



**Collier - Lee**  
**Traffic Incident Management Team**  
*February 13, 2008*  
*Meeting Minutes*

**Attendees:**

Benjamin Abes	Lee County EMS	BJ Kirby	Coastland Auto Road Rangers
Sandra Betts	Collier County Sheriff	Douglas Leffin	Collier County Sheriff
Richard Beveridge	FDOT	Rich Lisenbee	Lee County DOT
Chris Birosak	FDOT	Mike Meehan	511/Traffic.com
Phil Blanc	San Carlos Park Fire & Rescue	Scott Melton	FDOT
Dennis Boback	Ft. Myers Beach	Dave Myzie	DBi Services
Carlos Bonilla	FDOT	Patrick O'Rourke	DBi Services
Robbie Brown	Lee County DOT	David Parks	Global-5
Bill Clemens	Bonita Springs Fire & Rescue	Mark Perez	A.C.T. Emergency Response
Raul Corbo	Anchor Towing	Robert Register	Collier County Traffic Ops
Lourdes Daniel	Anchor Towing	Bill Rippy	FHP
Krystle Davis	Lee County DOT	Gene Rogers	South Trail Fire Protection & Rescue
James Drzymala	Lee County Sheriff	Joe Saladino	Prompt Towing Service
Glen Fox	Alligator Towing	Dave Salo	Salo & Salo
Kevin Fox	Alligator Towing	Nolan Sapp	Golden Gate Fire Control & Rescue
Frank Gentilquore	Alligator Towing	John Scarpellino	Telvent Farradyne – RTMC
Montague Gonsalves	City of Cape Coral	Mike Stone	Collier County Maintenance
Hank Graham	Division of Forestry	Jim Wells	FHP
Bud Gruber	Bald Eagle Towing	Les Williams	Collier County EMS
Wayne Hartstein	FDOT	Doug Young	Bumper to Bumper Towing
Lisa Hunter	FHP	Ted Smith	Delcan Corp
Bruce Hutcheson	DBi Services	Don Olson	FDOT
James Isaacs	Caloosahatchee Forestry Center	Christina Florez	VANUS

**Call to Order:** The Collier-Lee TIM Team meeting was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 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. Chris Birosak introduced and welcomed the new Fort Myer's Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) manager Carlos Bonilla to the group. Carlos joined FDOT on February 8, 2008. The RTMC is under construction and is expected to be operational by the end of summer 2008. Once the RTMC is completed, Carlos will be the main point of contact for FDOT.

## **Update on TIM Initiatives:**

### Statewide 511 System

Mike Meehan provided an overview of the new 511 statewide system that is currently under development. Mike invited participation from stakeholders and incident responders should they see any activity that needs to be posted, including traffic, fire, smoke, and police activity. 511 Operations may be reached 24/7 on the Tip line at (813) 207-0800 or toll free at (877) 965-9700. Getting this information to the public via the 511 system allows motorists to avoid the traffic incident scene resulting in less congestion and improving incident scene safety. Using the 511 Tip line is strictly voluntary and not an official procedure for first responders.

511 Motorists alerts are categorized as mandatory (motorists must listen to alert) or non-mandatory (motorists have the option to bypass alert). The sensors along I-75 are in the final testing phase; once the testing is complete, the sensors will provide the motorists with approximate travel times. The statewide 511 system will also have a website that will highlight the roadways by color depending on the general travel speeds. Green for free-flow conditions, yellow for moderately reduced flow and red for slow or stopped flow conditions.

### Incident Notification

FDOT's Public Information Office (PIO) requests notification of large-scale level 3 incidents over 2 hours incident duration time and when roadways are closed. Scott Melton, the Emergency Management Coordinator for FDOT, requested that he be notified 24/7 via his on-call pager, (877) 876-0628, for large-scale level 3 incidents over 2 hours incident duration time and whenever there is a road closure. He will then disseminate the information to appropriate FDOT personnel. It is anticipated that once the RTMC becomes operational, most of the notification and communication issues will be resolved.

## **FDOT District One Major Traffic Incident Notification Number: (877) 876-0628**

### RISC

FDOT's central office in Tallahassee is reviewing the latest Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) request for proposal (RFP) contract language. FDOT plans to release the RFP during 2008. There has been some discussion that legislative action may be needed in order to change some of the verbiage under section 15B of the Florida Statute. The intent of the change is to allow the Troopers and local officers the option to override the vehicle owners request to call their own wrecker services in favor of a rotation wrecker able to respond in a prompt fashion.

### Temporary Traffic Control

The Temporary Traffic Control Zone and Emergency Responder Checklist handout will be reviewed throughout the upcoming year. Please review and disseminate to you organizations. Comments and suggestions for changes to the guideline are always welcome. Don Olson has suggested better graphics, improved graphic layout and cardstock be used in a redesign.

### Polk County TIM Team

FDOT is developing a Polk County TIM Team. This will be the third TIM Team in the District. The Polk County TIM Team will begin meeting in the spring of 2008.

### TIM Website

As a reminder, the regional TIM website has been launched at [www.swfltim.org](http://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 TIM

Team members, but also a tool that can be included in agency staff meetings, newsletters and informational correspondence. Please share TIM Team information with your agency co-workers. Should anyone like to add information or have any comments, please contact Christina Florez, [cflorez@vanusinc.com](mailto:cflorez@vanusinc.com).

### **Median Crossovers:**

A question was asked regarding the status of the median crossovers along I-75. Responders are concerned that there are fewer median crossovers since the installation of the cable median barrier. It is taking longer to respond to some incidents.

The report that ranked the crossovers based on FHWA criteria was generated and has been updated. Based on this report, FHWA made the decision as to which crossovers were needed. The report did allow for additional crossovers along Alligator Alley whenever funding was available.

As an alternative, DBi indicated that they may be able to de-tension the barrier cables and lower the pole so that first responders can cross over the median or they can cut the cable with a special kit. This kit allows the cable to be cut while not losing tension along the rest of the barrier. There was an indication that some of the first responders would like to have the kit on board due to concerns that DBi may not be able to respond as quickly as may be necessary. DBi is concerned that if the cable is cut incorrectly, it may pull back and cause injury. DBi stated that their contract requires them to respond to an incident within 30 minutes during the day and 60 minutes after hours, but that they would be willing to work with the first responders.

The main concern of all the stakeholders is what can be done in order to have the fastest and safest response to any incident.

**Action Item:** Don Olson will provide an update on the median crossovers at the next TIM Team meeting.

### **Unified Command Presentation:**

Deputy Chief Phil Blanc of the San Carlos Park Fire and Rescue Department presented on Unified Command Structure with focus on large-scale incidents impacting traffic. The presentation included an overview of Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), the need for Incident Command System and staging areas, and logistics. In order for the Unified Command Structure to function properly, a system needs to be in place and in practice. There are a lot of considerations that need to be taken into account and coordination; “partnering” is the key. It must be noted that training is required for those responding to an incident, including RTMC operators. NIMS training is offered at [www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/crslis.asp](http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/crslis.asp). The courses are also presented more specifically for various disciplines.

It was also stated that when under Unified Command, all first responders should revert to a “plain talk” system. Agency specific jargon and lingo may not be understood by other agency personnel. It is everyone’s personal responsibility to speak up at an incident scene if they do not understand something that is being said. This will help everyone work together safely and in support of each other.

### **Asset Management Presentation:**

Dave Myzie and Bruce Hutcheson of DBi Services presented a company overview and their role on I-75 as the Asset Maintenance / Emergency Response contractors for the FDOT. DBi currently has a 6-month contract for I-75 in Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

Beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Broward and Collier Counties will be added, except for the iROX project, from MM 105 to MM 136. ICA is the Asset Manager within the iROX project limits. At the transition points of the IROX project, DBi will work with ICA on coordinated response protocol. The objective will be to clearly define roles and responsibilities at Golden Gate Parkway and Colonial Blvd interchanges.

DBi's responsibilities on the I-75 corridor are from fence line to fence line. DBi must meet performance measures per the FDOT contract and are on-call 365 days a year, 24/7.

The following is the DBi Services Emergency Call List:

**24-hour Emergency Number: (239) 567-2043**

The following numbers are back-up numbers in the unusual case that the 24-hour emergency number is not answered:

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Number</b>
Area Manager MM 136-195	Patrick O'Rourke	(239) 933-9073
Area Manager MM 196-234	David Reichel	(239) 225-8818
Incident/Emergency Manager	Bruce Hutcheson	(813) 334-5587
Contract Manager	Richard Fimbel	(239) 229-0682
Project Manager	David Myzie	(804) 283-0384

DBi requests that all calls go through the 24-hour emergency number. All calls to this number are logged and a report is generated and sent to DBi. This helps with quality control and as documentation should there be a discrepancy. In addition, the 24-hour call center has a backup dispatch in Indiana.

**Road Rangers and Asset Managers:**

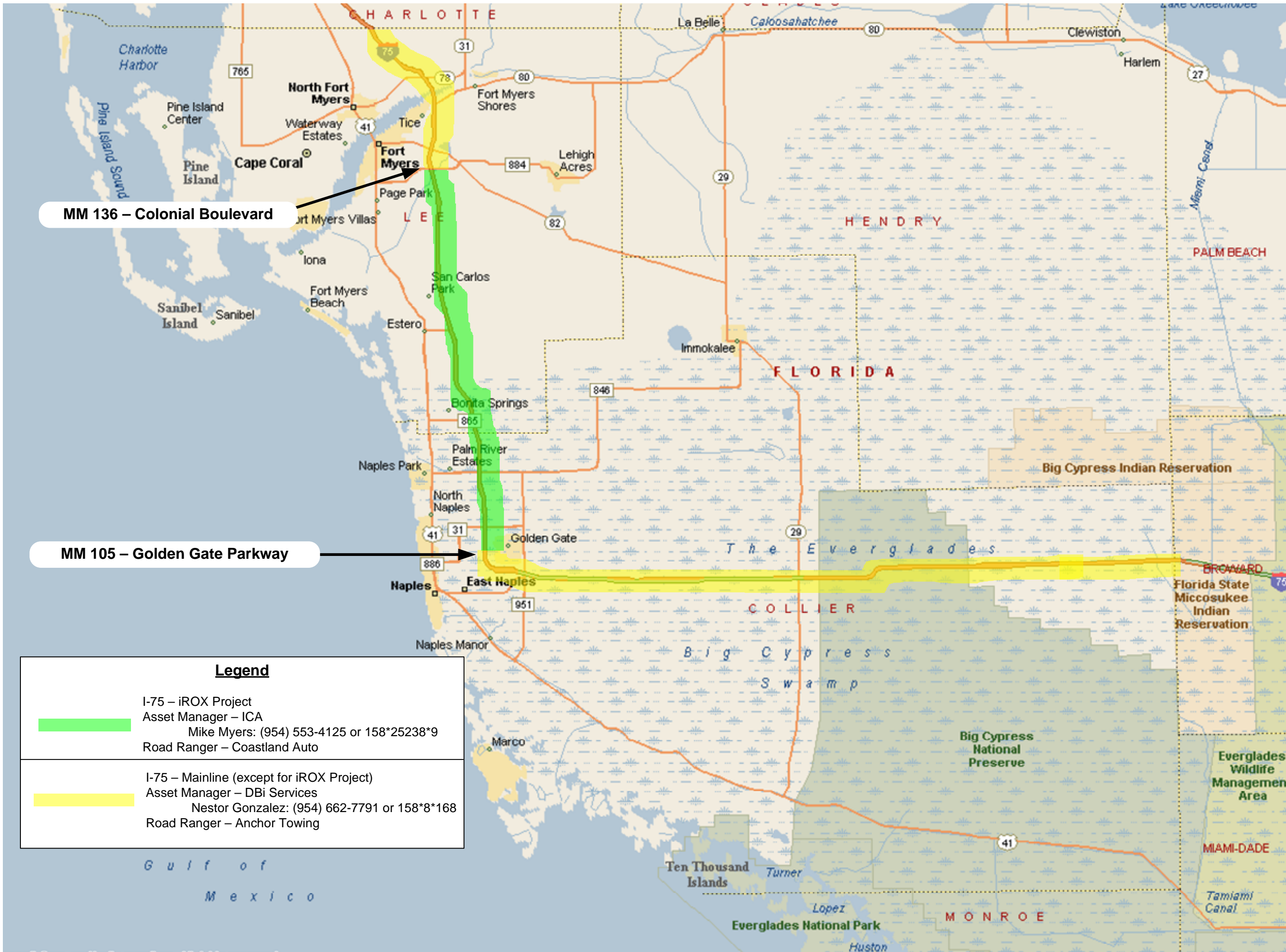
There has been some confusion with respect to the FDOT District-wide SunGuide Road Ranger Service Patrol and iROX Asset Maintenance Service Patrol coverage along I-75. A map is included to assist in defining the limits of the two areas of coverage based on contracts within the Collier and Lee Counties. Within the iROX project (MM 105 to MM 136), ICA is the Asset Maintenance contractor providing Service Patrols 24/7. For all the remaining portions of I-75 in Collier and Lee Counties ( ... also Charlotte, Sarasota and Manatee ) the Asset Maintenance contractor is DBi Services and the FDOT District-wide SunGuide Road Ranger Service Patrol contractor is Anchor. FDOT District-wide SunGuide Road Ranger Service Patrols currently operate from 5am to 9pm on weekdays and 7am to 11pm on weekends. Road Ranger Service Patrols are dispatched by FHP Communications Center in Fort Myers. Service is requested by dialing \*FHP (\*347).

**Review and Discussion of Recent Major Incidents:**

There was a brush fire along I-75 at the Golden Gate Parkway interchange and the highway had to be closed for a short period of time. By the time Asset Maintenance had been notified and came out, the smoke had already cleared off the roadway. FDOT Emergency Management stated that they were not notified of the closure. FDOT Public Information Office also was not notified and requested to please notify them of any Interstate roadway closures, perhaps through the FDOT Emergency Management 24/7 contact number 1-877-876-0628. This single







**MM 136 – Colonial Boulevard**

**MM 105 – Golden Gate Parkway**

Legend	
	I-75 – iROX Project Asset Manager – ICA Mike Myers: (954) 553-4125 or 158*25238*9 Road Ranger – Coastland Auto
	I-75 – Mainline (except for iROX Project) Asset Manager – DBi Services Nestor Gonzalez: (954) 662-7791 or 158*8*168 Road Ranger – Anchor Towing