



## Collier – Lee - Charlotte Traffic Incident Management Team

October 10, 2012

Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Kevin Fox	Alligator Towing	Tim McMullen	DEP
Raul Corbo	Anchor Towing	Chris Birosak	FDOT
Lourdes Daniel	Anchor Towing	Bill Fuller	FDOT
Bud Gruber	Bald Eagle Towing	Michael McGee	FDOT
Stephen Gruber	Bald Eagle Towing	Bill Ritz	FDOT
Frank Gentilquore	Bald Eagle Towing	Kevin Salsbery	FDOT
Tim Knox	Emergency Vehicle Alerts	Thomas Curran	FDOT
Rick Bossert	Collier County	Lenny Diogo	Jaimes Towing & Recovery, Inc.
Les Williams	Collier County	Donnie Fewell	Lee Co. Sheriff
Lakshmi Gurram	Charlotte County	Dennis Petracca	Lee Co. Sheriff
Harris Domond	Charlotte - Punta Gorda MPO	William Floyd	Lee Co. Emergency Management
Richard Doll	Charlotte County	Randy Hart	Lee County DOT
David Brown	Charlotte County	Brian Raimondo	Lee County MPO
Marinko Gnjidic	City of Fort Myers	Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering, Inc.
Gary Millsaps	Delcan Corporation	Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering, Inc.
Alex DeMarco	DBI Services	Joe Saladino	Prompt Towing Services
Richard Fimbel	DBI Services	Bob Diezi	Road Rangers - Dist. 1
Brian Bird	FDOT	Jay Anderson	Stay Alive, Just Drive

**Call to Order:** The Collier-Lee-Charlotte TIM Team meeting was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 9:30 PM at SWIFT SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, Florida 33913. Bill Fuller, Gary Millsaps, and Charles Stratton facilitated the meeting.

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

### **Agency News:**

#### **Road Rangers**

Mr. Bob Diezi, Road Ranger in District One, briefly reviewed the District One Road Ranger response statistics. Please see below the breakdown of incidents/activities for the month of September and the third quarter (July, August, and September).

DISTRICT ONE ROAD RANGER RESPONSE STATISTICS		
TYPE OF SERVICE	SEPTEMBER 2012	THIRD QUARTER
TIRE	335	1,618
MOT	542	4,527
FUEL	205	627
WATER	78	2155
PUSH	3	41
MECHANICAL	104	29
AGENCY ASSIST.	28	1,222
RED TAG	N/A	1,810
CRASHES	488	600
DISABLED	1,623	276
ABANDONED	213	17
DEBRIS	659	308
VEHICLE FIRE	14	112
OTHER	38	517
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>13,859</b>

Mr. Diezi also informed the team that between mile marker 159 and 143 there is a construction zone and the breakdown area was recently resurfaced and the area is unavailable. Any motorists that do happen to breakdown will have to pull into the grassy area.

Mr. Diezi informed the team that a company, Rapid Response, has been recently charging disabled motorist for assistance. It was stated that it is illegal for the company to charge for services that the Road Ranger offers for free. It is courage to report these types of incidents.

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the team that the Road Ranger contract was re-awarded to Anchor Towing. He also informed the team that the Road Rangers will be receiving new trucks with the new contract.

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the team that the Road Ranger schedule is available to anyone upon request. To request the schedule, please contact Mr. Fuller at (239) 225-9815 or via email at [william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us)

#### Towing and Wrecker News

No agency news

#### Other Agency News

Mike McGee, TIM Coordinator for District Four, informed the team that over the summer they worked on their outreach program for Fire Rescue and Law Enforcement. The program was geared towards lower level incident respondents to educate them about Traffic Incident Management (TIM). Mr. McGee also informed the team that they hosted the SHRP2 program.

Lee County Emergency Operations Center is currently in the process of moving into their new business building and is anticipating to be completely moved in by late December.

**Update on TIM Initiatives:****National/State/Regional**

Mr. Gary Millsaps presented on the Ten Cones of Highway Safety. The Ten Cones of Highway Safety are as follows:

1. There is No Substitute for Training
  - The core of everything we do
  - Listen, learn, do
  - Gather experience, become experienced
2. Multi Agency Coordination and Communication are a Must
  - Incident viewed as: Orderly flow disrupted, treat the injured, restore order
  - Orchestration and Communication are critical
  - Unified Incident Command is Essential
  - Jointly developed SOP's
  - Ongoing Communication, Review, and Refinement are Indispensable
  - Coordination and Communication are a must
3. Limit Your Exposure, Limit Your Time
  - The more equipment and personnel, the more exposure
  - Make sure there is enough equipment and personnel, but keep to a necessary minimum
  - The risk is greater the longer you stay on-scene
4. Give Traffic Plenty of Warning
  - In a perfect world, all traffic could be diverted
  - Managing traffic would be easy if there were no vehicles
  - In the real world, delays cause stress, everybody's in a hurry, and tempers are short
  - Five years ago, "Road Rage" was never known
  - Advance warning can help
  - Arrow boards, flares, cones, police cars, and detour routes
  - Message Signs have been effective
  - Use whatever means necessary to give traffic plenty of warning
5. Protect the Scene with Apparatus
  - Can provide a protective shield
  - Better to lose equipment than personnel
  - Properly positioned, the apparatus can provide tons of fortification around the incident
  - Always arrange apparatus assuming it will be struck
  - Park apparatus at an angle with front wheels turned
  - Help create a safer zone of response and protect the scene with apparatus
6. Always Work Away from the Traffic
  - Stay out of traffic
  - Often the focus is on others and we forget to safeguard ourselves
  - Move away from the traffic area, don't be a target
  - Watch traffic flow before getting out of your vehicle
  - You're of no help if you become a victim
7. Be Prepared to Shut Down the Roadway
  - Not always popular, but must be an option
  - Closing the roadway clearly eliminates the chance of a secondary incident
  - Can have negative effects:
    - Diverting traffic to other areas that may already too congested
    - Taking vehicles from highways to residential areas or past schools, hospitals, etc.
    - Anticipate the possibilities and be prepared to shut down the roadway
8. Be Seen and Not Hurt
  - Old presumption: " The more lights the better"

- Lights can be blinding to safe drivers, and a deadly attraction to those impaired by alcohol or drugs
  - Lights draw attention to the apparatus but obscure the emergency personnel
  - Reduce the amount of emergency lights with greater emphasis on traffic controls
  - Provide illumination to the scene
  - Police vehicles tend to slow down traffic
9. Dress for the Occasion
- Have proper reflective gear
  - Turnouts and EMS garments may not be enough
  - Wear the reflective gear
  - Appreciate the Safety Officer who makes you wear them - he's just trying to keep you alive
10. Accountability Matters
- It's all about responsibility
  - Take the safety of the entire organization seriously
  - When on the highway:
    - Take care of yourself
    - Look out for others
    - Keep your eyes open
    - Don't do anything dangerous
    - Consider assigning one person as a Safety Officer to monitor every highway traffic scene

Mr. Bill Fuller discussed distracting driving with the team and informed the team that the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Deputy Executive Director Jonathan Adkins stated that "Using a handheld cellphone while driving is dangerous, period." There are new calls for a complete ban on the use of all handheld electronic devices while driving. The Governors Highway Safety Association is the latest group to call for the ban. Thirty-nine states and D.C. currently ban texting and driving for all drivers, while 10 states and D.C. ban handheld cellphone use.

Mr. Jay Anderson from Stay Alive, Just Drive further discussed distracted driving. Mr. Anderson informed the team about the changes to the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). It is a federal requirement that all 50 states have a SHSP in place, and in 2012 Florida recognized the need to increase the emphasis areas. The executive committee decided to incorporate distracted driving, teen and aging road users, and traffic records.

Stay Alive....Just Drive!, Inc. (SAJD) is a nationally recognized 501(c)3 traffic crash prevention, awareness, and education program aimed at curbing distracted driving and promoting safe driving. Today, most people consider unsafe driving as a major personal threat to themselves and others SAJD's goal is to make the roads safer for all user by reaching every motorist, at least once a day with their message, "When you drive distracted ...We're all impacted!"

### The Purpose

- Address crashes caused when a driver allows any mental or physical activity to take the driver's focus off the task of driving
- U.S. DOT national campaign on distracted driving boosted public attention to the problem
- Distracted driving identified as a traffic safety problem by 64 percent of respondents in a 2010 survey

### Accomplishments

- Revised crash report form and began collecting more specific distracted driving data in 2011

- Passed Ronshay Dugans Act, proclaiming the first week in September as “Drowsy Driving Prevention Week”
- Implemented various education and awareness programs
- CTST “Put it Down” distracted driving program
- Local agencies partnered with Stay Alive...Just Drive to distribute brochures during traffic stops

### Strategies

- Increase public awareness and outreach programs on distracted driving.
- Encourage companies, state agencies and local governments to adopt and enforce policies to reduce distracted driving in company and government vehicles.
- Support legislative initiative that enhance distracted driving-related traffic laws and regulations.
- Support Graduated Drivers License (GDL) restrictions to reduce distracted driving behaviors in teen drivers.
- Increase law enforcement officer understanding of Florida traffic crash report distracted driving data collection.
- Educate law enforcement, judges and magistrates on the existing laws that can be applied to distracted driving.
- Deploy high-visibility enforcement mobilizations on distracted driving subject to appropriate/future legislation.

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the team about a texting and driving campaign that AT&T has launched. AT&T created several programs designed to both educate and help prevent texting while driving. Today, the company launched a free, online virtual simulator where users may enter their phone number and begin virtually driving using their mouse and keyboard. While "driving," the user's actual phone will receive a text prompting them to respond. The goal of the simulator is to show that even a quick glance down to review the message or a quick response can cause your virtual car to crash, similar to what might happen when one reviews a message or text while actually driving. AT&T is also sending an in-vehicle simulator around the country to college campuses to provide a more realistic experience where users can get behind the wheel of an actual car equipped with a demonstration similar to the online virtual simulator.

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the team about Transpo 2012. The event is ITS Florida's bi-annual gathering of consultants, vendors, and government officials. This year, it includes a half day of presentations aimed at traffic incident management, which includes experts discussing the issues that responders encounter every day. Responders can attend the Tuesday, October 30th sessions and visit the Exhibit Hall for only \$25. To take advantage of the discount, responders must contact Lauren with CMC Associates at 850-224-7775 for registration prior to the event. For more information please visit: <http://www.itstranspo.org/>.

Mr. Bill Fuller and Mr. Gary Millsaps updated the team about the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2). As a reminder, the program was created by Congress to address the challenges of moving people and goods efficiently and safely on the nation's highways. This short-term research program addresses four strategic focus areas:

- **Safety** - The role of human behavior in highway safety
- **Renewal** - More efficient highway project delivery
- **Reliability** - Congestion reduction through improved travel time
- **Capacity** - Improved integration of community, economic, and environmental considerations for new highway capacity

SHRP 2 has developed a new multi-agency national TIM training program named National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training. The final pilot course will be conducted in September in Knoxville TN. After this, the training course will be handed over to FHWA for full implementation. This multi-agency training equips responders with a common set of core competencies and assists them in achieving the TIM National Unified Goal (NUG) of strengthening TIM programs in the areas of:

- Responder safety
- Safe, quick clearance
- Prompt, reliable, interoperable communications

Mr. Fuller and Mr. Millsaps explained to the team that in late January they will be putting together a SHRP 2 training class which the two day module will be presented into a four hour, one day class. It was further explained that they are looking to find volunteers from different agency backgrounds who can be trained to become trainers in their area of expertise.

For more information, contact Paul Jodoin, Transportation Specialist, 202-366-0731 / [www.ops.fhwa.gov/eto](http://www.ops.fhwa.gov/eto); or Bill Fuller at (239) 225-9815 / [william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us).

Mr. Bill Fuller reviewed two recent major incidents with the team.

The first incident occurred on 09/17/12 at I-75 Westbound at Palm Beach Boulevard in Lee County.

- Dump truck went onto its side, spilling 250 gallons of diesel fuel
- Duration: 289 minutes
- First Notified: 06:26:17
- RTMC Verified Clear: 10:57:16

The second incident occurred on 09/17/12 at I-75 Southbound and Exit 141 in Lee County.

- Van-vs.-Semi Truck which jackknifed spilling 150 gal of diesel, closing both Southbound travel lanes. (Construction Zone)
- Duration: 161 minutes
- First Notified: 18:41:13
- Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) official clearance time of the RISC is 20:22

### **Strategic Direction for TIM Teams 2011-2012**

Mr. Charles Stratton and Mr. Bill Fuller spoke to the team about the Local Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The multi-agency TIM Team has taken the initiative to establish a series of Agency Memorandums of Agreements or MOUs. The incident response agencies have the responsibility to do whatever is reasonable to enhance the safety of our transportation system. This is a team effort to reduce the risk to all incident responders, secondary crashes, and delays associated with incidents, crashes, roadway maintenance, construction, and law enforcement activities.

The draft "Local" TIM MOU has been distributed for review to each participating agency. The MOU includes the following:

1. Identify local Agencies that will support the TIM program and sign the agreement
2. A local Open Roads Policy that will establish time goals for roadway and incident scene clearance times
  - Identify how the data will be collected, analyzed and reported to the TIM Team
  - Identify how often the reports will be reviewed to determine whether progress is made in achieving the established time goals

3. Define Incident scene roles and responsibilities for each participating agency
4. Establish a local incident scene Lighting Policy
5. Establish a local incident Communication Policy or a commitment from each participating agency to notify FDOT's SWIFT SunGuide Center
6. Define how often this document will be updated

Mr. Fuller explained that the MOU is intended to provide the framework and guidelines to promote a collaborative effort by and between the TIM Team Agency Members within Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, and Polk Counties, to further refine and promote the TIM program within FDOT District One. Parties to this Document recognize and understand the importance of data and resource-sharing and public safety through efficient and timely use of TIM. However, the associated MOU's do not obligate the TIM Team Agency Members, or the TIM Team Agency Member representatives to commit or donate funds, equipment or personnel to the association's activities or initiatives. The TIM Team Agency Members do, however, commit to participating in collaborative efforts intended to advance the interest of the TIM program for the benefit of public safety.

Mr. Fuller updated the team informing them that there were some minor revisions to the MOU and is currently being reviewed by legal.

The full educational/training presentation is available on the TIM Team website for agencies to review and help bring to their teams to help better under the RISC process at the following link: <http://www.swfltim.org/Docs/The%20Process%20of%20Rapid%20Incident%20Scene%20Clearance.pdf>

### **FDOT Construction Update**

Mr. Bill Fuller requested that all TIM Team members make sure they are receiving the District One Weekly Road Watch Reports and to contact him if there were any concerns.

#### ***Active Construction:***

No updated information was provided by the TIM Team

#### ***Completed Construction:***

No updated information was provided by the TIM Team

#### ***Anticipated Future Construction:***

No updated information was provided by the TIM Team

Additional construction information is available on the FDOT Road Watch website located at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/construc/constmap/d1.shtm>. This resource is updated on a weekly basis.

### **Future Meetings**

The next Collier-Lee-Charlotte County TIM Team will be December 12th, 2012 at 9:30 PM at the SWIFT SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, Florida 33913.

As always, please continue to visit the TIM Team website for updates, and also help support our TIM Team by providing the TIM Team website to others that may be interested in joining our team! <http://www.swfltim.org/>

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the District One TIM Team Manager, Mr. Bill Fuller at (239) 225-9815 or via email at [william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us).