



Collier – Lee - Charlotte Traffic Incident Management Team

*August 14, 2019
Meeting Minutes*

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Rory Howe	Parsons	Deise Hannemann	FHP
Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering, Inc.	Glenn Hedgecoth	FHP
Robbie Brown	FDOT	Sammy Edara	Charlotte County MPO
Brian Raimondo	Lee Co. MPO	Bud Gruber	Bald Eagle Towing & Recovery
Raul Corbo	Anchor Towing	Buddy Hager	Bald Eagle Towing & Recovery
Reginald Faust	DBI Services	Elise Hodges	FHP
Tim Palmore	TIM	Jessica Milliken	FHP
James Lear	Cape Coral PD	Kevin Salsbery	FDOT
Daniel Lourdes	Anchor Towing/Marine Towing	Trae Maeder	FHP
Frank Gentilquore	Bald Eagle Towing & Recovery		

Call to Order: The Collier-Lee-Charlotte TIM Team meeting was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 9:30 AM at SWIFT SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, Florida 33913. Brandy Boccuti and Rory Howe facilitated the meeting.

Introductions:

Team members introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.

Agency News:

Road Rangers

Road Rangers informed the team that they have two totaled Road Ranger trucks and one damage truck so far this year due to Road Ranger incidents.

Additionally, the Road Rangers discussed the recent incident that occurred in Polk County that involved a Road Ranger truck being struck while helping a disabled vehicle. Please reference the After Action Review section at the end of the meeting minutes for the full details of the incident.

Towing and Wrecker News

The towing agency informed the team that there is a light duty training class coming up the month of June.

Other Agency News

The D1 SWIFT SunGuide Traffic Management Center informed the team that they are currently understaffed and looking to fill position(s).

DBI Services informed the team that they are preparing for the Hurricane season.

Law Enforcement informed the team that they will have a large enforcement concentration in the area for the upcoming Labor Day weekend holiday.

Additionally, Law Enforcement is concentrating on schools zones as school had started for the year.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

National/State/Regional

Rory Howe, Parsons Corporation, presented to the team on the impact of media on traffic incidents.

Media Relations:

- Always expect for the media to arrive on scene
- Plan a media staging area
- Use of Social Media (Twitter, Nixle)
- Regular follow up posts with up to date information
- Consider a unit or shift level employee authorized to act as a PIO
- Control the flow of information and the tone of the story as well as the incident scene

Using Twitter and/or Nixle to post updates to the citizens can push out information very quickly. Also, by posting the links on Facebook you can reach not only the citizens but also media outlets which may help reduce the number of media trucks that respond to the traffic scene.

Additionally, direct the media where to park/stage and where they can meet with PIO personnel instead of disturbing Incident Command or line officers while they are performing their duties.

Shift level PIO can handle smaller incidents on weekends or after hours when the regular PIO may not be available. This can be an excellent resource for the department to get their message out without calling in additional manpower.

An incident that occurred on I-75 at Mile Marker 115 was used as an example to the team on how the media can impact a traffic scene. In figure 1 it



Fig. 1 Opposite direction traffic queue caused by



Fig. 2 Opposite direction traffic queue from incident



Fig. 3 Queue disappears with media truck

shows a proper work zone set up, including arrow boards and an outstanding cone taper. But notice the media truck that is set up in the median across from the incident location which has caused a large queue upstream in the opposite direction.

Figure 2 is the opposite view, showing the traffic queue backing up until it reaches the media truck. Within minutes of the media truck being removed figure 3 shows the queue on the opposite side of the Interstate has cleared. The work zone hasn't changed and the incident is still there. However, by removing the media truck from the median it has eliminated the opposite direction queue.

To view the full presentation, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org/>

The TIM Team participated in the 2019 Traffic Incident Management Self-Assessments (TIM SA). The Traffic Incident Management (TIM) programs continue to play a vital role in the safe and quick clearance of traffic incidents while providing a framework for reducing congestion and maximizing use of existing transportation infrastructure. A critical component of capitalizing on the success of existing programs and aiding the development of new TIM programs is periodic evaluation of the components of successful multi-agency TIM programs. The TIM SA was designed to provide an easy-to-use tool for measuring TIM program performance.

The TIM SA consisted of a series of 55 questions which were organized into the following sections and subsections:

Strategic:

- Formal TIM Programs (11 questions)
- TIM Training and After Action Reports (5 questions)
- TIM Performance Measures (12 questions)

Tactical:

- TIM Laws (3 questions)
- Policies and Procedures for Incident Response and Clearance (14 questions)
- Responder and Motorist Safety (5 questions)

Support:

- Data Collection/Integration/Sharing (5 questions)

The results will help in identifying areas of improvement in the three categories as shown above.

To learn more about the TIM SA, please visit the following website:

https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/eto_tim_pse/preparedness/tim/self.htm

After Action Reviews (AAR) provide agencies with actionable intel on an incident or event that can be used for improved strategies for future occurrences, demonstrating the benefit of quick clearance practices and improve cross-agency coordination and communication.

AARs were performed on the following recent major incidents:

08/02/2019 CLC

Event Number 711501

I-75 Southbound at Exit 139 (Lockett Rd)

Lee County

Disabled Vehicle

Timeline:

- 1258 TMC Event reported. Emergency vehicles blocking the entrance ramp with left shoulder of ramp open
- 1300 TMC Tow company on scene
- 1305 TMC Ramp completely blocked
- 1313 TMC Large equipment in ditch and underwater
- 1314 TMC Road Ranger advises decision made to delay removal/recovery of equipment until the next day
- 1337 TMC Last departed (tow company)

Lessons Learned:

Tow company was requested (and said they would) attend the meeting but did not show. If the private tower had reached out to FDOT/FHP and coordinated with them, the road closure could have been avoided as this would take quite a while to remove the equipment from a water filled ditch and could have been planned for a low-traffic time that would not impact traffic flow as much. Once on scene, this is what happened.

07/08/2019 SM

Event Numbers 878296/878308

I-4 Westbound at Mile Marker 26, near Polk Parkway West

Polk County

Fatality Crash Involving Road Ranger

Timeline:

- 1636 TMC Disabled vehicle on left shoulder reported
- 1653 TMC Road Ranger 102 on scene
- 1706 TMC Crash reported involving Road Ranger blocking #1 lane
- 1711 TMC FHP, Local Police Department, EMS (1713) on scene
- 1715 TMC #1 and #2 lane blocked
- 1717 TMC Possible fatality
- 1719 TMC Requested three MOT trucks from DBI
- 1827 TMC Wrecker on scene per CCTV
- 1904 TMC Only Left shoulder and #1 lane blocked
- 2022 TMC No lanes blocked (Roadway & Incident clearance)
- 2024 TMC Congestion cleared

Lessons Learned:

The Road Ranger involved in the incident was present at the meeting to discuss the incident as a "best practice" responder safety incident. The Road Ranger was inside his vehicle with his arrow board activated when his vehicle was struck by an oncoming vehicle. By the Road Ranger being inside his vehicle versus standing outside his vehicle on the scene it helps to avoid serious injuries.

06/10/2019 CLC

Event Number 678343

I-75 Southbound at Mile Marker 87

Car Carrier Crash

Collier County

Timeline:

- 1539 TMC Crash Reported
- 1543 TMC #2 lane (of 2) and right shoulder blocked with car carrier crash through guard rail
- 1548 TMC FHP on scene, DBI en route

1605 TMC DBI on scene
1608 TMC FHP Trooper Morales activates RISC
1615 TMC Prompt Towing accepts RISC
1759 TMC 2 heavy tow trucks on scene
1800 TMC FHP closing both lanes
1801 TMC All Prompt equipment on scene
1805 TMC FHP gives NTP
1807 TMC Support vehicle (Bobcat) and flatbed truck on scene
1809 TMC #1 lane and left shoulder open
1845 TMC All lanes closed
1924 TMC Both tractor and trailer removed, spreading oil dry (fuel spill)
1929 TMC #1 lane and shoulder open
1947 TMC Roadway Clearance (right shoulder still blocked)
2052 TMC Incident clearance (removing vehicles that fell off trailer behind guard rail)

Lessons Learned:

Early activation of RISC helps shorten roadway closure times. Good communication between FHP and the RISC tower on scene can expedite dispatch of additional equipment. This is important in Collier County especially since RISC towers must travel such a long way.

Proper work zone set up to warn motorists which helps reduce traffic queue and the possibility of secondary crashes.

While incident clearance took a while, it was difficult work to remove the cargo vehicles from behind the guard rail.

FDOT Construction Update

Brandy Boccuti 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/D1/news/newsreleases/default.shtm>.

Future Meetings:

The next Collier-Lee-Charlotte County TIM Team will be held on October 9, 2019 at 9:30 AM 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 Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering, Inc. at (407) 644.1898 or via email at bboccuti@metriceng.com