



Collier – Lee - Charlotte Traffic Incident Management Team

*December 14, 2016
Meeting Minutes*

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Bud Gruber	Bald Eagle Towing	Dennis Petracca	Lee Co. Sheriff's Office
Chris Williams	FDOT	Robert Price	Lee Co. DOT
Rory Howe	Parsons	Scott Robbins	HNTB/FDOT
Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering, Inc.	Gene Rogers	South Trail Fire
Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering, Inc.	David Tarquino	S&T Towing of SW FLA, Inc.
Brian Raimondo	Lee County MPO	Mark Taylor	A Budget Towing
Casey Allo	Lee County	Alexandar Velez	DBI Services
Jay Anderson	Stay Alive Just Drive	Robert Ortiz	Road Rangers/Anchor Towing
Richard Fimbel	DBI Services	Joseph Bowers	FHP
Bill Floyd	Lee Co. Emergency Mgt.	Don Donakowski	Cape Coral PD
Frank Gentilquore	Bald Eagle Towing	Casse Barraco	HNTB
Vincent Lee	FDOT RTMC/STMC		
Rick McClaskey	South Trail Fire		

Call to Order: The Collier-Lee-Charlotte TIM Team meeting was held on Wednesday, December 14, 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

Robert Ortiz, Road Ranger Manager, reviewed the following reports with the team:

- 1st Quarter Road Ranger Comment Card Report
- 1st Quarter Road Ranger Performance Measures Report
- 1st Quarter Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Report

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

Towing and Wrecker News

Wanted Dead or Alive Towing informed the team of their 2016 Toy Drive, which took place on December 17, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at 2158 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33907. Towers with a Cause collected new and unwrapped toys for the Golisano Children's Hospital. Drop off locations were at Jaime's Towing, G&C Towing, Bald Eagle Towing, J&W Towing, Star 5 Towing, and WDOA Towing.

Bald Eagle Towing informed the team that the Professional Wreckers Operators of Florida (PWOFF) will be reaching out to the First Responders in regards to a "Move Over" Campaign that will take place around the end of January 2017, beginning of February 2017, after the recent events of First Responders being struck on the highways.

Additionally, the team was updated on the Florida Administrative Code 15B-9 which contains 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. It was stated that the Florida Department of Transportation has sent their recommended revisions of the code to Tallahassee. It is estimated that any changes to the code will not be in effect until 2018, as Tallahassee is currently scheduling Public Hearings on the topic.

Other Agency News

The South Trail Fire District has been a champion in the Traffic Incident Management community and is continually looking to find ways to help bring safety to first responders while responding to traffic incidents. The agency informed the team that their agency trucks are now equipped with advance warning signage which follow the required Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices (MUTCD) 6I. The ability to quickly install proper temporary traffic controls might greatly reduce the effects of an incident, such as secondary crashes or excessive traffic delays. An essential part of fire, rescue, spill clean-up, highway agency, and enforcement activities is the proper control of road users through the traffic incident management area in order to protect responders, victims, and other personnel at the site. To learn more about the MUTCD 6I, please click on the following link: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/hdm/2009/part6/part6i.htm>

The Florida Highway Patrol informed the team that their resources are currently down as they are about 40 troopers down and are about 180 troopers down for the State of Florida. It was stated that this was a result of troopers transferring to other agencies. Additionally, to learn more about joining the agency, please visit <http://beatrooper.com/>

Cape Coral Police Department informed the team that their resources are also down.

Lastly, the Law Enforcement agencies informed the team that they will be out in for enforcement during the 2016 holidays.

DBI Services stated they will keep the team updated on any meeting dates in regards to one-way traffic evacuation plans.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

National/State/Regional

Rory Howe presented to the team about "Minding the Queue." Two critical locations for traffic control exist with each incident. One is at the incident scene itself where clearly understood direction is needed to move traffic safely past the incident and protect responders working on the incident. The second is at the end of the queue of traffic that forms beginning at the incident and

could extend back for many miles. While drivers approaching the end of a short queue may see the incident, drivers approaching the end of a long queue may be taken by surprise by a sudden slowing of traffic. Studies prove the likelihood of a secondary crash increases by 2.8 percent for each minute the primary incident continues to be a hazard. As much as 25% of all traffic incidents are secondary crashes, and up to 20% of those involve serious injuries or fatalities. It is important to monitor the end of the traffic queue and move the advanced warning devices to warn approaching motorists as the queue grows.

Possible Liability:

There has been a concern with possible liability to first responders that are not properly following the MUTCD 6I, in regards to advance warning at traffic queue sites. Fatalities and injuries that result in secondary incidents may be proved that it was avoidable, if proper set up was provided at the incident sites.

Protect the Queue Initiative:

In June of 2013, the Protect the Queue campaign was born in TDOT. This movement stresses to all employees and partnering agencies the importance of protecting drivers caught in a traffic queue. A training program on the most effective queue management techniques was launched. Since the start of TDOT's Protect the Queue campaign, data gathered from July 2013 through December 2013 shows a 19% reduction in secondary incidents over the same period in 2012. This equates to 20 fewer secondary incidents, and could represent four lives saved.

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

Lieutenant Joseph Bowers presented to the team on the Arrive Alive Program and a new roadway safety assessment program. In October 2016 in Orlando, the Florida Highway Patrol had their roadway assessment and brought back their Arrive Alive campaign, at which time the analysis came up with the idea of a program that would combine both crash hot spots and crime hot spots for an area of concentration which would involve the incorporation of state, county, and city police departments and their analysis teams. The theory of the program would not only reduce crashes in an area but to also reduce crime in the concentrated areas.

Additionally, once the program is in place there will be an email queue set up of the concentrated areas where law enforcement will submit real-time status as they are working the concentrated areas. The program will take an effort on all agencies involved and man power in order to support the program. The estimated program will take effect in 2017.

The team discussed the following 2017 areas of focus, which were selected from the 2016 Traffic Incident Management Self-Assessment results:

1. Conduct multidiscipline, multi-agency after-action reviews (AARs)
2. Medical Examiners:
 - For incidents involving a fatality, is there a procedure in place for early notification and timely response of the Medical Examiner?
 - For incidents involving a fatality, is there a procedure for the removal of the deceased prior to Medical Examiner arrival?
3. Procedures in place to help expedited crash investigations

The purpose of the yearly Traffic Incident Management Self-Assessments are to provide a formal process for State and local transportation, public safety and private sector partners to collaboratively assess their traffic incident management programs and identify opportunities for improvement.

Brandy Boccuti informed the team about the National Traffic Incident Management Training Certificate. Through a special agreement with the Federal Highway Administration, the Responder Safety Learning Network offers a National TIM Training Certificate for registered users who complete ten specific RSLN online self-paced programs.

To earn credit for each program, you must view the program in its entirety and pass the Skills Challenge test. Once you earn credit for all ten programs, you will be able to download a special certificate that is the equivalent of completing the National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training Program.

The ten RSLN programs required for the National TIM Training Certificate are:

1. Advanced Warning
2. Blocking Procedures at Roadway Incidents
3. High Visibility Innovations
4. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
5. Move It or Work It
6. See and Be Seen: Emergency Lighting Awareness
7. Special Circumstances: Safe Operations for Vehicle Fires
8. Special Hazards
9. Termination Phase of an Incident
10. Traffic Incident Management: Incident Command and Management

To learn more about the National TIM Training Certificate, please visit the following website, which is a free learning website for first responders: <http://www.respondersafety.com>

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2016 Florida Automated Vehicles Summit which took place November 29-30, 2016 in Tampa, Florida.

The overall focus of the Summit was:

- "Apply what you can do now", "near-term deployment opportunities", and "emerging technologies for transportation."
- It was widely discussed at the conference that Florida is one of the most proactive states with regard to Autonomous Vehicle Legislation.
- Florida has a law which allows the use and testing of Autonomous Vehicles on state roadways but also mandates that MPO/TPOs consider Autonomous Vehicles in their Long Range Transportation Plans. This in combination with the ongoing connected vehicles pilot at Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) and the upcoming Suntrax facility is positioning Florida at the front of the Connected Vehicle/Autonomous Vehicle race.

To learn more about the connected vehicle projects, please visit the following sites:

http://www.its.dot.gov/pilots/pilots_thea.htm

<https://floridapolytechnic.org/news-item/fdot-and-partnership-florida-poly-develop-suntrax/>

The team discussed any updates on the "First Responder Appreciation" award and also finalized the board members. The award would recognize 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. The topic will be further discussed at upcoming meetings, as a foundation for the reward will be an ongoing topic.

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

- Brian Raimondo, Lee County MPO, Committee Leader
- Chris Williams, FDOT
- Gene Rogers, South Trail Fire District
- Don Donakowski, Cape Coral Police Department
- Richard Fimbel, DBI Services
- Scott Robbins, Traffic Management Center
- Bud Gruber, Bald Eagle Towing and Recovery
- *FHP will provide a representative from their agency*

The team reviewed the following recent major incidents as a lessons learned:

- 11/07/2016 - I-75 Northbound at Mile Marker 125 (341112)
- 11/08/2016 - I-75 Southbound at Exit 138/SR 82 (341150)
- 11/17/2016 - I-75 Southbound at Exit 136/SR 884 (342605)

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

FDOT Construction Update

Charles Stratton reminded the team that the District 1 Roadwatch construction report is available to all first responders. To view the weekly District 1 RoadWatch construction report, please visit the following website: <http://www.fdot.gov/info/D1/news/newsreleases/default.shtm>

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 February 8, 2017 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 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