



**Collier-Lee
Traffic Incident Management Team**

*December 12, 2007
Meeting Minutes*

Attendees:

Benjamin Abes	Lee County EMS	Robert Richards	FDOT
Robbie Brown	Lee County DOT	Bill Rippy	FHP
Bill Clemens	Bonita Springs Fire & Rescue	Nolan Sapp	Golden Gate Fire Control & Rescue
Krystle Davis	Lee County DOT		
Glen Fox	Alligator Towing	John Scarpellino	Telvent Farradyne – RTMC
Kevin Fox	Alligator Towing	Orly Stols	North Naples Fire Control
Frank Gentilquore	Alligator Towing	Mike Stone	Collier County Maintenance
Montague Gonsalves	City of Cape Coral	Gregory Wallace	FDOT
Bud Gruber	Bald Eagle Towing	Les Williams	Collier County EMS
Lisa Hunter	FHP	Lourdes Daniel	Anchor Towing
Bruce Hutcheson	DBI Services	Raul Corbo	Anchor Towing
Linda King	Lee County Sheriff	Patrick O'Rourke	DBI Services
Rich Lisenbee	Lee County DOT	James Drzymala	Lee County Sheriff
Mike Meehan	511/Traffic.com	John O'Laughlin	Delcan Corp
Dewayne Milbourn	Bumper to Bumper Towing	Ted Smith	Delcan Corp
Michael Myers	ICA	Don Olson	FDOT
David Parks	Global-5	Christina Florez	VANUS
Robert Register	Collier County Traffic Ops		

Call to Order: The Collier-Lee TIM Team meeting was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at Florida Highway Patrol, 4700-3 Terminal Dr., Ft. Myers. Ted Smith, John O'Laughlin and Don Olson facilitated the meeting.

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

Toolkit for Deploying TIM/QC Best Practices Presentation:

John O'Laughlin presented on TIM Best Practices. John presented an overview of the I-95 Coalition which is comprised of 16 member agencies. The Toolkit was developed based on various sources, including District 1 in Florida. The Toolkit uses symbols to represent the different agencies instead of individual agency logos in order to form a more cohesive document that many regions could use. As part of the presentation, the "Why We Stress Good TIM Practices" video was shown. The video demonstrated how often and severely the response vehicles are hit while at an incident. John stressed that although the original document and presentation was based around the I-95 coalition, they are available for everyone, and that the Best Practices Guidelines should be used to operate with more consensus and keeping safety

in mind. The presentation will be available on the TIM website, www.swfltim.org. Please contact Don Olson for a copy of the document.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

The regional TIM website has been launched at www.swfltim.org. All previous meeting documents (i.e. agendas, meeting minutes, presentations, documents and newsletters) will be available to review and download. This website is not only a resource for current T I M Team members, but also a tool that can be included in agency staff meetings, newsletters and informational correspondence. Please share T I M Team information with your agency co-workers. Should anyone like to add information or have any comments, please contact Christina Florez, cflorez@vanusinc.com.

Don Olson discussed the Bi-Annual Newsletter Addendum that was distributed electronically with the agenda. The Addendum had articles on the Vision, Goals, and Objectives, Unified Traffic Incident Command, VII software update, National Traffic Incident Management Coalition, Statewide TIM Update, interoperable communications, TIM Team outreach and expansion, web links and TIM Team 2008 initiatives. Don stressed the 2008 initiatives which included Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO) in conjunction with TIM and pursuing professional wrecker support including cross training.

Don also stated that he would like to increase membership and participation. A binder has been developed that includes information on nationwide TIM, statewide TIM, regional TIM, meeting minutes and newsletters. These binders are available to TIM Team members and potential members. Please contact Don Olson, don.olson@dot.state.fl.us, for copies of the binder.

The regional 511 systems are being integrated into a statewide 511 system. The updated system will take all of the regional information and locate it onto a central database. There are some concerns that when motorists call 511 from southwest Florida, it first takes the caller to the statewide system. Don receives all the messages from callers with their comments.

Review and Discussion of Recent Major Incidents:

First Incident

On the Pine Ridge Road bridge in the iROX construction zone on northbound I-75, there was a tanker truck carrying jet fuel which caught fire at the rear of the trailer when a wheel bearing froze causing all eight tires to burn. The driver stopped, abandoned the truck and called 911. The responding Fire-Rescue units did a very impressive job extinguishing the fire. There is no telling how much danger and damage was mitigated due to the bravery and aggressive fire suppression actions taken by the Fire-Rescue professionals. Unified command was implemented and all the agencies worked together to effectively manage the incident.

Since the fire had impinged on the tank for some time, all the tires burned off and there were structural components melted it was decided that the 8000 gallons of product needed to be off-loaded before the truck could be relocated. Another tank truck with a special pump for transferring jet fuel was dispatched and given an escort by FHP to the scene. The load was transferred and two large rotator type tow trucks were used to lift the damaged aluminum tank and load it on a flat bed. The entire operation was handled safely in five hours.

There was a discussion at the TIM meeting concerning criteria for notification of the FDOT Motor Carrier Compliance Office. They were not contacted about this incident, since there were no injuries, however, the incident warranted this additional call-out. FDOT Motor Carrier Compliance will have an office at the SWIFT SunGuide Center this year. The consensus is that

this safe and successful handling of a very challenging incident is a Job well done. A special note of honorable mention to the Fire-Rescue responders who came within a few feet of the fire with risk of massive explosion to apply fire suppression foam.

Second Incident

There was a multi truck crash the day before the TIM meeting. The incident occurred in Lee County on I-75 near Daniels Parkway. The southbound lanes were closed between 7 to 8 hours. The traffic was cleared and a diversion route was implemented. There was debris (sand and magazines) for approximately 800 feet. There was one fatality. The diversion route that was implemented was a route that Lee County has modeled previously. There was a problem reported with the over-sized trucks caught in the back-up because they were too wide and could not get off the highway.

At the crash scene one of the delays was due to one of the vehicle owners insisting that they use their own equipment to reload machinery and they kept the roadway blocked. There was additional delay due to the necessary investigation of the fatality and the process to clear sand from the pavement with brooms so not to obscure skid marks or evidence or remains.

TIM Team – Quality Management/Future Direction:

Since these two real world incidents were reviewed and due to time constraints, the “Table-Top” exercise was postponed until the next meeting in February.

Newsletter

Don reminded all participants that if anyone was to submit an article that it would be published in the Newsletter. The TIM Team members are encouraged to submit ideas and topics for inclusion in future Newsletters. Don would like to get feedback on doing a third page to include TIM Team member bios. The TIM Team members should be recognized for their leadership.

Additional Topics

Don indicated that participants can provide agenda items. To please email or call to make sure that all items are included for discussion.

Construction/Maintenance Update:

iROX – I-75 Road Expansion Project

The call boxes have been removed from Golden Gate Parkway to Corkscrew Road. The mile markers will be replaced within the next two weeks.

In construction areas, the traffic is being shifted to the outside. They are adding a new lane to the inside and repaving. New 60 MPH signs have been placed in addition to the existing 70 MPH signs. FHP asked if ACCI/API wanted the 60 MPH speed limit to be enforced. APPI/ACI asked that it be enforced only during lane closures. FHP stated that in order for the 60 MPH speed limit to be enforced, the 70 MPH signs would need to be covered.

There were some complaints that the some of the lights that are in the construction area are aimed directly at the on-coming motorists. ACCI/API will reposition the lights as needed.

The temporary accident investigation sites have received the needed permit approvals. These sights will be a strip of asphalt on the exit ramps for relocating damaged and disabled vehicles in order to keep the flow of traffic moving as efficiently as possible.

Additional information on the iROX project can be found on the project website, www.iROX75.com.

Alligator Alley Fire EMS Substation:

Due to the fear of future budgetary constraints, the substation has been put on temporary hold.

Other Team Issues:

Les Williams will be providing a joint training between law enforcement and fire-rescue personnel on medi-vac landings on the Alley. The training includes protocols, what ifs, helicopter landings, etc. This type of cross training is highly encouraged across the nation.

Scheduled 2008 Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, February 13, 2008
Wednesday, April 9, 2008
Wednesday, June 11, 2008
Wednesday, August 13, 2008
Wednesday, October 15, 2008
Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Attachments: Toolkit for Deploying TIM/QC Best Practices Presentation

Meeting Notes by Christina Florez, VANUS, Inc. (305) 823-5662