



## Collier – Lee – Charlotte Traffic Incident Management Team

*April 9, 2009  
Meeting Minutes*

### **Attendees:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Benjamin Abes	Lee County IMS	Frank Gentilquore	Alligator Towing
Mark Anderson	DBi Services	Bud Gruber	Bald Eagle Towing
Thomas Baker	Baker's Towing and Recovery	Gary Harrell	Charlotte/Punta Gorda MPO
Sandra Betts	Collier County Sheriff	Jim Hilbert	Turnpike Traffic Operations
Richard Beveridge	FDOT	James Isaacs	Caloosahatchee Forestry
Chris Birosak	FDOT	Douglas Leffin	Collier County Sheriff
Glen Bond	Charlotte County Public Works	Michael McGee	FDOT D4, AECOM
Carlos Bonilla	FDOT	Mike Meehan	511/Traffic.com
Robbie Brown	Lee County DOT	Michael Myers	ICA
Thomas Curran	FDOT	Dwain Naftal	Bald Eagle Towing
John Daly	Collier County OIT	Patrick O'Rourke	DBi Services
Krystle Davis	Lee County DOT	Gene Rogers	South Trail Fire Rescue
Ray DeGiovine	FDOT	Joe Saladino	Prompt Towing Service
Bob Diezi	Road Rangers	Kevin Salsbery	FDOT
Richard Doll	Charlotte County	John Scarpellino	SWIFT SiunGuide/Telvent
James Drzymala	Lee County Sheriff	Andy Stadtlen	Lee County Public Safety
Jen Eversole	FDOT	Mike Stone	Collier County Maintenance
Richard Fimbel	DBi Services	Greg Trammell	Tice Fire Dept
Glen Fox	Alligator Towing	Les Williams	Collier County EMS
Kevin Fox	Alligator Towing	Ted Smith	Delcan Corp
Pete Gee	Ft. Myers Shores Fire Rescue	Don Olson	FDOT
		Christina Florez	VANUS

**Call to Order:** The Collier-Lee-Charlotte TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at Florida Highway Patrol, 4700-3 Terminal Dr., Ft. Myers. Ted Smith and Don Olson facilitated the meeting.

**Introductions:** Team members introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.

### **Update on TIM Initiatives:**

#### Newsletter

Don Olson mentioned the TIM newsletter, inquired if all the members received the newsletter, and identified the topics included in the March Newsletter. Don asked if anyone had questions or wanted to be added to the mailing list. The newsletters and addendums can be found by clicking on 'Document Archives' at <http://www.swfltim.org>. Newsletters are an opportunity for

TIM Team member agencies to provide information about themselves, their respective discipline mission and role at an incident scene.

#### Newsletter Addendum

Don Olson provided an overview of the contents of the Semi-Annual Newsletter Addendum. In the latest edition, a summary of the National Unified Goals (NUGs) of the TIM Team are included. The addendums can be found by clicking on 'Document Archives' at [www.swftim.org](http://www.swftim.org).

#### Public Awareness

Don stressed the need for public awareness and that it must be a group effort to disseminate information (i.e. print publications, radio, studios, etc.) Captain Wells stated that the Gulf Coast University has broadcasting students that may be able to help. Don Olson will look to see if there is an opportunity. Other avenues to pursue include Comcast and the 511 center. Ideas and opportunities are always welcomed.

#### Diversion Routes

The FDOT is working in concert with TIM Team stakeholders to standardize across TIM agencies all of the diversion routes in the District that would be included with an Interstate closure. The diversion routes will need to take into account oversize vehicles, overweight vehicles, and alternate routes (at least 2). John Scarpellino from Telvent is assisting FDOT in gathering all of the existing information. The base format and mapping plans have been developed and are currently under review by the Department. Once initial comments have been addressed, the diversion routes will be provided to the TIM Team members for their review and comment. Future projects may include US41 and other highways.

#### 800 MHz Communications Overview

Bob Finney, the Technical Manager at the Collier County Sheriff's Department, presented on the use of the 800 MHz radios and inter-agency communications. An Interoperability Agency Committee has been established to assist in providing agencies with the proper training and resources to help ease interoperability. After action reports indicate that many times there is a problem with communications during an incident; this used to be due to technology. Now we have the technology but are lacking in training, education and governance. The Statewide SLERS 800 MHz radio system has 4 mutual aide channels plus hailing capabilities. The Road Rangers are hoping to make use of the mutual aide channels at large traffic crashes. The direct channels are not limited to line of site, but due need to go through the closest towers (up to a mile). Dispatch centers still have the capabilities to provide patches between radios, but this is typically limited to the particular radios system capabilities and restrictions.

There are other obstacles when trying to use the 800 MHz radios. Each agency has a different naming convention for the various channels. In order to minimize confusion, the TIM Team will put together a cross referencing table showing the actual frequency and the various names as defined by the agencies. The FCC is trying to address this issue, but in the mean time, the cross referencing table will suffice. In addition, as a monthly exercise, it was suggested that a test checklist be developed for a radio check to ensure that all the radios are operational. Don stated that he would discuss this with Captain Davis to see if it would be possible.

For additional resource information and/or training, Bob Finney can be reached at, [bobfinney@colliersheriff.net](mailto:bobfinney@colliersheriff.net) or 239-793-9498.

### Work Zone Awareness Presentation

Ted Smith presented on Work Zone Awareness. By managing the initial incidents properly, secondary incidents can be minimized and/or avoided. On the Turnpike, the Insta-Tow program is beginning implementation. The Insta-Tow program will allow a tow truck to be dispatched at the same time as a Trooper in order to help clear the incident in a timely manner; thereby reducing the duration of the incident. Ted also emphasized how public perception has an effect on funding in the long term; public perception is typically based on the images seen in the media.

There is a four hour course available at [www.atssa.com](http://www.atssa.com) titled, 'Safe and Effective Use of Law Enforcement Personnel in Work Zones – Grant Train – the Trainer'.

The presentation is available under 'Document Archives' on the TIM Team website, [www.swftim.org](http://www.swftim.org).

### **Incident Reviews:**

On Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, there was an incident on SB I-75 near MM 164 that involved a rollover bridge beam. The incident lasted until 2 am Monday morning. It took 5, 150-ton cranes to remove the beam. One mainline lane and the SB off-ramp were closed. The 511 system was kept updated from input by all agencies involved, including Charlotte County, FHP, Sheriff PIO and the media.

Another incident involved an 18-wheeler car carrier and an 8-car pile-up. One NB and 1 SB lanes were closed. There seems to have been a delay in notifying the wrecker company; the incident occurred at 7 am and the wrecker company was not notified until 8:27 am. Once the wrecker arrived on the scene, the incident was cleared within 30 minutes.

### Critical Traffic Incident Management Review

In order for there to be Critical Traffic Incident Reviews, Don requests that stakeholders indicate which incident(s) they would like to review. Don stated that once an incident is determined, he would need to time to collect all reports pertinent to the incident. Additionally, any TIM Team member is encouraged to bring up an incident to discuss in the meetings, and it is usually most helpful to give TIM Team members a chance to prepare for the discussion.

### **Construction/Maintenance Update:**

Weekly project information can be found on the FDOT website:

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/construc/constmap/d1roadwatch.htm>

### iROX – I-75 Road Expansion Project

The iROX project is 150 days ahead of schedule. The majority of the new lanes have been paved and approximately half of the bridges have been completed. Information on the iROX project can be found on the project website, [www.iROX75.com](http://www.iROX75.com).

### **Scheduled 2009 Meeting Dates:**

June 10  
August 12  
October 14  
December 9