



Sarasota-Manatee Traffic Incident Management Team

August 13, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The Sarasota-Manatee TIM Team meeting was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 1:30 PM at the SWIFT SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33913. Tom Arsenault and Brandy Boccuti facilitated the meeting.

Introductions: The team members introduced themselves and the agencies they present.

Agency News:

Road Rangers

No agency updates

Towing and Wrecker News

No agency updates

Other Agency News

Florida Highway Patrol noted continued aggressive driving enforcement along the I-75 corridor and reminded the team that several new troopers have been deployed throughout Sarasota and Manatee counties. Coordination with Road Rangers and the TMC has remained strong during recent high-impact events.

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office shared appreciation for Road Ranger response during a recent incident near Bee Ridge Road and acknowledged the importance of TIM Team meetings for improving communication.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

Tom Arsenault, Metric Engineering, reminded the team about the purpose of the TIM Meeting.

- TIM is the coordinated detection, response to and removal of traffic incidents as quickly and safely as possible. TIM is a coordinated effort among multiple agencies.
- The primary purpose of TIM is to reduce the duration and impact of incidents as well as to improve the safety of motorists and most importantly our incident responders.
- The TIM Meeting is to help prop up communication, coordination, and collaboration among our incident responders.

Tom Arsenault, Metric Engineering, provided the Road Ranger performance statistics.

David Burnside, TransCore, in collaboration with FDOT District One, delivered a presentation on Florida's Wrong Way Vehicle Detection Systems currently deployed across District One. The systems utilize forward- and rear-facing radar, thermal sensors, and real-time imaging to detect vehicles entering ramps incorrectly. Upon detection, flashing LED WRONG WAY signs are activated and alerts are sent to the TMC.

Key highlights included:

- Overview of both GovComm and Tapco system technologies
- AI-based camera configurations with thermal and optical sensors
- Real-time image capture, TMC alerting, and FHP dispatch coordination
- Current system coverage includes over 30 ramps on I-75 and arterial corridors
- Additional projects are underway for SR 64, University Parkway, Fruitville Road, Bee Ridge Road, and Clark Road

FDOT also discussed the role of TrafficVision AI video analytics, which utilizes existing infrastructure to detect wrong-way drivers, though it does not provide active alerts to the driver. TMC staff shared incident response protocol when alerts are received and noted that approximately 80% of drivers self-correct after seeing the activated signage.

Tom Arsenault informed the team that FDOT is beginning preparations for the 2024 Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW), a national campaign that highlights the lifesaving work of traffic incident responders and promotes safe driving near incident scenes.

Agencies were encouraged to begin submitting responder photos, success stories, or examples of collaborative response to be featured during the campaign. Tom emphasized the importance of agency participation to help spotlight the work being done in the region and to support FDOT's outreach and safety messaging.

He also recommended that each agency consider promoting Crash Responder Safety Week through their internal communications and public-facing social media platforms as the campaign approaches in November.

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:

06/17/2024

Northbound I-75 at University Parkway (Manatee County)

Incident Details:

- 15:26:22 Crash reported involving two vehicles with rollover.
- 15:28:44 FHP dispatched.
- 15:31:17 Road Ranger arrived on scene.
- 15:45:11 All northbound lanes blocked.
- 16:12:33 Tow services arrived.
- 17:02:18 Recovery completed and lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 1 hour, 37 minutes, 56 seconds

07/05/2024

Southbound I-75 at State Road 72 (Sarasota County)

Incident Details:

- 10:48:10 Crash involving motorcycle and vehicle.
- 10:49:51 EMS dispatched.
- 10:55:03 Road Ranger on scene.
- 11:04:28 One lane blocked.
- 11:45:00 Patient transport completed.
- 12:12:29 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 1 hour, 24 minutes, 19 seconds

08/01/2024

Northbound I-75 at Clark Road (Sarasota County)

Incident Details:

- 04:39:33 Crash involving semi-truck and SUV.
- 04:42:10 FHP on scene.
- 04:46:55 Road Ranger arrived.
- 05:10:40 Fuel spill reported – hazmat team dispatched.
- 06:23:19 Tow operations began.
- 07:14:05 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 2 hours, 34 minutes, 32 seconds

FDOT Construction Update

Carlos Rivera, FDOT, provided updates on active construction projects throughout Sarasota and Manatee counties. The team was reminded of the importance of construction zone awareness, particularly near interchanges and active nighttime operations.

Key updates included:

- I-75 at Clark Road (Sarasota): Bridge and ramp improvements were ongoing, with lane closures scheduled during overnight hours. Final surfacing was anticipated to begin within the next two weeks.
- US 301 North of the River (Manatee): A major traffic shift was completed to transition eastbound traffic to the new bridge structure. Crews are now focused on removing the existing loop ramp and completing remaining structural work.
- SR 70 and Fruitville Road (Sarasota): Active resurfacing and sidewalk improvement operations continued with daily flagging operations in place.

The team was provided with recent construction updates. The FDOT District 1 weekly construction updates are also available to all first responders by request to Janella Newsome, FDOT, Janella.Newsome@dot.state.fl.us or by calling (863) 519-2828.

Future Meetings:

The next Sarasota-Manatee County TIM Team will be held on October 8, 2024, at 1:30 PM.

Meeting Adjourned

*The list of attendees is attached to these meeting minutes.

As always, please continue to visit the TIM Team website for updates, and 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 Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering, Inc. at (407) 949-4283 or via email at brandy.boccuti@metriceng.com

