



## Sarasota - Manatee Traffic Incident Management Team

*February 11, 2020  
Meeting Minutes*

### Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Kevin Smith	Parsons	Shari Hurst	HNTB
Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering, Inc.	Rene Kelly	Manatee County Public Works
Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering, Inc.	Justin Merritt	FDOT
Rich Fimbel	DBI Services	Adam Chrisman	Cedar Hammock Fire Rescue
Tom Arsenault	FDOT-LEL	Kevin Salsbery	FDOT
David Burnside	Transcore	Ray Mikol	TMC/HNTB
George Ellis	Sarasota Co. Public Works	Tristan Morath	Emergency Management
Larry Mau	Sarasota Co. Public Works	Michael Swanson	Professional Towing Services
Amjid Hussain	Sarasota County Public Works	Francisco Walle	FDOT
David Hutchinson	Sarasota/Manatee MPO	Alexander Fisher	North Port Police Department
James Marlin	Road Rangers	Jared Leggett	Manatee Sheriff's Office
Charles Reid	EMFR	Renjan Joseph	FDOT
Doug Brett	Cedar Hammock Fire	Dan D'Antonio	HNTB/FDOT

**Call to Order:** The Sarasota-Manatee TIM Team meeting was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 1:30pm at the Manatee County Public Safety Center, 2101 47<sup>th</sup> Terrace East, Bradenton, FL 34203. Charles Stratton, Brandy Boccuti, Tom Arsenault, and Kevin Smith facilitated the meeting.

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

### **Agency News:**

#### Road Rangers

Road Rangers informed the team that they are fully staffed.

#### Towing and Wrecker News

The towing agency informed the team of the upcoming 2020 Tow Show that will take place April 16-18, 2020 at the Hilton in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The show will include new and exciting experiences in the towing industry. The event is a great way to learn more about the industry and

connect with other incident responders. To learn more, please visit the following website: <https://towtimes.com>

### Other Agency News

The Traffic Management Center (TMC) informed the team that they are currently understaffed and hiring at both the Satellite TMC location in Bradenton and the SWIFT SunGuide, location in Fort Myers. The job postings are available on the HNTB website at: <https://www.hntb.com/careers/>

The TMC informed the team that if a responder working a scene needs an additional lane while working an incident to contact the TMC directly and they will help coordinate the efforts. Additionally, if a responder needs an escort to a scene or direction on the best route to a scene to also contact the TMC as they can view the local roads from their cameras and can also quickly contact additional resources.

Additionally, the TMC presented to the team on how they mitigate secondary incidents. The main way is through advanced warning which is a top concern among the TIM community. The data below is historical data of secondary crashes over the last four years which shows the number of secondary crashes has increase. However, the severity of the secondary incident has dramatically decreased. The reason for the increase of secondary incidents has been due to the increase in traffic and the TMC staff is better trained to identify and record secondary incidents.

The reason for the decrease in the severity of secondary incidents has been in part due to the training of the TMC staff with incorporating TIM principles. Early advanced warning, early activation of DMS signs, and early activation of the RISC program are just a few items that have been incorporated into secondary incident monitoring and prevention.

Advanced Warning messages are activated very quickly, lane blockage and congestion are listed on DMS signs, DMS Response Plan distance is based on severity of incident which all help with advanced warning to protect motorists and responders.

### **Historical Secondary Crash Data for District 1**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Number of Secondary Crashes	155	243	418	489
Severe Secondary Crashes	29	37	39	19
Percentage of Severe Secondary Crashes	19%	15%	9%	4%

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

Richard Fimbel, DBI Services, informed the team about an upcoming first responder training for the Skyway Bridge.

For additional information, please contact Richard Fimbel, DBI Services, at [rfimbel@dbiservices.com](mailto:rfimbel@dbiservices.com) and/or (239) 229-0682.

Tom Arsenault (Metric Engineering) was introduced at the TIM Team meeting. Mr. Arsenault will be assisting as the Traffic Incident Management Project Manager for District One. Mr. Arsenault brings with him a strong background and a wealth of knowledge in the first responder community. He has

worked in Law Enforcement for over 37 Years. He spent 30 years with the Brownstown Police in Michigan; 5 years in Patrol, 10 years as a Traffic Homicide Investigator, and 15 years as a Shift Commander. After 8 Years of teaching Criminal Justice at a Community College in Michigan, he moved to Florida and spent 2 years as a Florida Gulf Coast University Police Officer. He then spent over 2 years as a Florida Law Enforcement Liaison serving District One at FDOT which covered 48 police departments in 12 counties. Mr. Arsenault has extensive training in Traffic Investigation and Traffic Safety.

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

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

Kevin Smith, Parsons Corporation, presented to the team on the Ray, Solar Roadway.

Ray C. Anderson passed away in 2011 and he left everything to a family foundation run by his two daughters and then, in 2014, his youngest daughter Harriet worked with Georgia lawmakers to dedicate 18 miles of Interstate 85 as the “Ray C. Anderson Memorial Highway.”

The 18 miles of highway, the memorial to Ray Anderson’s pioneering legacy for innovation and the planet, has become one real-world testing area in the U.S., one public stage for technology to shine in the world.

#### **Solar-Powered Vehicle Charging**

Also installed in the visitor center/rest area is a solar paved highway. Electric vehicles continue to gain market share, but outside metro Atlanta, the infrastructure for charging electric vehicles is lacking. I-85 is a major travel corridor that runs from Alabama to Virginia, connecting major metro areas throughout the Southeast, offering a prime opportunity to reduce carbon emissions by providing accessible solar-powered charging stations.



Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia, the Ray C. Anderson Foundation, the Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT), the Georgia Department of Economic Development, and Hannah Solar, LLC partnered to install the state’s first solar-powered PV4EV charging station at the Georgia Visitor Information Center in West Point.

Along the side of the highway they have included a “pollinator garden.” The roadside includes colorful wildflowers which offer many benefits over common turf grass. These meadows attract many pollinators which are important for our food supply. Georgia’s family farms need healthy pollinators to produce fresh fruits and vegetables. Pollinator meadows also require less maintenance and less mowing than turf grass.

To learn about additional technologies incorporated into The Ray Solar Highway, please visit the following website: <https://theray.org/>

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

The team was updated on the progress of the Simulated Incident Training Exercise which will take place March 11, 2020. To learn more about the exercise, please contact Steve Litschauer, Chief

Emergency Management, Manatee County Emergency Management at Steve Litschauer [steve.litschauer@mymanatee.org](mailto:steve.litschauer@mymanatee.org)

Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering spoke to the team about the Talking TIM Webinar Series hosted by the National Operations Center of Excellence.

The Talking TIM webinar series brings to your desk the great and varied work happening on the ground and around the country in traffic incident management. Topics touch on issues of relevance for TIM executives, managers, operators, and responders.

Past Topics include:

- Nevada’s TIM Program – Successes and Lessons Learned
- Crowdsourcing TIM –Innovative Practices to Expedite Detection and Expand Coverage
- Oro Valley Police Department – Drones Improve Crash Scene Analysis
- Using Data to Explore Open Roads Clearance Times, Shawn Kinney, Road Ranger Program Manager, Florida DOT

To learn more, please visit the website at: <https://transportationops.org/ondemand-learning>

After Action Reviews (AAR) provide agencies with actionable intel on an incident or event that can be used for improved strategies for future occurrences, demonstrating the benefit of quick clearance practices and improve cross-agency coordination and communication.

AARs were performed on the following recent major incidents:

02/07/2020

Event Number 793361

I-75 Northbound at Mile Marker 173

Multiple tractor-trailers and passenger car

RISC Event

Sarasota County

Timeline:

0059	FHP	Crash reported, #2 & 3 lanes and right shoulder blocked
0114	TMC	All lanes closed
0130	TMC	R Mikol leaves RISC activation to FHP on scene; can see at least one semi involved but that vehicle is blocking view of rest of scene (possible other semis involved)
0135	TMC	FHP activates RISC
0138	TMC	Prompt notified
0142	TMC	Prompt accepts RISC
0158	FHP	Requests all rotators and cleanup equipment Prompt has respond to scene
0200	TMC	FHP requesting DBI set up detour at Exit 170, bleeding queue through scene
0206	TMC	Prompt has 3 rotators en route
0216	TMC	1 rotator, 1 heavy tow and flatbed on scene
0226	TMC	DBI on scene
0236	TMC	Skid steer and support vehicles on scene
0238	TMC	ALL initial RISC equipment on scene, waiting on additional rotator
0254	TMC	2 <sup>nd</sup> rotator on scene, waiting on HazMat to arrive to empty tanks before starting
0255	TMC	FHP gave NTP and accepted
0358	TMC	Unable to contact DBI on scene, need them at Exit 170; guardrail damage reported at scene

0428	TMC	DBI has 1 truck on scene, 1 at Exit 170 and another en route
0604	TMC	RISC complete and on shoulder, all lanes still blocked
0612	TMC	FHP requesting Prompt not remove vehicles from scene, waiting on CVE officers
0614	TMC	Per FHP, DBI can open roadway
0619	TMC	#3 lane still blocked, #1 and 2 lanes open
0632	TMC	All lanes open, shoulder blocked
0728	TMC	Prompt leaves scene after CVE finishes investigation
0729	TMC	Incident clearance, shoulder open

#### Lessons Learned:

Early activation of RISC speeds up Roadway Clearance and Incident Clearance times. FDOT did not have a good visual of the scene on the cameras due to it being nighttime and the flashing emergency lights. They had to wait on FHP to arrive on scene.

FHP did an excellent job of communicating with the RISC vendor in regards to a description of the scene and what equipment (plus additional equipment needed) the vendor would need on scene. There was debris/cargo covering the roadway and FHP informed the RISC vendor to respond with additional equipment very early in the incident timeline.

A recommendation would be to coordinate with the commercial vehicle enforcement (CVE Troopers) and attempt to move the vehicles from the shoulder to a parking lot where the investigation could continue without any danger from passing motorists or additional congestion.

12/12/2019

Event Numbers 771447

I-75 Northbound at Exit 217-SR 70

Overtaken truck

Manatee County

#### Timeline:

0647	TMC	Crash reported, #1 and 2 lanes (of 3) blocked
0735	TMC	Justin Merritt (TMC) activated RISC. Spoke with MCSO dispatch about RISC since SO was only personnel on scene. MCSO open to RISC.
0737	TMC	Stepps notified
0740	TMC	Stepps accepted RISC
0738	TMC	FHP on scene
0827	TMC	Stepps spoke with FHP about best route to scene; turning around at exit 213
0840	TMC	Stepps in heavy congestion trying to get to scene
0852	TMC	All equipment on scene
0854	TMC	NTP given by FHP
0913	TMC	All lanes closed for recovery
0916	TMC	Right lane re-opened
0931	TMC	Stepps departs with vehicle
0936	FHP/TMC	RISC complete/all lanes clear/ DBI removing MOT
0946	TMC	Incident clearance

#### Lessons Learned:

Local responders were not familiar with the RISC program which resulted in a slow activation.

RISC vendors are having issues getting through the queue to arrive on scene. The currently are not authorized to 'run the shoulder' to respond to scenes since they are not authorized emergency vehicles. But many times, no one will be moving until the heavy wreckers arrive and they must get through traffic. Currently, the vendors can request escort (or contra-flow) from FHP to expedite

response times. Sometimes FHP will agree, sometimes they won't. In this case Stepps had an extended response time due to the queue and did not get an escort.

In construction zones and other 'tight' areas, there is little room to remove the obstruction/crashed vehicle and the recovery must occur in the roadway as this one did.

### **FDOT Construction Update**

Brandy Boccuti 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 Sarasota-Manatee County TIM Team will be held on April 7, 2020 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 Brandy Boccuti, TIM Team Coordinator, Metric Engineering, Inc. at (407) 644.1898 or via email at [bboccuti@metriceng.com](mailto:bboccuti@metriceng.com)