



## Sarasota - Manatee Traffic Incident Management Team

*August 11, 2015  
Meeting Minutes*

### Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Frank Dickson	DBI Services	Bob Diezi	Road Rangers
Richard Fimbel	DBI Services	Amjid Hussain	Sarasota Co. /Public Works
Rory Howe	Parsons	Justin Merritt	FDOT
Bill Fuller	FDOT	Tim McMullen	FDEP
Don Martin	FDOT	Tom Shirley	Sheriff's Office
Jeff Tobergte	FDOT	Carolyn Eastwood	Sarasota Co. /Public Works
Brandy Boccuti	Metric	George Taunton	FHP
Charles Stratton	Engineering, Inc.		

### **Call to Order:** The Sarasota-Manatee TIM

Team meeting was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 1:30pm at the Manatee County Public Safety Center, 2101 47<sup>th</sup> Terrace East, Bradenton, FL 34203. Bill Fuller, Rory Howe, and Charles Stratton facilitated the meeting.

Bill Fuller reminded the Team of the TIM meeting(s) goal will be “practice what we preach”, by keeping the meetings to 90 minutes!

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

### **Agency News:**

#### Road Rangers

Bill Fuller informed the team of a recent incident that involved a local Road Ranger and another vehicle. The vehicle had missed their exit which while making a U-turn rear-ended a Road Ranger while traveling at least 60 miles per hour. Fortunately, both the Road Ranger and the motorist did not receive any major injuries.

#### Towing and Wrecker News

No agency news

#### Other Agency News

Law Enforcement informed the team that their agency recently transferred 117 troopers throughout the state. The transfer has resulted in local Law Enforcement being understaffed.

Additionally, the traffic unit was authorized to increase their unit by (3) Deputies and (1) Sergeant.

The Fire Department informed the team about a possible controlled fire in the area. Manatee County stated that for the last couple of years they have been planning a burn on a little island south of SR 64, on the Braden River, called Pine Island. The local Incident Management Team has worked with the local agencies, Manatee County Natural Resources, Florida Forest Service, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), Bradenton Police Department (BPD), the Fire Departments and more, to plan for this burn.

In order to control the smoke, very specific conditions including fuel moisture, wind speed and direction have been set, which is why the burn has never taken place, but the weather professionals are saying that those conditions might be right this year.

It is anticipated that the burn window this year will open June 1st, 2015 and will last for several months, but we will only have days' notice that the conditions are favorable to lift and direct the smoke as desired. The Fire Department will keep the team updated with any further information, as received.

### **Update on TIM Initiatives:**

#### **National/State/Regional**

Rory Howe presented to the team on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on Electronic Stability Control (ESC) for commercial drivers. Each year, hundreds of heavy-duty vehicle drivers are killed and thousands injured in rollover crashes. The Electronic Stability Control (ESC) technology is available to prevent a large percentage of these crashes. Since 2011, the National Transportation Safety Board, an independent Federal safety agency, has recommended that ESC be required on all new trucks and buses. Also in 2012, Congress directed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to consider an ESC requirement.

Additionally, NHTSA finalized its rule requiring ESC systems on new heavy trucks and large buses. NHTSA estimates the rule will prevent as many as 1,759 crashes, 649 injuries, and 49 fatalities each year. To view the full presentation, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2015 National Stop on Red Week Campaign. The campaign will take place the first week of August 2015. Stop on Red Week was created by the Federal Highway Administration and is dedicated to educating Americans about the dangers of red-light running, which leads to an estimated 165,000 injuries each year nationwide.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- There are about seven fatal crashes and more than 1,000 injury crashes daily at signalized intersections nationwide.
- Half of the people killed by red-light runners are not the signal violators. They are passengers, other motorists or pedestrians.
- One in three drivers reported running a red light in the past month, but 93 percent of drivers believe doing so is unacceptable.

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2015 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign. The campaign will take place August 19 – September 7, 2015. Law enforcement nationwide will be joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in the high-visibility Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over crackdown campaign.

- 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.
- 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+ blood alcohol concentrations [BACs]); 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 legal per se limit (.15+ BAC).
- Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with BACs of .08 or higher). In 2013, there were 10,076 people killed in these preventable crashes.

Charles Stratton informed the team about the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Annual Meeting. The GHSA will be holding their 2015 annual meeting August 29th – September 2nd, 2015 in Nashville, Tennessee. The theme of the event this year is Drunk, Drugged and Distracted which will be geared towards reaching high-risk drivers. General Sessions will address how to curb the most dangerous driver behaviors to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities on our nation's roads. To learn more and to register for the event, please visit the following website:

<http://ghsa.org/html/meetings/annual/2015/index.html>

Charles Stratton informed the team about the new Traffic Incident Awareness Week which will take place November 16-20, 2015. The Florida Highway Administration (FHWA) hopes that a week with events designed to produce responder interaction with the public will facilitate: An understanding by the public of traffic incident operations; Motorist recognition of state and local laws passed to keep everyone safer during a crash response operation (such as Move Over and Driver Removal/Move It); Public understanding of expected motorist actions when in a crash; Public appreciation for the risk that responders take to safeguard the scene and open lanes quickly, and; Responder activities to improve or institutionalize their TIM programs.

Bill Fuller informed about future training opportunities, the Train-The-Trainer course and the (4) hour Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP-2) session. The National training for first responders, Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP-2) training and the Train the Trainer program. As part of the Florida Department of Transportation and the TIM team's commitment to improve the safety of our responders by providing training and education, we recently reached out to the TIM community with a short survey in regards to your interest in participating in a future 4-hour Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP-2) Training and/or a 1-2 Day Train-The-Trainer Course.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation continues to train trainers in all U.S. States and two U.S. territories to launch classroom sessions of the newly released Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Basic Training Course. To date, almost 5,200 fire, law enforcement and transportation TIM experts have received training on how to implement the course in a classroom setting. The FHWA highly encourages Safety Service Patrol professionals to attend a course offering in their area.

A Congressionally mandated effort managed by the Transportation Research Board (TRB), the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO), and the FHWA through the Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) resulted in a Traffic Incident Responder training course to address on-scene operations and management. This multi-disciplinary training course promotes a shared understanding of the requirements for quick clearance and for safeguarding responders and motorists.

TIM experts to conduct the classroom-based course. The training objectives are:

- Promoting more effective multi-agency, coordinated, and planned incident response.
- Improving responder safety.
- Improving travel-time reliability for person and freight trips on the Nation's highways by improving incident clearance time.
- Reducing congestion, collisions, and delays caused by secondary crashes.

The team will be updated of the trainings in the future, once dates have been confirmed. If you have any questions, 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)

Charles Stratton spoke about the recent tour that he attended at the new Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Training Facility, which is located in Nashville. The hands-on facility teaches emergency responders the best practices for the safe, fast clearance of major highway incidents. First responders are able to practice mock traffic accident, thanks to the new incident management training facility. It cost a little over \$912,000 to build the facility. TDOT applied for and received federal highway safety improvement funds, which covered 90 percent of the facility. For additional information, please visit our TIM team website to view a video of the facility at: <http://www.swftim.org>

### **2015 Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Program Self-Assessment**

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) programs continue to play a vital role in the safe and quick clearance of traffic incidents while providing a framework for reducing congestion and maximizing use of existing transportation infrastructure. A critical component of capitalizing on the success of existing programs and aiding the development of new TIM programs is periodic evaluation of the components of successful multi-agency TIM programs. The TIM Self-Assessment (TIM SA) was designed to provide an easy-to-use tool for measuring TIM program performance.

The TIM Team participated in the 2015 Traffic Incident Management Self-Assessment which consisted of a series of 51 questions and included the following:

#### **Strategic**

- Formal TIM Programs (11 questions)
- TIM Training and After Action Reports (5 questions)
- TIM Performance Measures (8 questions)

#### **Tactical**

- TIM Laws (3 questions)
- Policies and Procedures for Incident Response and Clearance (14 questions)
- Responder and Motorist Safety (5 questions)

#### **Support**

- Data Collection/Integration/Sharing (5 questions)

The team utilized an automated audience response system to gather data about the status of the TIM Team progress. This system is unique because the voters and their selections are completely anonymous. The results will help in identifying areas of improvement in the three categories, as mentioned above.

### **FDOT Construction Update**

Mr. Bill Fuller 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/construc/constmap/d1.shtm>. This resource is updated on a weekly basis.

**Future Meetings:**

The next Sarasota-Manatee County TIM Team will be held on October 13, 2015 at 1:30 PM at the Manatee County Public Safety Center, 47th Terrace East 2101, Bradenton Florida, 34203. 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 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).