

# Collier – Lee - Charlotte Traffic Incident Management Team

December 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

<u>Call to Order</u>: The Collier-Lee-Charlotte TIM Team meeting was held on Wednesday, December 11, 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

The team reviewed Road Ranger assist statistics for each county. No operational changes or personnel updates were announced.

### Towing and Wrecker News

No agency updates

## Other Agency News

Sterling Bond and Ray Mikol provided an update from the SWIFT SunGuide Center. They shared recent performance metrics and emphasized the TMC's continued role in supporting Road Rangers, FHP, and local responders through dynamic message signs, real-time camera monitoring, and lane status updates.

The TMC reminded agencies to notify the center of ongoing incidents early, especially during overnight or weekend events, to ensure full coordination and appropriate motorist alerts. The team continues to evaluate detection and clearance times to identify areas for improvement.

Florida Highway Patrol Troop C and Troop F acknowledged the challenges during Hurricane Milton and thanked the team for ongoing support. They emphasized the importance of early notification during post-storm incidents and praised the Road Ranger program for quick scene support.

Lee County Sheriff's Office noted the effectiveness of interagency coordination during recent high-volume crashes. They highlighted their continued focus on aggressive driving enforcement in rural segments of I-75.

Collier County EMS thanked the team for improved communication with the TMC and appreciated the real-time updates during active scenes. No operational changes were announced.

# **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 the communication, coordination, and collaboration among our incident responders.

Beau Baggett was introduced as the new Assistant TIM Program Manager supporting the Polk County TIM Team. Beau brings a strong background in transportation coordination and multi-agency collaboration. As part of the Metric Engineering team, Beau will work alongside Program Manager Tom Arsenault and TIM Coordinator Brandy Boccuti to support incident management initiatives, facilitate meetings, and assist in growing regional TIM participation.

Beau shared a few words during the meeting, expressing enthusiasm for working with local agencies and contributing to efforts that enhance responder safety and reduce roadway incident impacts. The team welcomed him and looked forward to his involvement in future meetings and initiatives.

Tom Arsenault, Metric Engineering, led a roundtable discussion regarding response and recovery efforts following Hurricane Milton, which impacted several counties in the region.

Key observations included:

- The need for improved coordination when closing and reopening Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU) corridors.
- Challenges with downed power lines, debris clearance, and shoulder obstructions.
- Communication gaps between some local jurisdictions and the TMC during the initial 24–48 hours post-storm.
- Importance of staging fuel resources for Road Rangers and tow vendors.
- Recommended expansion of post-storm debriefs to include MPOs and local municipalities.
- Several agencies expressed interest in developing a shared storm response checklist before the next hurricane season. Tom noted that a planning session would be scheduled in early 2025 to address these needs.

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:

12/21/2024

Northbound I-75 at Mile Marker 108

# Incident Details:

- Road Ranger crash involving fatality
- 3:37 AM Initial Notification
- Road Ranger was assisting with a lane closure
- Collier County Sheriff's vehicle was parked on-scene
- A truck collided with the Road Ranger truck, which then struck the CCSO vehicle

- Driver 1 sustained fatal injuries
- Open Roads Duration: 9 hours
- Incident Clearance Duration: 9 hours 31 minutes

#### 09/03/2024

Northbound I-75 at Mile Marker 111 (Lee County)

## Incident Details:

- 03:42:00 Crash involving a passenger vehicle and semi-truck.
- 03:43:38 FHP dispatched to the scene.
- 03:48:02 Road Ranger arrived and verified multiple lane blockage.
- 04:04:11 EMS arrived and confirmed injuries.
- 04:28:25 One lane reopened to traffic.
- 05:14:40 Full clearance reported.
- Total closure time: 1 hour, 32 minutes, 40 seconds

#### 10/18/2024

Southbound I-75 at Mile Marker 94 (Collier County)

# Incident Details:

- 11:22:30 Crash reported involving box truck rollover.
- 11:24:00 Road Ranger en route.
- 11:31:13 First responders arrived on scene.
- 11:45:40 Lane closures in place with detour activated.
- 12:58:22 Tow vendor began recovery operations.
- 13:37:14 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 2 hours, 14 minutes, 44 seconds

## 11/06/2024

Northbound I-75 at Mile Marker 140 (Charlotte County)

## **Incident Details:**

- 15:17:00 Crash involving two commercial vehicles and fire hazard.
- 15:19:45 FHP and Fire Rescue dispatched.
- 15:24:58 Road Ranger arrived and blocked lanes.
- 15:36:00 Fire suppression operations completed.
- 16:18:11 Tow began vehicle recovery.
- 17:01:26 All travel lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 1 hour, 44 minutes, 26 seconds

# **FDOT Construction Update**

Carlos Rivera, FDOT, provided an update on active and upcoming construction projects in Collier, Lee, and Charlotte counties. The team was reminded of the importance of communicating lane closures, overnight operations, and detour routes with first responders to avoid delays during emergency responses.

#### Highlights included:

- Lee County: Active work along the I-75 corridor with overnight milling, resurfacing, and ramp improvements.
- Charlotte County: Continued work on the SR 31 roundabout and resurfacing along US 41.
- Collier County: Progress on interchange upgrades and widening along SR 82 and I-75.

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 February 12, 2025, 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! <a href="http://www.swfltim.org/">http://www.swfltim.org/</a>

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

# Collier-Lee-Charlotte SIGN IN SHEET

Last Name	First Name	Agency Name	Phone Number	
Martinez	Janice	FDOT- LFI		Email Address
ABREPA	CARLOS	FDOT -AM	941-708-0778	Dis716+1-1e1.00
Little ton	Boure	Lee Co. Dot	239-533-85	14 blitten & regular
Parish	Charles	FDGT		Ol Content & Recovered
Eldson	EAVY	Pelicus Preserve Gwir Relamon Calle	239-825-5216	Clorks. Parsher dois. state f11
PETRACCA	Denny	LCSO		48 Fleet master @ gmillion
HARRELL	CUAD	CCPD	239-584-3223	Chartzel @ Cape wall gov.
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Cinkouk	Sol	FDOT Fortinges	773-490 104	Crnkork Joe @9 mot/h
tarris	D' Juay	Charlefy Cuty Partalo rola MAD	941-626-1463	
Vernes	Certhern	INCIDENTCLIMA		Curere DINCIDENT CUER. CON
Botella	JASON	FROT FMOL	234-240-9844	TASON. Botellup DOT. STATE. FL.US
Salsbery	Kevin	FDOT EM		
Glen'	Dave	FDEP	2391-633-544	1 David - 6 lew & Florida Bell.
	Quisha	Cape Carul PD	66	J
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Johnson	Tim	FMOC FDOT	239.560.7882	Timothy Jahren @ dot. state. fl. les
1116	Ray	POOT TMG		(1)
BROWN	ESDIE!	FMPD	279 470470	Chromo Empolice. com
NITON	PHILO	CC Pus	239-603 433	7 PRIZZ BODE GE
Flanaga	Bura	cc pw	238-841-3811	bflanegare Cago caralisar
Leimondo	Bria		2700221	brainerdo C lee aporco