

Riverside County Traffic Analysis (RIVTAM) Update

***SCAG Model Task Force Meeting
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RIVTAM Background

- Development of the RIVTAM was completed in May 2009
- Agencies that participated:
 - TLMA, Caltrans, CVAG, RCTC, SCAG, and WRCOG
- Data utilized in RIVTAM is from the SCAG Regional Transportation Model available in 2009: Base Year Data – 2008 and Forecast Year Data – 2035
- Goal of developing RIVTAM was to provide a greater level of detail in Riverside County
- Initially, TLMA, WRCOG, and RCTC each contributed \$250,000 for RIVTAM development

RIVTAM Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- MOU was executed with the participating agencies
- MOU identified key elements needed:
 - RIVTAM maintenance
 - How RIVTAM would be utilized by the MOU signatories
 - Updates to RIVTAM
 - Use of RIVTAM by other governmental jurisdictions and by private entities
 - Technical guidelines

Why does RIVTAM need to be updated?

- Significant challenge facing agencies is the need to develop long-term forecasts of future travel behavior using socio-economic and transportation data
 - Since 2008 was beginning of the Great Recession, many assumptions incorporated into the model may be considered aggressive related to land use assumptions
- Utilized to ensure transportation projects are planned, designed, and constructed based on best forecasts available
- Models require regular updates to remain relevant and reflect the current state of infrastructure
 - RCTC and CVAG continue to build projects that expand the transportation network

RIVTAM Needs Assessment – Survey Results

- 3 different groups identified to offer insights from their utilization of RIVTAM – 1. RIVTAM users, 2. RIVTAM data users, and 3. Riverside County jurisdictions
- Preliminary survey questions developed and shared with PWC, PDC, and MOU signatories
- Survey questions were revised and placed on Survey Monkey, and sent out in late August and early September for feedback
- Feedback was received for the following:
 - RIVTAM users – 7 respondents
 - RIVTAM data users – 6 respondents
 - Riverside County jurisdictions – 9 respondents

RIVTAM Needs Assessment – Survey Results

- Survey respondents indicate several features of RIVTAM should be kept – model is user-friendly
- Feedback on a possible RIVTAM update, responses had overarching themes:
 1. Update is needed for consistency – SCAG TDM, RTP/SCS, CEQA challenges
 2. Updates are needed to update network and SED
 3. When an update is developed, transparency is needed (in the form of documentation and make source files available to all users)
 4. Update should reflect emerging transportation trends – multi-modal transportation planning, ride-sourcing, automated vehicles

Conclusion

- Based on feedback from MOU signatories, discussions with agency staff in Western Riverside County, and the surveys, there is a strong desire to undergo a RIVTAM update.
- RIVTAM Update Work Plan has been drafted and shared with MOU signatories for review and comment.
- Work Plan is to further define how an update might occur and contains two elements:
 1. Series of model specifications which the RIVTAM will have to meet.
 2. Scope of Work for RIVTAM update.
- Two advantages to approach in Work Plan:
 1. Encourages technical experts to recommend innovative approaches and identify best practices that have been implemented
 2. Allows a more expansive discussion of tradeoffs when evaluating a proposed cost

WRCOG's Commitment

- WRCOG is willing to commit financial resources and staff time to support RIVTAM update based on two main factors:
 1. WRCOG anticipates preparing future TUMF Nexus Studies
 2. WRCOG member agencies have expressed a strong desire to use RIVTAM for planning and infrastructure projects
- WRCOG has had initial discussions with the other MOU signatories regarding their interest in participating in an update

Key Issues to be Finalized

- WRCOG would like to finalize the discussions with MOU signatories ASAP so update process can commence
- Some key issues to be finalized:
 - Are jurisdictions in the Coachella Valley interested in a RIVTAM update?
 - Which agencies are available to contribute financially to an update?
 - Which agencies would like to participate in the update process?
 - Does the existing RIVTAM MOU require restructuring?
 - Is there concurrence on the model elements to be updated?

Technical Approach

- Preliminary discussions on an RFQ/RFP Process
- Work plan identifies key specifications
- Work plan will identify preliminary budget and schedule
- Consultants will be asked to prioritize elements of the work plan based on the budget and schedule
- Consultants will also be asked to provide experience working with elements in the work plan
- MOU signatories will review the RFQ and shortlist firms
- Shortlisted firms will be asked to prepare detailed scopes and budget

Specifications Examples

Requirements

- Must use TRANSCAD
- Must use SCAG land use data
- Must incorporate all validation locations as current version of RIVTAM
- Must address static and dynamic validation
- Must address emerging transportation modes and technologies

Optional Elements

- Use of SCAG SMDT
- Developing specific TransCAD scripts
- Heavy truck model

Advantage of This Approach

- Identifying what the model should do
- Identifying what the model could do
- Letting technical experts tell us how to get there
- What is feasible for the amount of funding