



Collier – Lee - Charlotte Traffic Incident Management Team

*August 10, 2016
Meeting Minutes*

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Frank Gentilquore	Bald Eagle Towing	Vincent Lee	Lucent Group D1 TMC
Bud Gruber	Bald Eagle Towing	Ray Mikol	HNTB
Chris Williams	FDOT	Bob Diezi	Road Ranger
Rory Howe	Parsons	Richard Fimbel	DBI Services
Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering, Inc.	Uriel Garcia	DBI Services
Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering, Inc.	Bill Floyd	Lee Co. Emergency Management
Brian Raimondo	Lee County MPO	Raul Corbo	Anchor Towing
Robbie Brown	FDOT	Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Lina Cerquera	FDEP	Dusty Turner	S. Trail Fire District
Jon Kulko	Cape Coral Police	Zac Burch	FDOT
Marinko Gnjidic	City of Fort Myers	Barry Liebowitz	N. Collier Fire Rescue
Patty Hill	Red's OK Auto & Truck Repair	Troy Norwood	FDOT
Scott Robbins	FDOT/HNTB	Elias Sanchez	FHP
Gene Rodgers	S. Trail Fire District	Misty Ireland	Gene's Towing
David Russell	Estero Fire Rescue	Rick Ireland	Gene's Towing
Patrick O'Grady	Cape Coral Police	Albert Dunton	Superior Towing
Kevin Salsbery	FDOT		
Roman Serrano	Lee Co. Sheriff's Office		

Call to Order: The Collier-Lee-Charlotte TIM Team meeting was held on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 9:30 AM at SWIFT SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, Florida 33913. Chris Williams, Charles Stratton and Rory Howe facilitated the meeting.

Introductions:

Team members introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.

Agency News:

Road Rangers

Bob Diezi informed the team that they are currently in the process of hiring two new Road Rangers in the Sarasota area.

Additionally, Mr. Diezi informed the team that in the last two months they have had three Road Ranger trucks rear-ended.

Towing and Wrecker News

Towing informed the team that they recently had a Tow Show in Dallas, TX at which time Bud Gruber with Bald Eagle Towing and Recovery met with Jim Austrich, the Federal Highway Administration program Manager for National TIM Responder Training (SHRP-2) program. Mr. Austrich wanted the TIM members to know that as of right now the SHP-2 training is free, however, as of September of next year the training may not be provided free of charge to the first responders.

Additionally, the SHRP-2 training is being mandated in 7 states for towing agencies that are required to have the training.

Other Agency News

The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) informed the team that the Traffic Management Operations meeting took place in the afternoon on August 10, 2016 at 1:00pm at the Fort Myers Library.

Additionally, the team was informed that the Lee County MPO board meeting takes place the 3rd Friday of every month. It was expressed that the TIM team facilitators, Charles Stratton, Rory Howe, and Chris Williams would like to be added to the September 16th or October 21st agenda to introduce themselves to the board and to inform them about the importance of the Traffic Incident Management Teams.

Lastly, the Lee County MPO informed the team that they received funds from Lee County Public Safety which they will use to fund public service announcements (PSA's) on roundabout intersections, as there seems to be a lot of confusion with the traveling public with these types of intersections.

Law Enforcement informed the team that they have been concentrating on school safety as the new school year has started. Law Enforcement has assigned different officers to different schools throughout the county and they have also continued to concentrate on bicycle / pedestrian safety.

Lee County Emergency Management informed the team that in the local region, they were able to obtain a Federal Home Lands Security Grant to develop an overall regional evacuation plan in case of a major hurricane.

Additionally, the team was also informed that Southwest Florida is the 3rd worst in the country for evacuation time. If the region had a major storm over Category 3 impact the area, evacuation would have to start as far as 5 days out prior to landfall in order to successfully evacuate.

Department of Environmental (DEP) informed the team that they are currently down a responder and as of right now they have two staff members for eight counties. DEP has requested all responders to relay as much information as possible about an incident.

Estero Fire Department informed the team of their concern with a recent incident that involved a cable barrier. The agency stated that there was miscommunication in regards to how to loosen the cable barrier instead of cutting it. DBI Services stated they would follow up with the appropriate representatives and ensure there is proper education in regards to properly handling cable barriers during an incident.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

National/State/Regional

Rory Howe presented to the team an update on the National Tim Responder Training Program (SHRP-2).

The Florida Highway Administration (FHWA) current goal is 20% of first responders to be trained in the National TIM Responder Training (SHRP-2). Currently, as of July 11, 2016 Florida is at 9.1%.

To help reach the 20% statewide goal the following points were made for Florida:

- Florida has a strong Traffic Incident Management network and active TIM teams throughout the state.
- Florida has a very large and diverse first responder network.
- District 1 can utilize best practices from around the state and from states throughout the U.S. to amplify training efforts.

Some of the challenges and solutions of the SHRP-2 training are as follows:

Challenge:

- Obtaining and maintaining leadership/executive level buy-in from all agencies, statewide and local, for TIM training efforts.

Solutions:

- Document and share both the qualitative and quantitative benefits of participating in the TIM training program.
- Identify opportunities to mandate or require TIM training both at the local and state level.
- Include the public in outreach and awareness efforts.
- Integrate the principles of the TIM training into agency policies, procedures, and/or guidelines.

Challenge:

- Lack of ownership for TIM training efforts.

Solutions:

- Establish a multidiscipline TIM training committee, or at a minimum, identify an individual that will be responsible for overseeing the TIM training program in Florida.
- Develop a TIM training succession plan.
- Review and update Florida's TIM Training Implementation Plan.
- Engage the local metropolitan planning commission and/or Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP).

Lastly, additional ideas that were provided to help Florida meet the 20% goals were:

- More train-the-trainer sessions.
- Cross-border train-the-trainer sessions with other states/region.
- Centralize entry of sessions into SharePoint site.
- Trainer commitment form.
- Training academy accreditation.
- "Trainer of the Month" award.
- Identify EMS trainers.
- Include communication/ public affairs personnel in training to raise awareness.

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

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2016 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign. The campaign will take place from August 17th through Labor Day weekend. Law enforcement nationwide will be joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the high-visibility Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over crackdown campaign.

- Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with blood alcohol concentrations [BACs] of .08 or higher). In 2013, there were 10,076 people killed in these preventable crashes.
- On Labor Day weekend in 2013, there were 424 crash fatalities nationwide. Almost half (48%) of those fatal crashes involved drivers who had been drinking (.01+ BAC); 38 percent involved drivers who were drunk (.08+ BAC); and more than a fourth (27%) involved drivers who were driving with a BAC almost twice the illegal per se limit (.15+ BAC).
- In 2013, approximately 1 in 5 child (12 and younger) passenger deaths were in drunk-driving crashes. Seventy-one percent of the time, it was the child's own driver who was drunk.

Charles Stratton informed the team about the Governors Highway Safety Association Annual Meeting which will take place August 27-31, 2016. Crossroads: The Intersection of Technology and Driver Behavior is the theme for the 2016 GHSA Annual Meeting. General Sessions will address how technological innovations can impact the way we drive now and in the future. To learn more about the event, please visit the following website:

<http://www.ghsa.org/html/meetings/annual/2016/index.html>

The July 2016 SWIFT SunGuide Reports was reviewed with the team. To view the full report, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

Charles Stratton reviewed with the team the 2015-2016 Statewide Road Ranger Survey for Incident Responders. The survey was designed to gather data from those who work and communicate with the Road Rangers on a regular basis.

The team was informed of the 2015-2016 Statewide Road Ranger Survey for Incident Responders results have been released. The survey was designed to gather data from those who work and communicate with the Road Rangers on a regular basis.

The survey included the following:

- Determine the incident responders' opinion of the program.
- Compare results and customer satisfaction to last year's survey.
- Solicit comments and suggestions to improve the program from the incident responder's perspective.

To read the full report, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>.

Charles Stratton and Chris Williams spoke to the team about the Florida Statewide Traffic Incident Management Workshop that took place July 21-22, 2016. The Florida Statewide TIM Workshop included all Florida Department of Transportation Districts and the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise where TIM topics was discussed such as activities, accomplishments, and goals.

Some of the specific topics discussed at the meeting where:

- Cost to Benefit Ratio Tool for TIM.
- Updating the FloridaTIM.com website.
- Road Ranger Warrant Recommendation Software being created.
- Providing a refresher on the Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Program.
- Success in district TIM programs and future enhancements.
- Reinvigorating Florida's TIM training program.
- Next level TIM performance measures.
- Florida Highway Administration (FHWA) current goal of 20% of first responders to be trained in the National TIM Responder Training (SHRP-2). Currently, as of July 11, 2016 Florida is at 9.1%.
- Attendees at the statewide meeting was informed that a committee is being formed to evaluate the Florida Administrative Code 15B-9 which is the wrecker qualifications. The wrecker's qualification code was originally created in 1994 and has been a concern of the wrecker's community, as it is very outdated in certain regulations/requirements.

Chris Williams asked the team, per the Traffic Incident Management FHWA self-assessments evaluations, whether we need to include special event updates to the team? The special events would be any type of event that may affect local traffic and planning may be needed. The team stated that there were local events that the TIM teams could benefit from in advance planning.

Additionally, an action item was given to the team to help them become more active in the local planning of events in the area that may affect the local roadways. All agencies were requested to send any event information and/or local planning committee information to Chris Williams.

Chris Williams also requested from the team to inform them of any major level 3 or Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) incidents in the Collier-Lee-Charlotte area that an after action review of the incident would be beneficial.

Chris Williams informed the team that they are currently working on an expansion to the 511 Florida application to add the use of emergency evacuations, which would allow motorist to log onto the app and see updated information such as fuel vendors that may be running low on fuel etc.

Chris Williams informed the team that a recent article stated that CEMEX USA is participating in the I-4 Ultimate Improvement Project, a 21-mile reconstruction of Central Florida's main interstate highway. This is the largest and most complex infrastructure project currently underway in the state of Florida. CEMEX is expected to supply more than 4,900 truckloads of reinforced ready-mix concrete pipe and more than 375,000 of the 620,000 cubic yards of ready-mix concrete required for this project, which will be shipped on trucks along I-4 and I-75, and may cause traffic delays.

Chris Williams spoke to the team about recognizing first responders that go "above and beyond" their duty while responding to incidents on the local highways. The responders would be nominated by their local agencies and a board of local TIM members would be created that would vote on the nominations.

Below is the list of TIM members that would be on the board to review the first responder nominations:

- Brian Raimondo, Lee County MPO
- Gene Rodgers, South Trail Fire District
- Jon Kulko, Cape Coral Police Department
- Richard Fimbel, DBI Services

- Bob Diezi, Road Ranger
- Scott Robbins, Traffic Management Center
- Bud Gruber, Bald Eagle Towing and Recovery
- Note, FHP will provide a representative from their agency

Charles Stratton reviewed the following major incidents with the team:

- 06/08/2016 – I-75 NB @ Exit: 143/ Bayshore Rd. (314354)
- 06/29/2016 I-75 SB @ Exit: 170/ Kings Hwy. (318239)
- 07/05/2016 – I-75 Northbound at Exit: 167/ HarborView Rd (314354)
- 06/06/2016 – I-4 Eastbound at Exit 84 Ivanhoe Blvd. (570293)

To view the incident SWIFT SunGuide Event Chronology reports, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swftim.org>

FDOT Construction Update

Charles Stratton 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 12, 2016 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.swftim.org/>

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Charles Stratton, Metric Engineering, Inc. at (407) 644.1898 or via email at cstratton@metriceng.com or Chris Williams, FDOT District 1 ITS Operations/ TIM TEAM Coordinator/ Road Ranger Program Project Manager at (239) 225.1915 or via email at Chris.Williams@dot.state.fl.us