



## Sarasota - Manatee Traffic Incident Management Team

*April 12, 2016  
Meeting Minutes*

### **Attendees:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Rory Howe	Parsons	Antonio Jenkin	FDOT
Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering	Mark Crawford	S. Manatee Fire & Rescue
Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering	Bob Diezi	Road Rangers
Justin Merritt	FDOT	Mike Maholtz	Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Fabio Capillo	Regional TMC Manager	Tim McMullen	FDEP
Greg Mitchell	FHP	Carrie Luce	Sarasota County Sheriff
Jeff Tobergte	FDEP	Richard Fimbel	DBI Services

**Call to Order:** The Sarasota-Manatee TIM Team meeting was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 1:30pm at the Manatee County Public Safety Center, 2101 47<sup>th</sup> Terrace East, Bradenton, FL 34203. Charles Stratton and Rory Howe facilitated the meeting.

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

### **Agency News:**

#### Road Rangers

Bob Deizi informed the team that the District 1 Road Rangers have just completed their recertification for CPR and first aid.

#### Towing and Wrecker News

The team spoke about the 2016 Tow Show which took place April 7-10, 2016 at the Hilton in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The 2016 Tow Show included new and exciting experiences to the towing industry. The event was a great way to learn more about the industry and connect with other incident responders.

#### Other Agency News

The Fire agency informed the team that they are in the process of obtaining another aerial apparatus and a light and air unit. A light and air unit, also known as a breathing support unit, is a specialized piece of firefighting apparatus used by firefighters to provide supplemental lighting and SCBA air bottles at the scene of an emergency.

The Fire Agency also informed the team that approximately 85 of their staff are going through CPR recertification and their annual Basic Life Support (BLS) protocols and testing.

Florida Department of Environmental (FDEP) informed the team that over the next couple of years they will be downsizing the Emergency Response Program statewide.

DBI Services is currently preparing for the hurricane season and will be having their One-Way meeting for FDOT District 1 in April 2016 and FDOT District 4 in May 2016.

The Traffic Incident Management (TMC) informed the team that staffing resources are down and that they have been very busy. The TMC staff work 5 days a week and the SWIFT SunGuide Center covers the weekends and evenings

The TMC is also currently working on updating their Lee and Collier County Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) devices and new High Definition Cameras.

The TMC also discussed with the team that recently data was released stating that Sarasota-Manatee County was one of the top 10 fastest growing areas in the United States.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) informed the team that their board adopted the Long Range Transportation Plan in December 2016.

MPO also informed the team that they are currently taking applications from their local Governments for new projects. However, once they cover the cost increase of projects on the way and the maintenance and upkeep etc., it does not allow a lot of funds left over for new projects.

Lastly, MPO informed the team that they have a new Planning Manager, Lee Holts.

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

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

Rory Howe presented to the team on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). A key Chapter in the MUTCD pertaining to Traffic Incident Management (TIM) is Chapter 6I – Control of Traffic Through Traffic Incident Management Areas.

- The primary function of temporary traffic control is to move road users reasonably safely and expeditiously past or around the incident, to reduce secondary crashes, and to preclude unnecessary use of the surrounding local road system.
- Classifies incidents by expected duration:
  - ✓ MAJOR: over 2 hours
  - ✓ INTERMEDIATE: from 30 minutes to 2 hours
  - ✓ MINOR: under 30 minutes
- Recommends interagency pre-planning and management (“unified incident management”).
- Recommendations on use of Emergency Vehicle Lighting.

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

Charles Stratton informed the team about the new Road Ranger Procedure Policy, Topic No. 750-030-015, effective April 1, 2016. The policy states that the Road Rangers are now designated as emergency vehicles under Florida Statute. The statute will help establish a uniform and consistent statewide Road Ranger program that supports Florida’s Open Road Policy. To view the full policy, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swftim.org>

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2016 National Enforcement Campaign: Click It or Ticket. The campaign will take place May 23- June 5, 2016. The Click It or Ticket is a nationwide

seat belt enforcement campaign aimed at reducing the number of highway fatalities and injuries due to non-seat-belt use. The mobilization is conducted annually by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in conjunction with law enforcement agencies, State Highway Safety Offices, and traffic safety advocates. An estimated 12,000 lives are saved every year by seat belts. According to research, safety belts reduce the number of serious traffic injuries by 50 percent and fatalities by 60 percent to 70 percent.

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2016 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Holiday Campaign. The campaign will take place July 4, 2016. Americans love to celebrate the Fourth of July with family, friends, food and fireworks, but all too often the festivities turn tragic on the nation's roads. The fact is, this iconic American holiday is also one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to drunk-driving crashes. According to data from NHTSA, during July 4th holiday period over the last five years, 750 people lost their lives in crashes involving drivers with a BAC of .08 or more. These fatalities account for 39% percent of all motor vehicle traffic fatalities over this same five-year period.

The 2016, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, SWIFT SunGuide Reports was reviewed with the team. To view the full report, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

The team was provided an update on the I-75/University Parkway DDI Construction project. The start date of the project was August 2015 and the estimated completion date is fall of 2017. Improvements being made as part of this project consist of constructing a diverging diamond interchange, adding an auxiliary lane on northbound and southbound I-75, constructing new bridges on I-75 over University Parkway, widening of University Parkway, widening of I-75 bridges over Errie Creek and Foley Creek, realignment of on-ramps and off-ramps at I-75/University Parkway, addition of ponds, drainage improvements, new lighting and signalization, construction of a noise wall on the west side of I-75, sidewalks, bike lanes, and pedestrian walkways. If you have any questions on the project, please contact Trudy Gerena, Senior Public Information Officer at 813-299-3579 and/or [trudy@valerin-group.com](mailto:trudy@valerin-group.com)

Please also visit <http://www.swflroads.com/i75/university/>, which provides up to date project information.

Charles Stratton informed the team that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reported that 2015 was the most heavily traveled year in history. By the end of November, U.S. drivers had racked up about 2.88 trillion vehicle miles traveled, with each of the first 11 months of the year showing an increase of between 2.5 and 4.9 percent over the corresponding month from 2014. The increased miles represent a significant challenge in a traffic congestion.

Charles Stratton informed the team that the FHWA is working towards Institutionalizing Traffic Incident Management. FHWA now plans to work with TIM program administrators to strengthen TIM's capacity. There have seen set-backs in TIM programs built on the shoulders of one or two champions only to backslide when the champions retire or who are no longer able to maintain the energy to blaze a trail for the TIM program.

#### Institutionalizing Training:

- FHWA plans to meet with Associations that influence training and standards for TIM disciplines.
- ✓ FHWA will discuss the growing trend for fire, rescue, law enforcement, and towers to require this course be taken before personnel are assigned to a response and towers are given contracts to clear crashes.

- ✓ Obtain advice on how to reach the goal of training one million responders and how to keep the training momentum going, including how and when responders should return for a refresher course.

#### Measuring Field Performance and Collecting Data While Boots Are Still on the Ground:

- Exploring the “Big Data” area, both through involvement on a new National Cooperative Highway Research Project (NCHRP), a part of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academy of Sciences, and through FHWA’s own TIM Performance Measurement program.
  - ✓ FHWA has worked with practitioners to define three pieces of data that will demonstrate progress being made in building TIM capacity that will work faster at opening lanes, reduce the risk of secondary crashes, reduce the amount of time responders remain vulnerable working on the roadway with little protection, and the numbers of TIM workers killed or injured in the line of duty.
  - ✓ The first three elements address the Safe, Quick Clearance objective of the NUG, while the last addresses progress being made toward the NUG’s Responder Safety objective.

#### Knowledge Collection and Sharing:

- Another key component of Institutionalization is sharing information.
  - ✓ FHWA is exploring a partnership with the AASHTO Transportation Operations Center of Excellence and the U.S. Fire Administration Knowledgebase to ensure that information is available no matter where you seek it as a discipline.
  - ✓ FHWA is exploring the integration of the [www.safequickclearance](http://www.safequickclearance) website developed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs on behalf of our TIM Responder Training program. This site includes information on where instructors are for the Trained Trainers and where classroom courses may be held.

Charles Stratton reviewed with the team recent major traffic incidents as a “lessons learned” with the team.

02/15/2016- I-75 Northbound at Mile Marker 174 - (293744) - Crash occurred in Sarasota County on I-75 Southbound, before Mile Marker 174. The accident required life flight. The total roadway clearance time was 01:04:55 and the total incident clearance time was 02:42:50.

02/18/2016 - I-75 Northbound at Mile Marker 215 - (294385)

Crash occurred in Manatee County on I-75 Northbound, beyond Mile Marker 215. The incident involved an ejection from vehicle and a fatality. One person was trapped under vehicle. Life flight was required. The total roadway clearance time was 05:59:10 and the total incident clearance time was 06:12:10

02/21/2016 – I-75 Southbound at Exit 179: Toledo Blade Blvd - (294749) - Crash occurred in Sarasota on I-75 Southbound before Mile Marker 181. The incident was a serious accident that involved a tanker that leaked up to 8500 gallons of diesel on roadway. The crash resulted in injuries. RISC activation was put on hold for hazmat clean up. The total roadway clearance time was 14:19:42 and the total incident clearance time was 14:22:49.

03/01/2016 - I-75 Southbound at Mile Marker 218 - (296358). Crash in Manatee County on I-75 Southbound before mile marker 218. Incident involved an injury. Life flight was needed which resulted in complete closure of lanes. The total roadway clearance time was 00:59:19 and the total incident clearance time was 01:55:09.

03/29/2016 - I-75 Southbound at Mile Marker 211 (301615). Crash occurred in Sarasota County on I-75 Southbound at mile marker 211. Incident involved a vehicle fire. Due to fire and smoke

FHP had to shut down I-75 Southbound and Northbound. Traffic was diverted at University Parkway. Incident did involve a confirmed fatality. The total roadway clearance time was 12:41:06 and the total incident clearance time was 13:19:11.

The team discussed a current incident that was currently taking place on the morning of the TIM meeting, April 12, 2016 at Mile Marker 209. The incident involved a rolled over dump truck which included a vehicle fire. The Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) was activated for the incident. The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) spoke to the team about their concerns with the RISC program and used the incident as an example. It was discussed that there are times the RISC program is activated to quickly and that there also should be an option to cancel the call, if needed.

Additionally, the tow trucks that are on the RISC rotation are sometimes not located in close proximity to the incident and it can slow down the process. It was further discussed that FHP and the TMC will have a meeting to further discuss the RISC protocols to help improve the program.

To view the full SWIFT SunGuide Event Chronology Incident Reports, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swftim.org>

### **FDOT Construction Update**

Charles Stratton 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/D1/news/newsreleases/default.shtm>

### **Future Meetings:**

The next Sarasota-Manatee County TIM Team will be held on June 7, 2016 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.swftim.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](mailto:cstratton@metriceng.com)