



## **Sarasota-Manatee Traffic Incident Management Team**

*December 10, 2024  
Meeting Minutes*

**Call to Order:** The Sarasota-Manatee TIM Team meeting was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 1:30 PM at the SWIFT SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33913. Beau Baggett and Brandy Boccuti facilitated the meeting.

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

### **Agency News:**

#### **Road Rangers**

The team reviewed Road Ranger assist statistics for each county. No operational changes or personnel updates were announced.

#### **Towing and Wrecker News**

No agency updates

#### **Other Agency News**

Ray Mikol, FDOT, provided an update on the Wrong-Way Driver Detection Systems being implemented along I-75. These systems use sensors and cameras to detect vehicles entering exit ramps in the wrong direction and activate warning lights to alert drivers.

Recent activations were briefly reviewed, and it was noted that FDOT continues to evaluate the technology's effectiveness and make recommendations for expanding coverage in high-risk areas. Agencies were reminded to notify the TMC immediately if a suspected wrong-way driver event occurs. Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) shared that aggressive driving enforcement efforts continue throughout Sarasota and Manatee counties. Several new troopers have recently joined Troop F, and the agency is actively training recruits on safe incident response and coordination with Road Rangers.

Manatee County Sheriff's Office expressed appreciation for the recent TIM coordination and noted that interagency communication has improved response times during high-impact crashes.

### **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.

Beau Baggett was introduced as the new Assistant TIM Program Manager supporting the Polk County TIM Team. Beau brings a strong background in transportation coordination and multi-agency collaboration. As part of the Metric Engineering team, Beau will work alongside Program Manager Tom Arsenault and TIM Coordinator Brandy Boccuti to support incident management initiatives, facilitate meetings, and assist in growing regional TIM participation.

Beau shared a few words during the meeting, expressing enthusiasm for working with local agencies and contributing to efforts that enhance responder safety and reduce roadway incident impacts. The team welcomed him and looks forward to his involvement in future meetings and initiatives.

Tom Arsenault, Metric Engineering, led discussion on Road Ranger safety, particularly proper staging and positioning when responding to incidents along I-75. Recent events involving secondary crashes and close calls prompted a reminder for all Road Rangers to:

- Avoid parking in travel lanes or blocking open lanes of traffic.
- Always stage beyond the incident scene when possible to avoid being in the direct line of oncoming vehicles.
- Coordinate with law enforcement on scene for proper placement of vehicles, especially in situations involving fuel spills or lane closures.

The team acknowledged the important role Road Rangers play in scene protection and motorist assistance and emphasized that consistent safety practices are essential to prevent struck-by incidents and maintain quick clearance goals.

FDOT and law enforcement also reinforced the importance of real-time communication between responders and the TMC to ensure that Road Rangers receive the necessary scene updates before arrival.

Josh Royse, representing Autura, delivered a presentation on the company's advanced towing dispatch software platform known as ARIES. The system is designed to improve communication, reduce response times, and streamline coordination between law enforcement, dispatchers, and tow operators.

Overview of Autura's national presence:

- 22 years in business
- 55 partner agencies across the U.S.
- An average tow response time of 12.5 minutes
- A 12% increased risk of a struck-by incident for every 10 minutes an officer is stopped roadside

The presentation compared the traditional manual towing process to the ARIES-enhanced workflow, showing a reduction in delays, improved accountability, and increased visibility for officers and dispatchers.

Key benefits of the platform include:

- Real-time updates for law enforcement regarding wrecker status
- Direct communication between dispatchers and towers
- Efficient administrative and technical support for both agency and towing partners
- 24/7/365 partner support and live incident management

It was also emphasized how Autura helps reduce secondary crashes, mitigates traffic congestion,

and improves reporting compliance. He shared performance data from Miami PD, which experienced:

- A 34-minute improvement in tow response times
- An estimated \$604,000 in annual efficiency gains
- Over 7,000 deputy hours saved, equal to 4.4 full-time officers back on duty

The team was encouraged to explore how the ARIES platform could enhance Polk County's towing coordination and support responder safety.

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

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:

09/25/2024

Northbound I-75 at Mile Marker 215

Incident Details:

- 09:12:00 Crash reported involving jack-knifed semi.
- 09:14:30 FHP dispatched to scene.
- 09:18:20 Road Ranger arrived and confirmed lane blockage.
- 09:29:40 RISC vendor requested.
- 09:42:10 All lanes closed for vehicle recovery.
- 10:08:15 Vendor arrived and began scene assessment.
- 10:36:50 Notice to Proceed issued.
- 11:01:28 Roadway reopened.
- Total closure time: 1 hour, 19 minutes, 28 seconds

10/06/2024

Southbound I-75 at Mile Marker 229

Incident Details:

- 14:22:00 Crash reported involving fuel spill and semi.
- 14:26:12 Fire and EMS dispatched.
- 14:31:05 Road Ranger on scene confirming hazmat risk.
- 14:45:30 All southbound lanes closed.
- 15:04:22 RISC activated.
- 15:23:41 Vendor on scene.
- 16:05:39 Notice to Proceed issued.
- 17:17:12 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 2 hours, 52 minutes, 42 seconds

11/10/2024

Southbound I-75 at Mile Marker 209

Incident Details:

- 04:51:33 Crash with overturned semi reported.
- 04:55:00 FHP arrived on scene.
- 04:59:44 Road Ranger requested.
- 05:15:18 All lanes blocked.
- 05:39:11 RISC activation initiated.
- 06:03:05 Vendor arrived.

- 06:42:00 Recovery operations underway.
- 07:32:29 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 2 hours, 40 minutes, 56 seconds

### FDOT Construction Update

Carlos Rivera, FDOT, provided a detailed update on current and upcoming construction activities throughout Sarasota and Manatee counties:

- I-75 at Clark Road (Sarasota): The project reached 90% completion as of the prior Monday. While some final punch list items remain, the road is fully functional and close to full completion.
- U.S. 301 North of the River (Manatee): A new traffic shift is expected the following week that will allow eastbound traffic to flow freely onto the new bridge and eliminate the loop ramp.
- Fruitville Road: Ongoing operations were noted but no major changes were announced during the meeting.
- The team also discussed pavement quality and transitions in the Clark Road area, noting rough sections near bridge approaches.

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](mailto: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 February 11, 2025, 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.swfltim.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](mailto:brandy.boccuti@metriceng.com)

## TIM TEAM MEETING

## Sarasota-Manatee SIGN IN SHEET

**December 10, 2024**

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