

# Forecasting Project Development

Systems Forecasting  
& Trends Office



# QUESTION



How will Traffic behave at a location  
in the **FUTURE?**

# ANSWER

## Two Main Approaches



**Straight Line Extrapolation and /  
or Regression Approach**

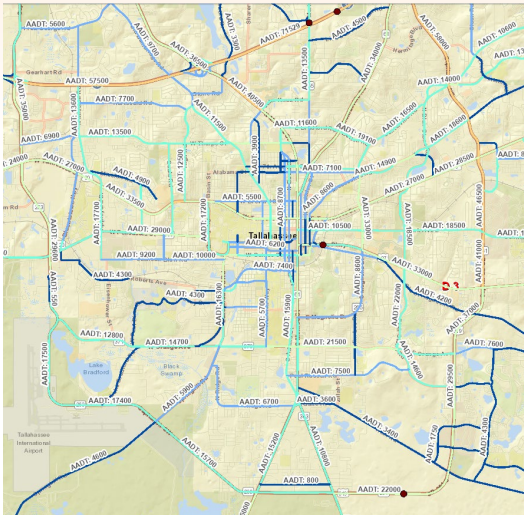


**Travel Demand Modeling  
Approach**

# How does Extrapolation Work?

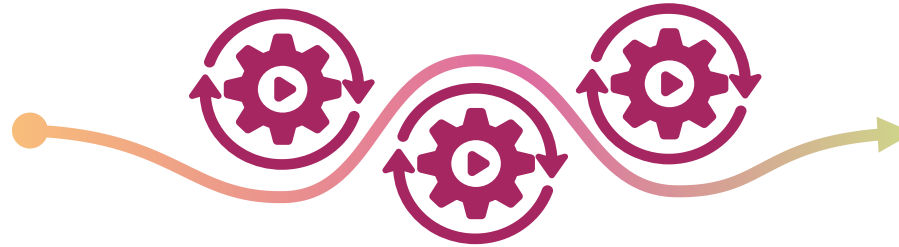
## ESTABLISHED DATA

Traffic Counts



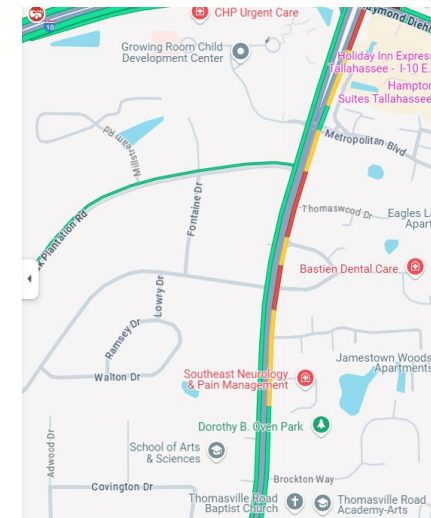
## PROCESS

Extrapolation using spreadsheet / other tools (usually straight line assumed)



## RESULTS

Forecasted Traffic Volumes at/near site



# Why Use a Travel Demand Model?

Long-Range  
Planning

Forecast  
Future Travel

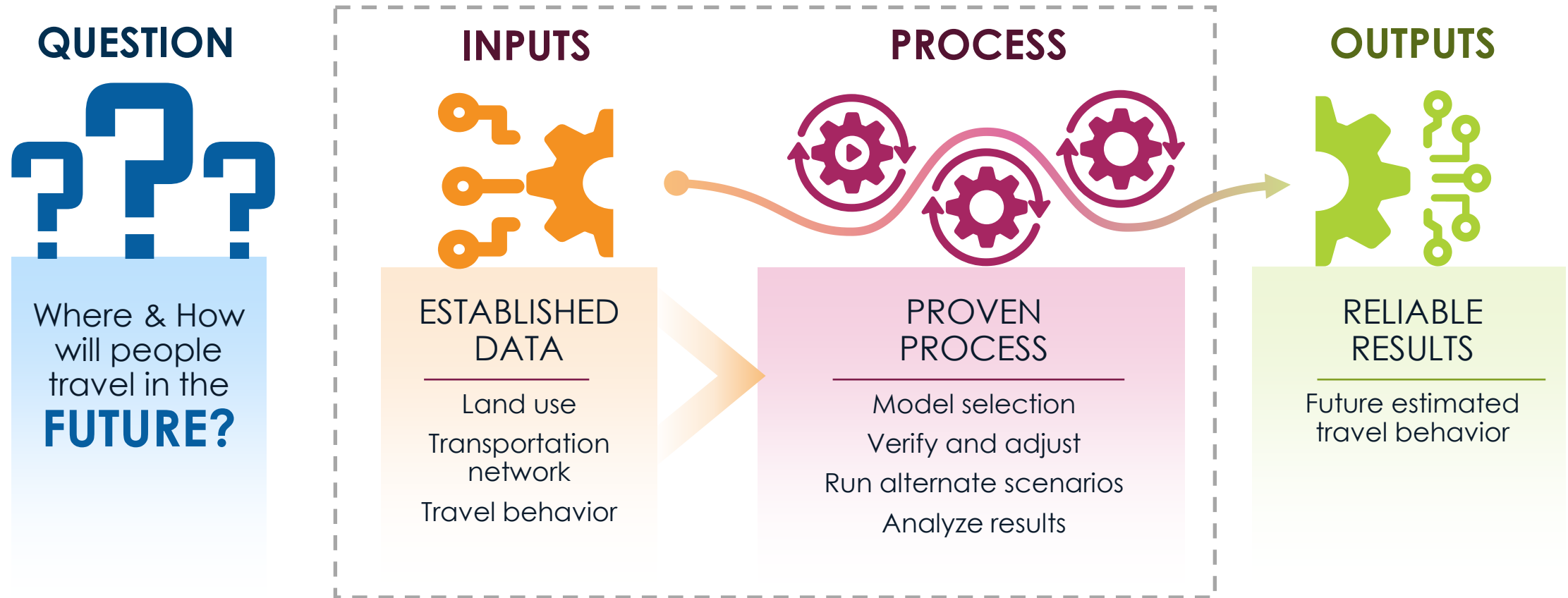
Evaluate  
Transportation  
Projects

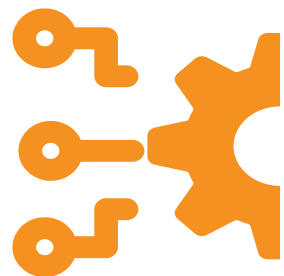
Understand  
Travel Patterns

Support  
Decision-  
Making



# How Does a Model Work?





# INPUTS

## ESTABLISHED DATA



### Land Use

- Population
- Household composition
- Employment
- Autos per household



### Transportation Network

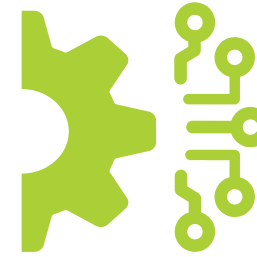
- Number of Lanes
- Facility Type
- Neighborhood Context
- Speeds and Capacities
- Transit Lines
- Base-year traffic counts



### Travel Behavior

- Persons per Auto
- Number of Trips
- Trip Lengths
- Congestion delay

# OUTPUTS



## RELIABLE RESULTS



### Loaded Network

- Amount of traffic
- Type of Traffic
- Determine any congestion issues
- Congested travel times by time
- Transit flow



### Trip Table

- Overall trip making activity
- Travelers' origin and destination
- Long-term patterns of trip making



### Mode Split

- Number of people moving around a region
- How people travel together by vehicle
- How people travel by transit
- Mix of transportation modal infrastructure and capacity



# Trend Analysis vs. Travel Demand Models

**Straight-line trend forecasts assume a constant rate of growth or decline based on historical trends**



**TDMs consider a variety of factors beyond just historical trends**



# What Does a Model Give You?



Relationship between land use and traffic volumes



Travel behavior

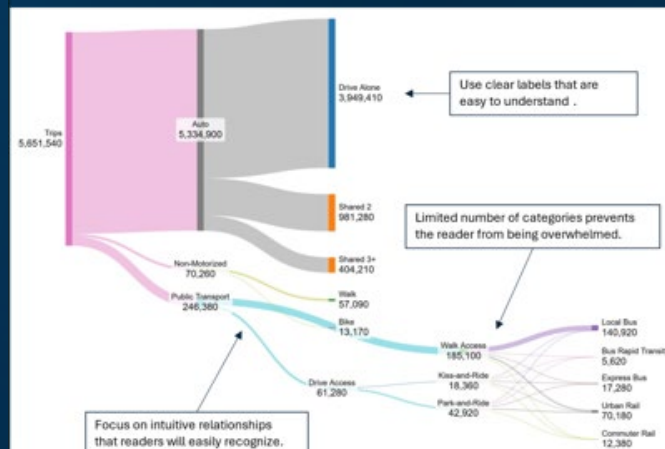


Transportation network impacts

# Communicating Impacts

**Sankey Diagram:** Graphical representations of relationships in a chart format.

Example: Work-Tour Estimated Mode Splits



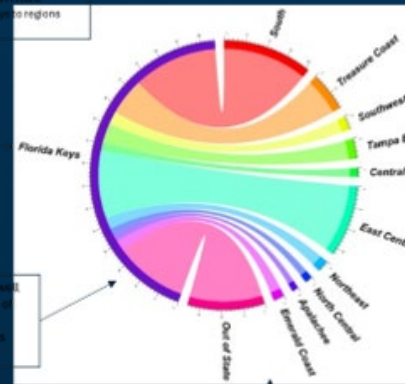
Data Source: SERPM v7 Model Development Report

**Chord Diagram:** Graphical representations of the movement of trips between origins and destinations in a chart format.

Example: Evacuees from Florida Keys to regions across the state and beyond

Focusing on movements to and from one particular location keeps the diagram clean and easier to interpret.

Vibrant and clear colors, as well as avoiding the crisscrossing of bands makes it easier to distinguish which movements belong to which locations.



Data Source: Transportation Interface for Modeling Evacuations

**Desire Lines:** Graphical representations of the movement of trips between origins and destinations in a spatial format.

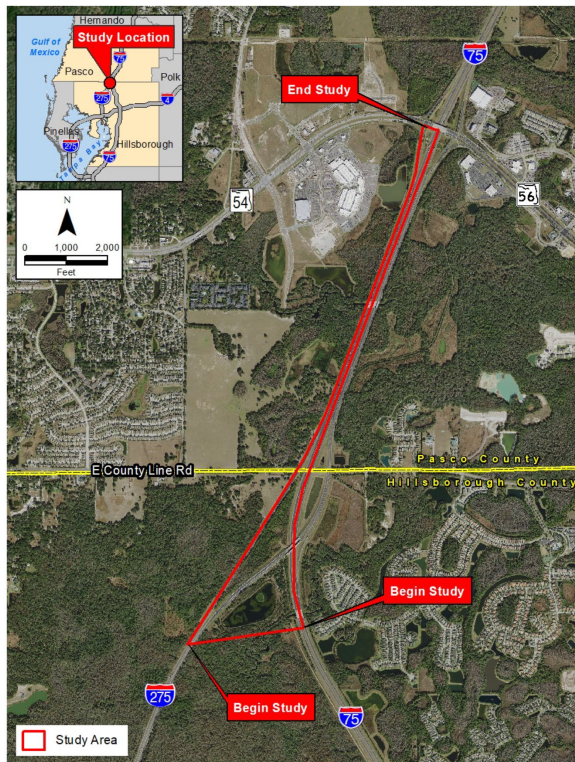
Example: Evacuees from Florida Keys to regions across the state and beyond

3D-style desire lines overcome issues when movements are arranged linearly as in this example with regions aligned north to south.



Data Source: Transportation Interface for Modeling Evacuations

# Why Should you Care?



## Models allow

- Better understanding of design / planning options
- More informed decision-making

## By

- Providing the key traffic forecast inputs

## Using

- Rigorous data-driven analysis
- That allows more comprehensive evaluation factors than when using
  - Straight – line extrapolation
  - Regression like ITE Trip Rates etc.

I-75 / SR 56 C-D System PD&E Study



# How to Access TDMs in Florida

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION  
FORECASTING **RESOURCE HUB**

models

guidance

resources

training

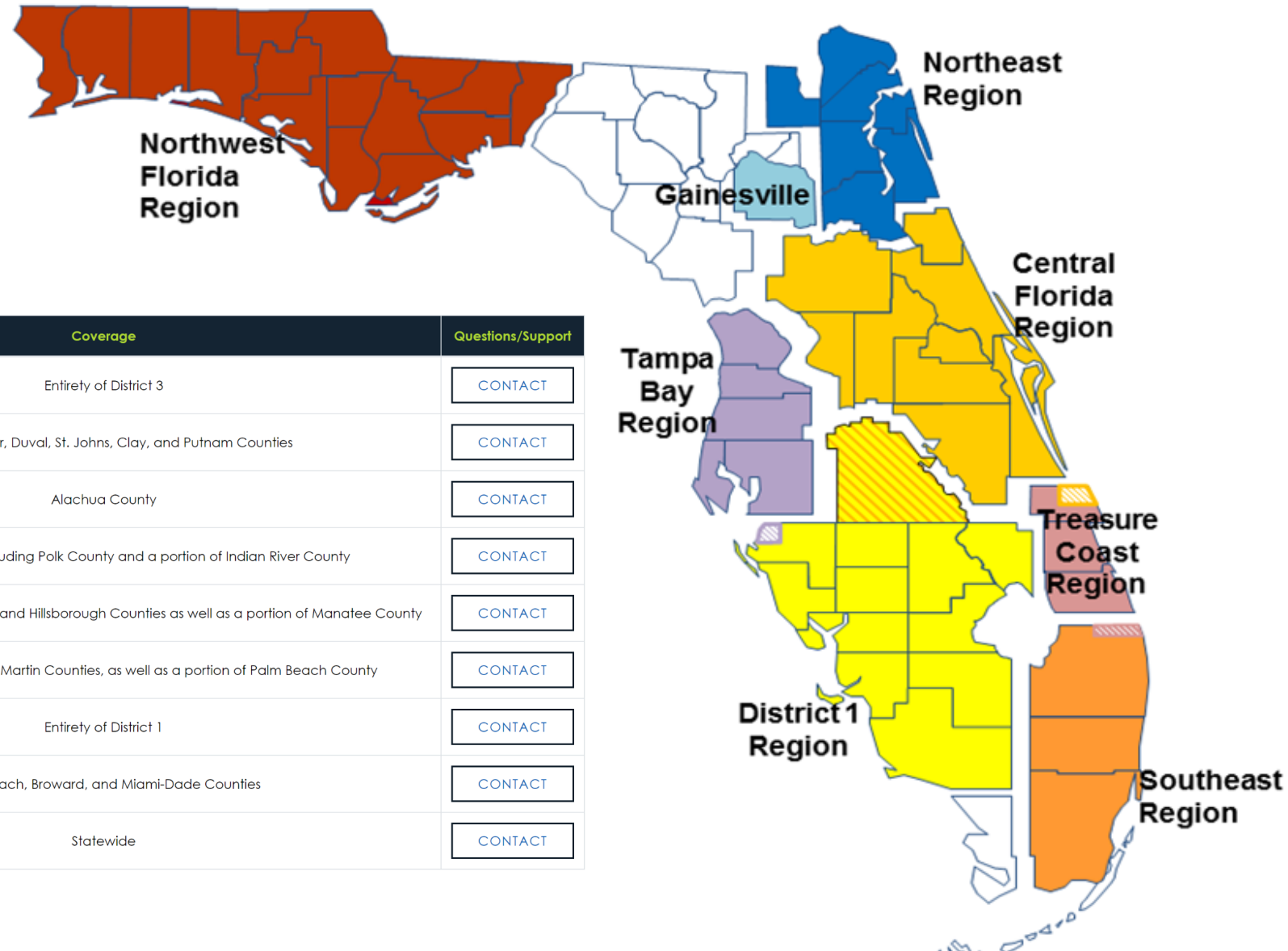
committees

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**[fdot.gov/forecasting](https://fdot.gov/forecasting)**

# Model Downloads

Model	FTP Download	Metadata	Coverage	Questions/Support
Northwest Florida Region	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD ▼</a>	<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Entirety of District 3	<a href="#">CONTACT</a>
Northeast Region	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD ▼</a>	<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Nassau, Baker, Duval, St. Johns, Clay, and Putnam Counties	<a href="#">CONTACT</a>
Gainesville	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD ▼</a>	<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Alachua County	<a href="#">CONTACT</a>
Central Florida Region	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD ▼</a>	<a href="#">VIEW</a>	All District 5 MPOs, including Polk County and a portion of Indian River County	<a href="#">CONTACT</a>
Tampa Bay Region	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD ▼</a>	<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough Counties as well as a portion of Manatee County	<a href="#">CONTACT</a>
Treasure Coast Region	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD ▼</a>	<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin Counties, as well as a portion of Palm Beach County	<a href="#">CONTACT</a>
District 1 Region	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD ▼</a>	<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Entirety of District 1	<a href="#">CONTACT</a>
Southeast Region	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD ▼</a>	<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties	<a href="#">CONTACT</a>
Turnpike (TSM)	<a href="#">DOWNLOAD ▼</a>	<a href="#">VIEW</a>	Statewide	<a href="#">CONTACT</a>





# Thank you!