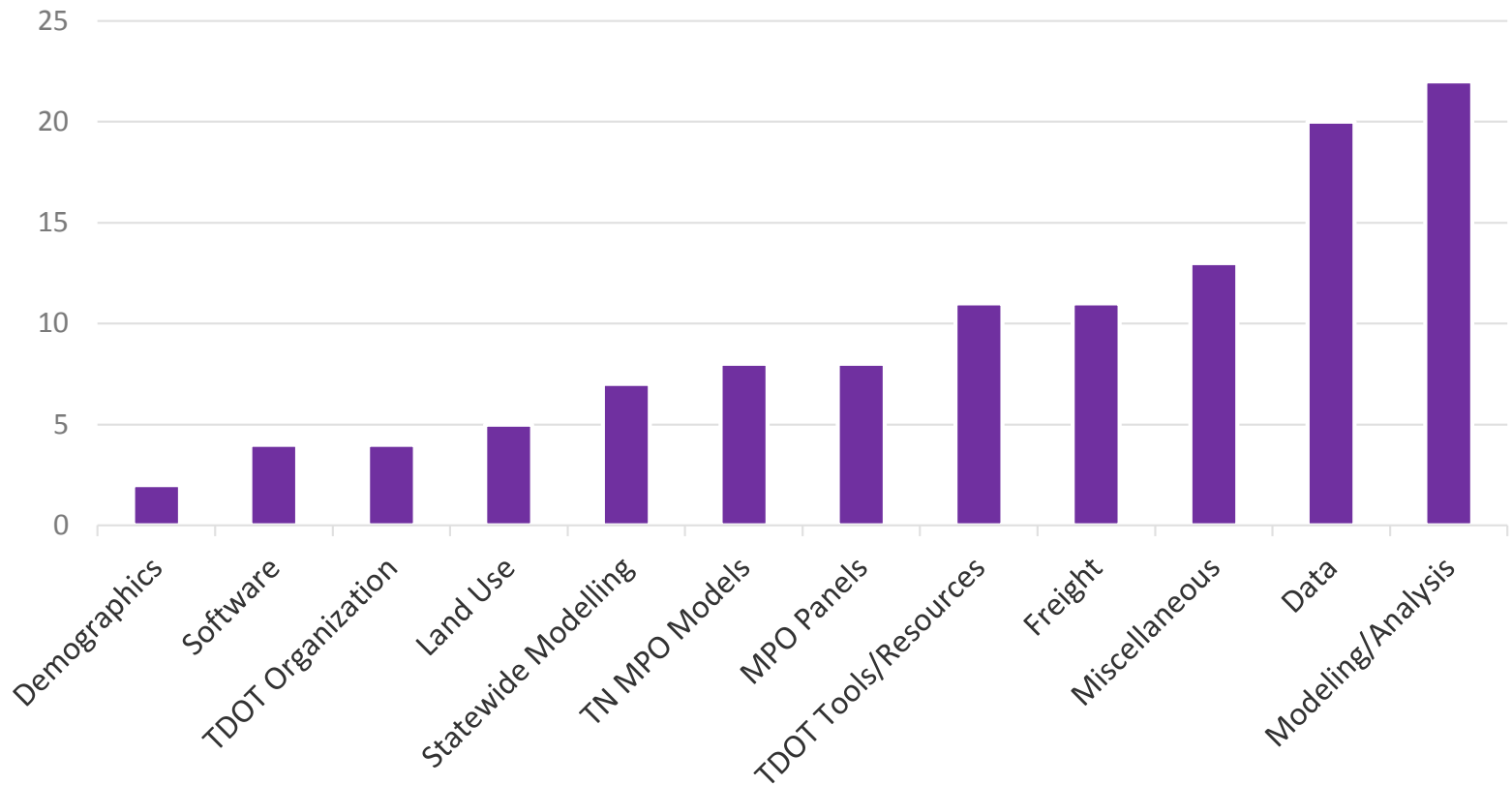
- Bulk of work performed by UT CTR staff
 - Solicit input from members
 - Meeting planning and implementation
 - Training class organization
 - Website maintenance
- University of Memphis & Tennessee Tech faculty provide assistance
- Consultants, vendors, researchers, members project staff and others provide presentations
- TDOT provides funding, guidance and direction

TNMUG –Meetings

- Include 4-5 technical presentations
- Periodic MPO roundtable discussions
- Usually 6 hours with about 1.5 hours of networking build-in
- Primarily held in the Nashville area
- Opportunity for discussion and critique of modeling and analysis procedures

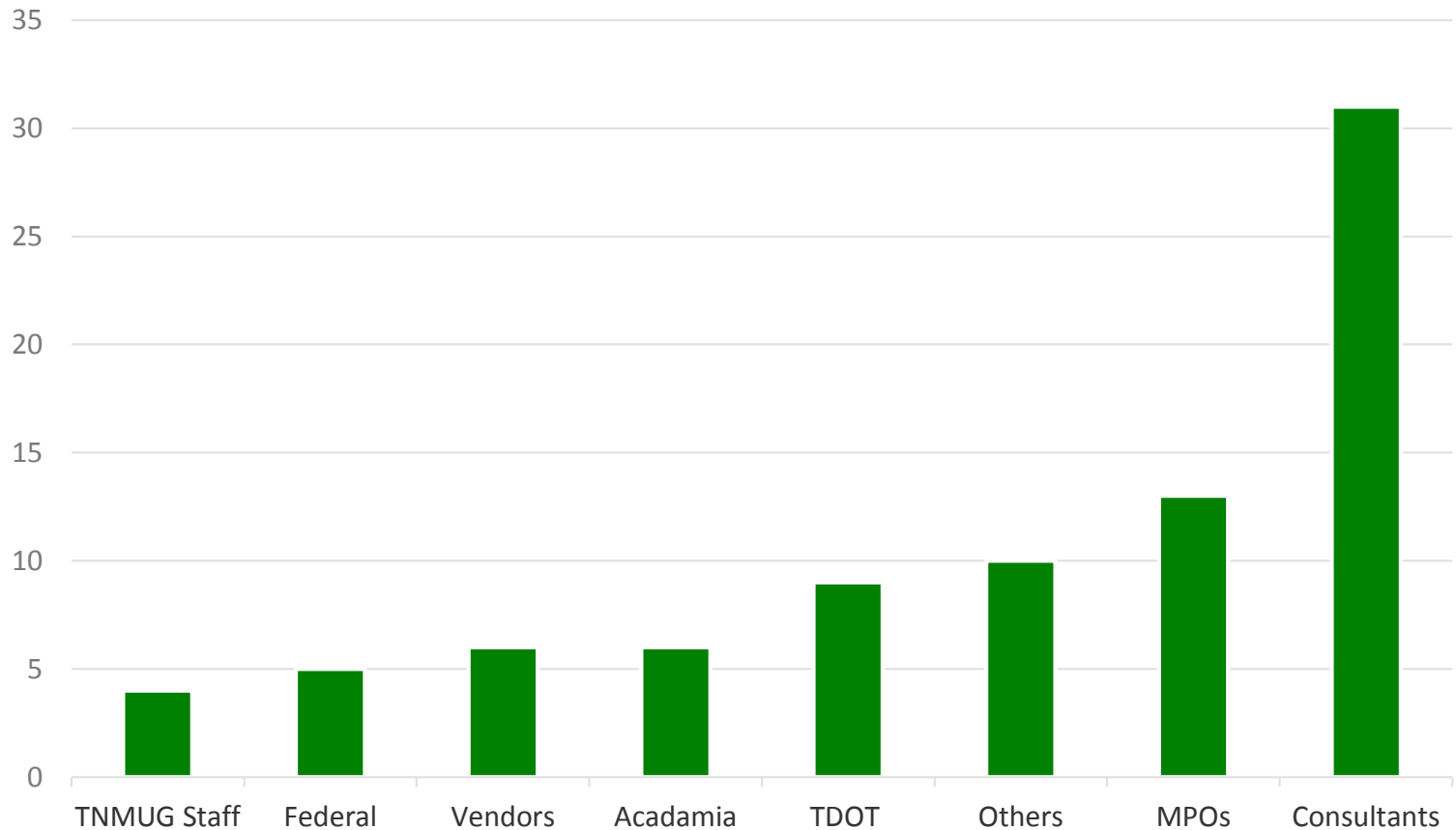
Topics Addressed

94 + Presentation Topics



Presenters

84+ Unique Presenters



TNMUG Through the Years

- 30+ Meetings
- 12+ Training events
- 94+ Presentations
- 40+ Unique Topics
- 1 Bi-state joint MUG meeting



Other Project Activities

- Short-term Technical assistance
 - Review of RFPs
 - Review of consultant proposals
- Training
- Website
- Information Sharing

Discussion & Questions

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