



Sarasota - Manatee Traffic Incident Management Team

*April 13, 2010
Meeting Minutes*

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Bruce Hutcheson	DBI Services	Shawna Slate	Metric Engineering, Inc.
Richard Schuldt	DBI Services	Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering, Inc.
Ted Smith	Delcan Corp	Aaron Nick	North Port Police Dept.
Chris Birosak	FDOT	Scott Meabon	North River Fire District
Devin Salsbery	FDOT	Bob Diezi	Road Rangers
Thom Scrivner	FDOT	Gary Spraggins	Sarasota County
Scott Teets	FDOT	Ron Locke	Sarasota County SO
Jay Baumann	FHP	Gilbert Fernandez	City of Sarasota
Vicky Mixon	Global-5	Andy Levesque	Venice Police Dept.
Ron Rich	Manatee County EMS		

Call to Order: The Sarasota-Manatee TIM Team meeting was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 1:30 PM at the Manatee County Traffic Management Center, Public Safety Building, 2101 47th Terrace East, Bradenton, Florida. Charles Stratton and Ted Smith facilitated the meeting.

Introductions: Team members introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

Newsletter

Charles encouraged all attendees to verify and update, if necessary, all of the contact information on the sign-in sheet in order to ensure that all attendees will receive the newsletters or any TIM related email news.

511 Next Generation

Ms. Vicky Mixon of Global-5, Inc. provided a presentation regarding 511. Presentation materials will be available on the TIM Team website located at <http://www.swfltim.org>.

SWIFT SunGuide Center

Chris Birosak reported that the grand opening of the SWIFT SunGuide Center occurred on January 19, 2010. Operationally, things are running smoothly to date, with the minor exception of 511 glitches during the transferring the data entry to the Center. Repairs are currently underway to correct those glitches and data will be posted for the time period that the system wasn't fully operational. Florida Highway Patrol is still on schedule to move-in their dispatch

center and district office in June. Center personnel are working toward the goal of providing live video feeds in the near future through the iVEDDS system.

Bob Diezi has reported that the dispatch operators recently spent four hours out in the field with Road Rangers to better help the operators gain perspective. Reciprocally, the Road Rangers have spent time with the operators.

Chris Birosak encouraged visits and interested parties should contact Carlos Bonilla or Chris Birosak for further information regarding a tour of the facility.

Additionally, the District is working with law enforcement phasing out the use of “slurs” or “10 codes” and using “plain English” on dispatch radios. Chris stated that they are anticipating further actions once FHP has moved into the Center.

Road Rangers

Bob Diezi reported that the Road Rangers are beginning service to the Ft. Myers area.

Additionally, Bob reported the Road Rangers recently responded to an incident at MM 210 that involved a roll-over vehicle blocking all lanes of traffic. The initial responding Road Ranger arrived on scene approximately 20 minutes after the initial call, and requested a second Road Ranger due to the vehicle back-ups. DBI assisted shortly thereafter. It took approximately two and a half hours to clear the incident.

Bob also reported that there will be Road Ranger training will be occurring April 17, 2010 at the Manatee office. There are approximately 20 people scheduled to attend, from multiple District I locations, as well as, District VII.

A survey regarding the Road Rangers was recently distributed to all first responders. Chris Birosak reported that the collected information has been tabulated and once the final report is compiled, the final results will be published to the website. Chris also reported that District I had the most responses, and thanked everyone for their participation. Feedback was positive.

Towing and Wrecker News

No towing and wrecker news was presented.

Training

The TIM Team watched the third module of the video *TIME4 Safety*, and the team will continue to view one module per TIM meeting. Additionally, copies of the video are being made available to any agency interested. To obtain a copy, interested parties can contact Chris Birosak via email at Chirs.Birosak@dot.state.fl.us

Other National, State, and Regional Items to Note:

The State of Washington has begun using a program similar to RISC in the larger metropolitan areas, that they call *BlockBuster*. Washington is encountering problems with their program, where they had “grandfathered” those heavy-duty towing and recovery firms already on their rotation lists. By not having these towing operators re-qualify, the problems they had hoped to avoid by going with this program continue in some situations.

Additionally in Washington, Ted discussed a series of agreements between the Department of Transportation and the State Patrol called Joint Operational Policy Statement (JOPS). The most recent addition to JOPS is a training requirement quarterly with all responder personnel.

More publications are surfacing regarding the use of cellular devices while operating a vehicle. The newest study conducted by the University of Utah in conjunction with the National Safety Council concluded after extensive testing that only 2.5% of those tested were able to maintain safe operation while conducting telephone calls on a hands-free device. 97.5% had some sort of impairment (reaction time delays, recognition, gap between vehicles, etc.). Currently, 27 states have adopted legislation prohibiting the use of hand-held cellular devices.

Some research has also begun to be published regarding the use of the computer screens and other instruments installed in emergency response vehicles and the distractions associated with their use.

The I-95 Corridor Coalition released results of a study of named *Traffic Incident Management Teams Best Practice Report*. This is an extensive review and report on the best practices of TIM Teams along the corridor. This study lists the Statewide TIM initiatives, and many specifically related to District I in many of the best practices. A copy of the report will be available on the TIM Team website located at <http://www.swftim.org>.

A pilot training program regarding traffic incident management by Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP II) will be happening in the near future in Atlanta, Georgia. This training program may be the precursor to a nationwide certification.

Review of Recent Major Incidents

No specific incidents were mentioned by the Team. Ted made a point to compliment the Road Rangers and DBI Services on their coordination of efforts on recent smaller incidents.

Presentation

Mr. Ted Smith of Delcan Corporation provided a presentation called *Recognize♦React♦Recover: An In-Depth Look at Preventing Run Off the Road Crashes Using Rumble Strip Strategies*. Presentation materials will be available on the TIM Team website located at <http://www.swftim.org>, as well as additional information can be found at www.roadwaysafety.org.

Strategic Direction for TIM Teams 2010

As a part of the TIM in '10 Initiative, the North Florida TPO has partnered with law enforcement, fire rescue, transportation and towing entities in north Florida to jointly develop a module-based training DVD and handbook named *TIMe4 Safety*. This training contains five modules, approximately five to ten minutes in length. Topics include Traffic Control, Scene Safety, and Incident Management. The TIM in '10 Initiative goal is to have every responder go through this video and text-book training.

Additionally in 2010, more interaction between Team members is desired, including suggestions and improvements Team members would like to see. This can be achieved by utilizing the many resources available on the TIM Team website located at <http://www.swftim.org>.

FDOT Construction Update

Active Construction:

- I-75 Milling and Resurfacing from SR 70 to University – Anticipated Completion: July 2010
- I-75 at SR 70 Interchange Improvements – Anticipated Completion: Summer 2010
- I-75 at US 301 Interchange Improvements – Anticipated Completion: Summer 2010
- I-75 at University Parkway Interchange Improvements – Anticipated Completion: Summer 2010
- I-75 at Fruitville Road Interchange Improvements – Anticipated Completion: July 2010

Completed Construction:

- No Completed Construction projects were discussed.

Anticipated Future Construction:

- No Future Construction projects were discussed.

Additional construction information is available on the FDOT website located at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/construc/constmap/d1.shtm>.

Open Forum

A member expressed concern regarding the request for response of Manatee County responders to Hillsborough County incidents. Hillsborough County is having difficulty with sufficient turn-around locations to enable their response, especially at the MM 238 Rest Area. The members stressed that there is an unpaved turn-around at MM 234, right on the county line. Traversing this particular break in the trees can be difficult for rescue and fire trucks if there has been any inclement weather. Additionally, Manatee responders are having difficulty with the lack of turn-around locations in the same areas. Ted stressed that the policy for the spacing and use of approved turn-around locations has been published by District I.

Future Meetings

The next Sarasota-Manatee TIM Team meeting will be June 8, 2010, and will be held at the Manatee County Traffic Management Center, Public Safety Building, 2101 47th Terrace East, Bradenton, Florida. **Newsletters will be published in mid-May 2010.**