



## Sarasota - Manatee Traffic Incident Management Team

October 12, 2010  
Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

| <u>Name</u>     | <u>Agency</u>      | <u>Name</u>         | <u>Agency</u>            |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| John Brown      | City of North Port | Thomas Przybylowicz | FHP                      |
| Richard Schuldt | DBI Services       | Charles Stratton    | Metric Engineering, Inc. |
| Ted Smith       | Delcan Corp        | Scott Agans         | Metric Engineering, Inc. |
| Gary Millsaps   | GDOT               | Bob Diezi           | Road Rangers - Dist. 1   |
| Bill Fuller     | FDOT               | Dr. Chanyoung Lee   | Univ. of South Florida   |
| Kevin Salsbery  | FDOT               | Mark Crawford       | Southern Manatee Fire    |
| Thom Scrivner   | FDOT               |                     |                          |

**Call to Order:** The Sarasota-Manatee TIM Team meeting was held on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 1:30 PM at Sarasota County Public Works, Sarasota, Florida 34240. Charles Stratton, Bill Fuller, Ted Smith, and Gary Millsaps facilitated the meeting.

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

### Agency News:

#### Road Rangers

Bob Diezi briefly reviewed the District 1 Road Ranger response statistics from September 1, 2010 to October 11, 2010. Bill Fuller stated good opinion from the motoring public. Bob informed the attendees of various accidents to Road Ranger Vehicles due to distracted motorists. He also stressed drivers to pay attention while driving.

#### Newsletter

Bill Fuller 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.

#### Towing and Wrecker News

Ted Smith spoke about state assessment of closure times. Wrecker personnel were concerned about event number 26804. The issue was an eight hour shoulder closure and the event transitioned from an emergency event to a routine clean-up event.

**Update on TIM Initiatives:**National

Ted Smith spoke about study for distracted drivers on the roadway. The study focused on the distraction of cell phone/handheld use and texting while driving. The study involved data from three states. As drivers were distracted, the laws governing cell phone use will stay the same, but law enforcement is to be more proactive about citing drivers for reckless driving while using a handheld device. The issue is getting worse, but cellular providers are lobbying congress to keep cell phone use legal.

State

Ted Smith spoke about the current wrecker rules. The current wrecker 15B rules are to be rewritten. The current rules are predominately based on FHP wrecker rotations. The change to the rule will ensure that all wrecker companies will have trained and certified personnel on Florida's roadways.

Ted Smith also spoke about local television stations causing additional traffic delays due to the TV crews reporting from the incident scene after crash is cleared. These incidents are increasing clearance times due to driver distraction. The TV stations have a right to report the crash, but once is crash is cleared, law enforcement will cite TV crews still reporting on site. This only affects the Orlando area. Bill Fuller stated that all TV crews should be certified in MOT like other roadway workers.

Regional

There is potential change of the policy and procedures of the use of Medivac Helicopters. This questions the use of the life saving helicopters. There were a total of 22 Medivac helicopter-related fatalities last year. The medical community is run by doctors and they need to find a common sense rule for deploying this type of transportation to the scene. It was stated that dispatching these helicopters will start to include long bone injuries. The levels of helicopter-related fatalities are increasing, mostly due to pilots landing the aircraft in live traffic lanes.

The Toyota Motor Corporation is set to release vital black box data for fatal automobile crashes. Toyota will also assist law enforcement in data analysis. United Parcel Service (UPS) will be installing 22,000 devices in their delivery trucks. This is already standard practice in the long-haul trucking industry. Most of the trucking fleets on the road currently assist law enforcement to provide vital crash data for their investigations.

Georgia TIM Teams and On Going Programs

Mr. Gary Millsaps, (Director of Georgia Incident Management and Chairman of the Georgia TIME Taskforce) presented on GDOT TIM Teams in addition to ongoing incident management programs. Mr. Millsaps spoke about the currently Highway Emergency Response Operator (HERO) program currently deployed on Georgia Interstates. HERO is a program very similar to Florida's RISC program. To increase incident response time, GDOT will deploy response software using a computer aided dispatch. The TIME taskforce uses only TRIP-certified wrecker companies. Those wrecker companies are able to remove disabled vehicles and move them to the shoulder of the roadway without being held liable for any damages only if no injuries are reported onsite. GDOT wants more HERO coverage especially in bad economic times.

National Unified Goal (NUG) Summit Update

Mr. Ted Smith spoke on the importance of the National Unified Goal (NUG). The NUG focuses on how incidents are handled and cleared. Many of the TIM partners have to think "outside the box". They are taking a new look at traditional towing programs to improve clearance times.

DOT is supporting law enforcement even though they sometimes blame them for wrecker issues. They have found that inadequate or dated equipment is part of the issue. The Federal government wants municipal agencies to improve trip reliability. They must achieve this reliability to ensure these agencies gain additional Federal funding for their roadway projects.

### **TIM Self Assessment for 2010**

The top-three goals previously identified during the 2010 Self Assessment were:

1. Develop multi-agency agreements/memoranda of understanding detailing resource sharing (facilities, services, personnel and budget)  
Team Members will provide Bill Fuller with current operating procedures and any multi-agency agreements or memoranda of understanding for the Team to review and analyze.
2. Utilizing traffic control procedures for the end of the incident traffic queue
3. Establish training goals (NTIMC and other areas of interest)  
Central office will provide free MOT training if requested.

### **Recent Trends of Motorcycle Crashes in Florida**

Dr. Chanyoung Lee presented on recent trends of motorcycle crashes in Florida. 54 % of riders are in fact using a DOT approved helmet when they ride. It was also stated that if you witness a motorcycle crash the bystander must secure the area, find medical help, do not move the rider, and do not remove a helmet unless CPR is necessary. The data reflects a high chance for motorcycle crashes.

### **Revisions Requested to the TIM Team Resource Guide**

Mr. Ted Smith had requested all of the attendees to expect a call from the Delcan to update the current TIM Team Resource Guide with the proper contact information.

### **Review of Recent Major Incidents**

No major incidents were discussed.

### **FDOT Construction Update**

#### **High Speed Rail**

The High Speed Rail project from Tampa to Orlando has been “fast-tracked” with an anticipated completion in 2015. The construction will be happening in two phases: median clearance and rail construction (at grade, with barrier wall separation). It is anticipated that the project limits are from the Orlando International Airport to downtown Tampa, with a stop in Lakeland. No crossovers will be designed due to the special use lanes. Additional information may be found at <http://www.floridahighspeedrail.org>.

#### **Active Construction:**

- I-75 Charlotte County Freeway Management System Project
- I-75 from North of River Road to North of SR 681

#### **Completed Construction:**

- No active construction projects were discussed.

**Anticipated Future Construction:**

- No active construction projects were discussed.

Additional construction information is available on the FDOT Road Watch website located at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/construc/constmap/d1.shtm>. This resource is updated on a weekly basis.

**Open Forum**

Mr. Bill Fuller discussed High Speed Rail on Interstate 4. He discussed that no crossovers will be placed on the project. Additional information will be provided in future newsletters.

**Action Items for Future Meetings**

1. TIM Team Members will provide Bill Fuller with the end of traffic queue standard operating procedures that involves the use of Community Service Officers. The Team will review and analyze this procedure. *(Ball in court: TIM Team Members)*
2. Re-evaluate the 70 mph speed limit on I-75 through the construction from North of River Road to North of SR 861. *(Ball in court: FDOT/BF)*
3. Media crews being on site after scene clearance. *(Ball in court: D1 PIO)*
4. TIM Team Members will provide any multi-agency agreements/memoranda of understanding to FDOT. *(Ball in court: TIM Team Members)*
5. Invite the I-95 Corridor Coalition to D1 TIM Team Meetings. *(Ball in court: FDOT/Metric Engineering)*
6. Address complaints of sugar sand on the shoulder of I-75 from North River Road to SR 681. *(Ball in court: FDOT/BF)*

**Future Meetings**

The next Sarasota-Manatee County TIM Team will be December 7, 2010 at 1:30pm at the Manatee County Traffic Management Center, Public Safety Building, 2101 47<sup>th</sup> Terrace East, Bradenton, Florida.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the District One TIM Team Manager, Mr. Bill Fuller at (239) 225-9815 or via email at [William.fuller@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:William.fuller@dot.state.fl.us).