Getting Results from Regional Traffic Incident Management Teams

TIM Teams
Collier-Lee-Charlotte, Sarasota-Manatee, Polk

By: William Fuller  Florida Department of Transportation
• 50 - 60% of congestion is caused by incidents
• 13 - 30% of crashes are secondary incidents
• Incident responder injuries are significant
• Incident caused congestion nears $80 Billion annually (Sarasota – Total cost = $198 million)
Definitions

- **Incident**
  - Any non recurring event that causes capacity reduction or increased demand

- **Incident management**
  - The organized cooperative effort of multiple agencies to detect & verify incidents, respond & manage the scene, manage traffic & provide traveler information, and clear the incident

- **TIM Team**
  - A Traffic Incident Management Team is a group of organizations meeting regularly to identify issues, and develop improved incident management operations through coordination, communication and cooperation
The TIM Team Approach

- Create long term plan for sustained benefits
- Use facilitation style to maximize participation
- Foster institutional cooperation
- Provide value to participants
TIM Teams Develop Candidate Improvement Opportunities

- Incident detection/verification
- Prompt, effective response
- Site management and safety
- Traffic management during incidents
- Motorist information
- Safe and quick clearance
- Communication—Cooperation—Coordination
TIM Team Participants

- Law enforcement
- Fire-rescue
- Emergency Management
- Transportation
- Medical Examiner
- Hazardous materials teams
- Asset management contractors
- Towing and Recovery
- Road Builders on major projects
TIM Team Logistics

- Quarterly or bi-monthly meetings
  - Different agency venues
- Respect members’ time, 2 hour max
- Broad distribution of agendas and minutes
- Team notebooks for compilation of materials
Multi-agency training opportunities
TIM Team Activities

- Long range work plans
- Tabletop exercises
- Share problems, issues, resources
- Develop response plans & procedures
- Develop response criteria
- Define roles & responsibilities
- Agency facility tours
TIM Team Accomplishments

- Agency notification & resource guide
- Vehicle fluids and fuel spill policy
- Promotion of Emergency Stopping Sites for I-75
- Input on the median cross-over master plan
- Initiated and coordinated efforts to provide dedicated Troopers on Alligator Alley
- Formalized FHP procedure for expedited tow call-out
- Developed a TIM Team Web Site

www.swfltim.org
Additional TIM Team Accomplishments

- First responder checklist
- Freeway incident severity levels
- Post incident debriefing format
- Emergency Lighting MOU
- Scene parking guidelines
- Promoting the effort to establish a Public Safety sub-station on the Alley
TIM Team support of Regional Traveler Information
Regional Transportation Management Center in Fort Myers
The Challenges Ahead

- Maintaining continuous improvement
- Putting the plans into action
- Sustaining the momentum
- Dealing with changing personnel
- Increasing pressure to improve
TIM Team contacts

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