4.1.1 Forecasting Stop-Level Ridership for Florida's Transit Systems

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Transit agencies in Florida often do not have the resources and staff available to implement large-scale travel demand modeling systems or collect and assemble the elaborate databases needed to support such systems. As a result, the Public Transit Office of the Florida Department of Transportation has been spearheading the development of transit demand forecasting models and transit systems planning tools for a wide variety of applications as part of its broader Transit Model Improvement Program. The culminating effort of this program is the Transit Boardings Estimation and Simulation Tool (T-BEST). T-BEST is an ArcObjects-based program that provides comprehensive transit analysis and ridership forecasting. It is also capable of simulating travel demand at the individual stop-level while accounting for network connectivity, spatial and temporal accessibility, time-of-day variations, and route/stop competition and complementarities.