



Collier – Lee - Charlotte Traffic Incident Management Team

August 14, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The Collier-Lee-Charlotte TIM Team meeting was held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 9:30 AM at the SWIFT SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33913. Tom Arsenault and Brandy Boccuti facilitated the meeting.

Introductions: The team members introduced themselves and the agencies they present.

Agency News:

Road Rangers

Tom Arsenault provided a summary of Road Ranger operations across Collier, Lee, and Charlotte counties. He reviewed assist totals from the previous quarter, noting consistent response to incidents involving lane blockages, debris removal, and stranded motorists.

Tom emphasized the importance of proper staging during incident response, particularly along I-75 and in construction zones. He reminded Road Rangers to avoid stopping in travel lanes and to always coordinate with law enforcement on scene before positioning their vehicles.

No staffing changes or service area adjustments were reported. The team continues to evaluate assist patterns to ensure adequate coverage and response efficiency throughout the region.

Towing and Wrecker News

No agency updates

Other Agency News

Sterling Bond and Ray Mikol provided an overview of recent operations at the Southwest Florida Interagency Facility for Transportation (SWIFT) SunGuide Center. They reported continued coordination with law enforcement and Road Rangers, especially during wrong-way driver alerts and major incidents.

The TMC encouraged agencies to report ramp closures, detours, and roadwork directly to the center so that message boards and alert systems can be updated in real time. Additional upgrades to camera and detection systems were also briefly mentioned as part of a multi-phase project continuing into 2025.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

Tom Arsenault, Metric Engineering, reminded the team about the purpose of the TIM Meeting.

- TIM is the coordinated detection, response to and removal of traffic incidents as quickly and safely as possible. TIM is a coordinated effort among multiple agencies.
- The primary purpose of TIM is to reduce the duration and impact of incidents as well as to improve the safety of motorists and most importantly our incident responders.
- The TIM Meeting is to help prop up communication, coordination, and collaboration among our incident responders.

David Burnside, TransCore, in collaboration with FDOT District One, delivered a presentation on Florida's Wrong Way Vehicle Detection Systems currently deployed across District One. The systems utilize forward- and rear-facing radar, thermal sensors, and real-time imaging to detect vehicles entering ramps incorrectly. Upon detection, flashing LED WRONG WAY signs are activated and alerts are sent to the TMC.

Key highlights included:

- Overview of both GovComm and Tapco system technologies
- AI-based camera configurations with thermal and optical sensors
- Real-time image capture, TMC alerting, and FHP dispatch coordination
- Current system coverage includes over 30 ramps on I-75 and arterial corridors
- Additional projects are underway for SR 64, University Parkway, Fruitville Road, Bee Ridge Road, and Clark Road

FDOT also discussed the role of TrafficVision AI video analytics, which utilizes existing infrastructure to detect wrong-way drivers, though it does not provide active alerts to the driver.

TMC staff shared incident response protocol when alerts are received and noted that approximately 80% of drivers self-correct after seeing the activated signage.

Tom Arsenault informed the team that FDOT is beginning preparations for the 2024 Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW), a national campaign that highlights the lifesaving work of traffic incident responders and promotes safe driving near incident scenes.

Agencies were encouraged to begin submitting responder photos, success stories, or examples of collaborative response to be featured during the campaign. Tom emphasized the importance of agency participation to help spotlight the work being done in the region and to support FDOT's outreach and safety messaging.

He also recommended that each agency consider promoting Crash Responder Safety Week through their internal communications and public-facing social media platforms as the campaign approaches in November.

Tom Arsenault, Metric Engineering, provided the Road Ranger performance statistics.

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:

06/22/2024

Northbound I-75 at Mile Marker 131 (Lee County)

Incident Details:

- 08:15:44 Crash reported involving multiple vehicles.

- 08:17:30 Law enforcement dispatched.
- 08:21:12 Road Ranger arrived on scene.
- 08:34:45 All northbound lanes blocked.
- 09:07:20 Tow services began vehicle removal.
- 09:48:58 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 1 hour, 33 minutes, 14 seconds

07/10/2024

Southbound I-75 at Corkscrew Road (Lee County)

Incident Details:

- 05:42:16 Crash reported involving semi-truck rollover.
- 05:45:11 FHP on scene.
- 05:49:33 Road Ranger staged and confirmed scene status.
- 06:02:00 Full SB closure initiated.
- 06:28:17 RISC activation issued.
- 07:04:41 Tow vendor arrived.
- 07:50:33 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 2 hours, 8 minutes, 17 seconds

07/25/2024

Northbound I-75 at SR 78 (Charlotte County)

Incident Details:

- 17:11:09 Crash involving fuel spill and trailer detachment.
- 17:13:56 Fire Rescue dispatched due to hazmat concern.
- 17:22:00 Road Ranger arrived and began lane closure.
- 17:34:50 FDOT notified of long-term closure needs.
- 18:16:23 Vendor on scene.
- 19:42:30 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 2 hours, 31 minutes, 21 seconds

08/05/2024

Eastbound SR 82 near Immokalee (Collier County)

Incident Details:

- 14:03:41 Vehicle vs. motorcycle crash reported.
- 14:05:17 EMS dispatched.
- 14:09:50 Law enforcement arrived and initiated full Eastbound closure.
- 14:28:00 Air transport initiated.
- 15:12:44 Scene cleared and lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 1 hour, 8 minutes, 43 seconds

FDOT Construction Update

Carlos Rivera, FDOT, provided construction updates for Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties. He reminded agencies to communicate regularly with FDOT during nighttime operations and active lane closures to help prevent delays in emergency response.

Key regional updates included:

Charlotte County: Active resurfacing and signal improvement projects on US 41 and SR 776. Agencies were advised to watch for shifting traffic patterns near the Punta Gorda corridor.

Lee County: Progress continued on I-75 corridor improvements near Daniels Parkway and Colonial Boulevard, including bridge widening and ramp upgrades. Overnight closures were scheduled for bridge deck work.

Collier County: Ongoing work on SR 82 and I-75 included resurfacing and ITS installation. A traffic shift was scheduled near Golden Gate Parkway, and agencies were encouraged to report any access issues related to staging or detour routes.

The team was provided with recent construction updates. The FDOT District 1 weekly construction updates are also available to all first responders by request to Janella Newsome, FDOT, Janella.Newsome@dot.state.fl.us or by calling (863) 519-2828.

Future Meetings:

The next Collier-Lee-Charlotte County TIM Team will be held on October 9, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

Meeting Adjourned

*The list of attendees is attached to these meeting minutes.

As always, please continue to visit the TIM Team website for updates, and 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) 949-4283 or via email at brandy.boccuti@metriceng.com

TIM TEAM MEETING

Collier-Lee-Charlotte SIGN IN SHEET

August 14, 2024

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