



38th Edition

Sarasota-Manatee County Traffic Incident Management Team

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ITS on I-75 in Charlotte County is Live

Traffic operators at the SWIFT SunGuide Center are now managing a larger stretch of Interstate 75 (I-75) thanks to newly installed Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) field components activated in Charlotte County.

District One launched the project on March 25, 2011 to expand regional traffic management efforts in southwest Florida and improve traffic conditions on I-75. The \$9.8 project installed approximately 100 new ITS components along the county limits between mile markers 148 and 172 that included 49 roadway sensors, 30 closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras, 10 dynamic message signs (DMS), 5 highway advisory radio (HAR) systems and one roadway weather information system (RWIS).

These components are connected to the SWIFT SunGuide Center to help traffic operators manage incidents quicker and post more up-to-the-minute traffic information to keep the roadway free and clear of road blocking events and maintain safety. Managing these efforts is critical to the livelihood of the community since drivers who are informed about highway conditions in advance can make better route planning decisions and avoid congestion. ITS advises motorists about slowing-moving traffic, lane closures, and weather conditions like fog or smoke affecting visibility. Managing incidents in a timely manner is equally as important since it restores the highway back to regular operating conditions, reduces secondary crashes and allows first responders to manage more events along the highway.



The District One ITS Program uses ITS field components to manage traffic along I-75

In total, ITS in southwest Florida's three counties now includes 36 DMS, 109 CCTV cameras, 160 roadway sensors and three RWIS that cover 123 miles of I-75. The SWIFT SunGuide Center's latest report (March 2011) shows an improvement in operational performance with 192 more events managed, 507 more DMS messages posted and a five-minute reduction in event duration times compared to the previous month.

FDOT looks forward to the next project that further enhances regional traffic management efforts to keep southwest Florida moving. In 2012, the department will start a project that takes ITS on I-75 into Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Article submitted by Alicia Torrez, Media Relations Group.

The National Transportation Recovery Strategy



The National Transportation Recovery Strategy (NTRS) is designed to help the transportation industry prepare for and manage the transportation recovery process following a major disaster. The overall goal of this Strategy is to promote a recovery process for transportation networks – and subsequently of communities in general – that results in a greater level of resilience. The Department of Transportation is leading a joint effort with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to produce the package of products that will enhance the NTRS. These products will be made available via a web-based resource guide which will also include a compilation of resource documents, such as Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports, best practice after-action reports from previous incidents, technical guidance documents, and how-to guides on recovery planning. Please visit the following website for further information: http://www.dot.gov/disaster_recovery/

Hurricanes Preparedness Week

History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing our vulnerability and what actions we should take, we can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster. **Hurricane Preparedness Week is during May 22nd through May 28th.** Please visit the following website for further information:



<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

To help prepare for the hurricane season you can locate your counties evacuation routes by visiting the following website:

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/PublicMapping>

Multidisciplinary Core Competencies



Multidisciplinary Core Competencies is a document defining the core competencies that all Traffic Incident Responders should have. Developed by the NTIMC Training Task Force, the Multidisciplinary Core Competencies provide a common framework for training responders to work in the traffic incident environment, regardless of their discipline. Please visit the following website for further information:

<http://timcoalition.org/?siteid=41&pageid=595>

Traffic incident Management's Monthly Newsletter

May 2011 marks the one year anniversary of the Responder. The Responder is a monthly newsletter published by the TIM Network. The Responder focuses on providing quick, to the point information that TIM Professionals can use. Please visit the TIM Network website for further information

<http://sites.google.com/site/timnetworksite/the-responder-1>



Southern Traffic Incident eXchange (STIX) Program

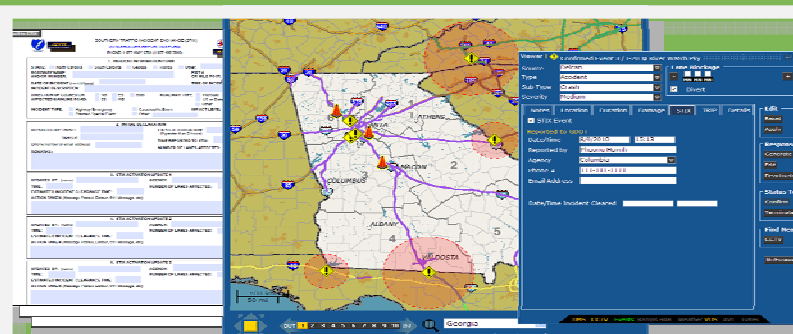
Many of the states across the country have noticed the major benefits of deploying state of the art Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices along their roadways. These devices provide reliable traffic incident management in real time to various agencies. One of the major challenges that the agencies face is the ability of sharing vital information regarding traffic incidents and traffic delays which pass through several states. The I-95 Coalition aspired to bridge this information gap to better increase traveler information and the ability to prepare for major traffic incidents. The I-95 Corridor Coalition is a partnership of major public and private multi-modal transportation agencies, toll authorities, and industry associations, all serving the corridor of the Eastern United States from Maine to Florida. These members work as a partnership to apply Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) solutions towards shared transportation issues and challenges.

The I-95 Corridor Coalition goals are to "improve mobility for people and goods, enhance safety for all travelers, and improve the economic vitality of the region." (1) To attain this objective, the Coalition created the Southern Incident eXchange (STIX) program. The Southern Region Incident Management Information Exchange Program, referred to as the Southern Traffic Incident eXchange (STIX) Program, was created to develop interstate incident notification, information sharing, and coordination across state lines.

Within the Southern Incident eXchange (STIX) program there is a centralized location for all the vital information. The central communications hub is located at the Atlanta, Georgia's Transportations Management Center (TMC) where STIX incident information is collected and distributed.

The following circumstances with a potential multi-state/regional impact typically qualify as a Southern Traffic Incident eXchange (STIX) incident:

- Major Incidents
- Planned Special Events
- Emergencies



NaviGator II: STIX Automation

Currently Florida has STIX-identified ITS/TMC locations in Pensacola, Gainesville, Jacksonville, Tampa, Turnpike/Turkey Lake, Turnpike/Pompano, Orlando, Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, and Miami. Also Tallahassee and Sarasota are proposed locations for future use of the STIX program.

With this program in place, information will be able to be shared in real time with the South Florida's Traffic Incident Management Project Managers, Traffic Incident Management Team Members, responders, governmental agencies, as well as the traveling public. One major benefit of this type of technology would be utilizing the Southern Traffic Incident eXchange (STIX) program during a natural disaster or a possible traffic incident. Many motorists evacuate from South Florida each year during the dangerous Hurricane Season. The information that the program would provide would be a vital tool for all of the agencies across the state to help inform governmental and private organizations by informing of the influxes of evacuations of motorists in real time. This will help elevate possible incidents during an evacuation which could further place motorists at risks and get them to their destination within a timely manner.

For more information visit the I-95 Coalition Website: <http://www.i95coalition.org/i95/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

(1) I-95 Corridor Coalition, Southern Traffic Incident eXchange(STIX) Program, http://www.i95coalition.org/i95/Portals/0/Public_Files/pm/reports/full416.pdf, Publication, January 2008,

Article by Scott Agans, Metric Engineering

T I M TEAM WEBSITE!

www.swfltim.org

The Sarasota-Manatee County TIM Team is committed to implementing the Quick Clearance principles of Florida's Open Roads Policy through the "3 Cs" of TIM: Communication, Cooperation and Coordination, and providing the public with the best real-time Motorist Information available. Team membership draws from state, regional, and local transportation agencies, public safety providers, and other organizations and companies that service the traveling public. The Teams, sponsored by the FDOT, meet bi-monthly.

Mission

The TIM Team Program brings together all agencies involved in clearing the roadway crashes with the objective of improving detection, verification, response, and clearance times to expeditiously remove a motor vehicle crash or incident from the roadway while providing the best real-time information to motorists, resulting in a safer highway environment for both incident responders and motorists

