



## Heartland Counties Traffic Incident Management Team

January 6, 2026  
Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** The Heartland TIM Team meeting was held virtually on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 1:00 PM. Tom Arsenault and Brandy Boccuti facilitated the meeting.

**Introductions:** The team members provided their names and agency in the chat box for introductions and meeting attendance records.

### **Agency News:**

#### **Road Rangers**

No agency updates

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

The team discussed the importance of providing detailed vehicle condition descriptions when requesting wreckers (vehicle orientation, separation, cargo, etc.) to ensure appropriate equipment is dispatched.

The importance of coordination between law enforcement, towing companies, and responding agencies during fatal and complex incidents was also emphasized.

### **Other Agency News**

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

- Traffic Management Center (TMC):
  - The TMC continues to utilize SunGuide for automated incident notifications, including Florida 511 updates, DMS messaging, and third-party app dissemination (Google and Waze).
  - Agencies wishing to receive automated incident email notifications were encouraged to provide their contact information.
  - A formal operations review is scheduled for January 15, 2026. DIVAS traffic camera access accounts are currently being reviewed. Inactive accounts (no login since 2023) and unverified accounts are being removed to preserve system bandwidth and performance.
  - Agencies are encouraged to limit the number of active DIVAS accounts and utilize Florida 511 when appropriate.

- FDOT Traffic Operations:
  - Coordination continues with Highlands County regarding safety concerns at CR 721 and US 98.
  - Preformed reflective rumble strip sets will be provided to the county to enhance advance warning and improve nighttime visibility.
  - Additional safety treatments such as relocation of in-road treatments, potential amber beacon enhancements, and evaluation of delineation improvements were discussed.
  
- Transportation Planning Organization (TPO):
  - The Heartland TPO is awaiting processing of the second Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grants through the Federal Highway Administration.
  
- Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST):
  - Hendry County CTST meetings are held the first Thursday of each month.
  - Hardee and DeSoto County CTST meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month.
  - Okeechobee County CTST meetings are held quarterly.
  - Highlands County CTST meetings occur every other month.

**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, presented to the team Connected Vehicle Technologies and their implications for first responders and Traffic Management Center operations.

- Overview of connected vehicle technology and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication:
  - Opportunities for first responders and TMC operations
  - Preparing agencies for the integration of connected vehicle systems
  - The importance of adapting response strategies to evolving vehicle technology was emphasized.

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 improving cross-agency coordination and communication.

AARs were performed on the following recent major incidents:

Glades County  
 September 23, 2025  
 SR-78 at Indian Prairie Canal

**Incident Details:**

- Single Vehicle Crash – Fatal
- Vehicle traveled north on SR 78 approaching the Indian Prairie Canal overpass

- Vehicle departed from the roadway to the right and entered water-filled canal.
- Crash date: September 23, 2025
  - Vehicle discovered submerged on September 24, 2025
- 9:15 AM – Initial Notification
- 9:46 AM – Vehicle Confirmed Submerged
- 9:48 AM – Possible Subject in Vehicle
- 10:32 AM – Subject Confirmed in Vehicle
- 1:54 PM – Dive Team Located Subject
- 2:06 PM – Wrecker On Scene
- 3:09 PM – Subject Reported Missing (Okeechobee County)
- 3:58 PM – Medical Examiner On Scene
- 7:01 PM – All Units Clear

Highlands County

October 6, 2025 – 1:50 PM

SR 66 at Sparta Road / Skipper Road

Incident Details:

- Two-Vehicle Crash – One Fatal
- Vehicle 1 traveling east on SR 66 in left turn lane
- Vehicle 2 traveling west on SR 66
- Vehicle 1 turned left into path of Vehicle 2
- Vehicle 2 overturned; driver ejected
- Driver pronounced deceased on scene
- 1:50 PM – Initial Notification
- 1:51 PM – Crash Updated to Rollover
- 1:58 PM – One Subject Confirmed Deceased
- 2:34 PM – FDOT Contacted Regarding Long-Term MOT
- 3:06 PM – Body Removal Notified
- 4:32 PM – Tow Trucks Enroute
- 5:57 PM – Next of Kin Notified
- 6:49 PM – Roadway (SR 66) Open
- Total Duration: 299 Minutes

Glades County

October 19, 2025 – 1:35 PM

SR 78 at Tomato Grade Road

Incident Details:

- Single Vehicle Crash – Fatal
- Vehicle traveling west on SR 78
- Vehicle turned left across eastbound lane
- Entered south grass shoulder
- Struck barbed wire fence and tree
- Driver pronounced deceased on scene
- 1:55 PM – Initial Notification
- 1:55 PM – EMS Confirmation Pending
- 2:45 PM – THI Requested
- 3:20 PM – Medical Examiner Contacted
- 5:20 PM – Wreckers Dispatched

- 5:50 PM – Medical Examiner On Scene
- 7:08 PM – Roadway Clear
- Total Duration: 313 Minutes

Highlands County

October 19, 2025 – 11:04 AM

CR-721 at US-98

Incident Details:

- Single Vehicle Crash – Fatal
- Timeline:
- 11:09 AM – Initial Notification
- 11:09 AM – Passerby Driver Confirmed Cold
- 11:11 AM – No Road Blocked
- 11:44 AM – Subject Confirmed Deceased
- 1:24 PM – Body Removal Began
- 3:52 PM – Wreckers Dispatched
- 4:19 PM – Body Removal On Scene
- No roadway closure
- No duration calculated

Hardee County

November 5, 2025 – 4:29 PM

SR 64 Near Murphy Road

Incident Details:

- Two Motorcycles
- One Fatality
- V1 failed to slow for V2 turning right
- Rear-end collision
- One rider pronounced deceased on scene
- One rider transported to AdventHealth
- 4:29 PM – Initial Notification
- 4:29 PM – Roadway Blocked
- 4:45 PM – SR-64 Closed in Both Directions
- 4:56 PM – One Deceased, One Transported
- 5:48 PM – Body Removal Contacted
- 6:44 PM – Wreckers Needed for Two Motorcycles
- 8:56 PM – Roadway Clear
- Total Duration: 247 Minutes

Highlands County

November 13, 2025 – 2:50 PM

US 98 Near Lakeview Road

Incident Details:

- Four-Vehicle Crash – Fatal
- Occurred in active construction zone
- Lane closure and traffic flagger present
- Vehicle 1 failed to stop for stopped traffic
- Chain reaction collision

- 81-year-old passenger pronounced deceased on scene
- Second fatality occurred later at hospital
- 2:50 PM – Initial Notification (Possible Entrapment)
- 2:51 PM – Two Subjects Unconscious; One Entrapment
- 2:58 PM – US-98 Fully Shut Down for Med-Flight
- 3:09 PM – Family Received I-Phone Crash Notification
- 4:09 PM – TMC Notified Regarding Long-Term MOT
- 6:16 PM – APA Took Possession of Driver Cell Phone
- 7:09 PM – Wreckers Notified (4 Vehicles, 1 Trailer)
- 9:39 PM – Roadway Clear
- Total Duration: 409 Minutes

Hardee County

November 23, 2025 – 4:32 PM

US 17 Near Sweetwater Road

**Incident Details:**

- Single Vehicle Crash – Fatal
- Rollover
- 4:32 PM – Initial Notification
- 4:42 PM – Subject Confirmed Deceased
- 6:08 PM – Body Removal Enroute
- 8:00 PM – Wreckers Notified
- 8:30 PM – Next of Kin Notified
- No roadway closure
- No duration calculated

**FDOT Construction Update**

The team received an update on current construction activities. FDOT District 1 weekly construction updates are available to all first responders upon request by contacting [FDOT-D1COMM@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:FDOT-D1COMM@dot.state.fl.us).

**Future Meetings:**

The next Heartland County TIM Team will be on April 7, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

**Meeting Adjourned**

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)