



16th Edition

Charlotte-Sarasota-Manatee Traffic Incident Management Team

September 2007



The Florida Highway Patrol participated in **Operation C.A.R.E.** (Combined Accident Reduction Effort), a national program aimed at reducing the number of traffic crashes on interstate highways during the Labor Day holiday weekend. Operation C.A.R.E. is about State Law Enforcement Agencies who have joined together in the endeavor of reducing human suffering on our highways, particularly during the national holidays. Law enforcement agencies across the state worked in concert to support this successful safety program. The C.A.R.E. initiative includes the high visibility of patrol vehicles and the reduction of motor vehicle accidents through strict enforcement of other, accident causing violations. Additionally, maintaining an efficient movement of traffic and ensuring the use of life-preserving equipment in vehicles to reduce injury and fatalities occurring in motor vehicle accidents. FHP Troopers issued 7,742 speeding citations, 1,301 seatbelt and child restraint citations and charged 178 people with DUI.

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.

Additionally, FHP Troopers reported providing assistance to 3,165 motorists on Florida's highways and interstates. The Troopers of the Florida Highway Patrol, through Operation C.A.R.E., continue to make significant contributions to the TIM Team mission.

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FHSMV) Florida Highway Patrol (FHP). Home Page. Hot Topics. Preliminary Fatality Report for the 2007 Labor Day Holiday Period. Retrieved on September 12, 2007 from:

<<http://www.fhp.state.fl.us/>>.

Operation Care (2007) Retrieved on September 12, 2007 <<http://www.careofnorthamerica.org/>>.

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The USDOT has published the **Reduced Congestion Strategic Goal** to mitigate the negative impacts of traffic and meet the projected traffic demand through 2011 and beyond. In addition to reduced urban congestion, a major anticipated outcome is increased transportation capacity resulting from the integrated Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) networks and innovative Traffic Incident Management (TIM) approaches. Congestion is costing America \$200 billion a year. US-DOT statistics reveal that Americans spend 3.7 billion hours and 2.3 billion gallons of fuel each year in traffic jams. The impact on quality of life issues and time away from family's it not so easily measured. Transportation professionals will focus on ITS technology designed to help drivers avoid backups and traffic tie-ups caused by construction and accidents. Almost half of all traffic congestion is caused by construction and crash incidents. A new Transportation Technology Forum has been fashioned to energize innovation and creatively build the world's most technologically sophisticated transportation system. The FDOT is a leader with respect to promoting effective incident management approaches including multi-agency collaboration, highway service patrols, quick clearance policies, incentives and laws, and advance traveler information systems. These steps are taken to improve the performance of our existing infrastructure.

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Strategic Plan 2011. Retrieved on September 12, 2007 from: <<http://www.dot.gov/stratplan2011/redcong.htm>>.

Upcoming Events:

- TIM Team Meeting – October 9, 2007
- TIM Team Meeting – December 11, 2007



SWIFT SunGuide Center

The Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) has an official name ... and as of this month, shall be called the SWIFT SunGuide Center. (S.W.I.F.T.) is an acronym that stands for South West Intelligent Freeway Transportation and embodies the conceptual elements of Regional: Southwest Florida, ITS: Intelligent Transportation Systems, FMS: Freeway Management Systems, and the ideal transportation characteristic of swift, free-flow conditions.

Architect's Conceptual Rendering



Actual Construction Photo as of 9/12/2007

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter, or would like to submit an article, please contact Don Olson at don.olson@dot.state.fl.us.

The Charlotte-Sarasota-Manatee 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.

