



**Polk County  
Traffic Incident Management Team**

*April 10, 2014  
Meeting Minutes*

**Attendees:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
David Brewington	Brewington Towing	Michael Bissett	Polk Sherriff
Jim Hilbert	FTE	Tom McMullian	Transfield
Bill Fuller	FDOT	Michael Blaze	Polk County
Mark Barnes	FDOT	Tommie Jackson	Lakeland Police
Rory Howe	Delcan	Jeremy Graves	Stepps Towing
Rick Grube	Lakeland, City of	Eddy Gasset	FDOT
Ricky Thomas	ICA		
Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering		

**Call to Order:** The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the Polk County Sheriff’s Office Complex, Procap Room, and 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880. Bill Fuller and Rory Howe facilitated the meeting.

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the Team that a new goal for the TIM meetings will be “practicing what we preach”: the goal will be to keep meetings to 90 minutes!

**Introductions:** Team members introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.

**Agency News:**

Towing and Wrecker News

No agency news.

Other Agency News

No agency news.

**Update on TIM Initiatives:**

National/State/Regional

Mr. Bill Fuller spoke to the team about Florida recognizing National Work Zone Awareness Week April 7-11, 2014. In 2012, on Florida roads, there were 51 fatalities, 476 serious injuries, and 4,677 crashes in work zones. That is down from 2011, where there were 62 fatalities and 3,711 serious injuries in work zones. Serious injury and death can occur in areas of roadway construction. In order to raise awareness and educate citizens on the dangers of work zones, FDOT has collaborated with partners to drive down fatalities.

The National Work Zone Awareness Week began in 1999 when the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) signed a Memorandum of Agreement pledging to increase public awareness of work zone safety issues through a national media campaign. Since then, awareness has continued to grow, with State agencies and other organizations sponsoring high-visibility education and outreach initiatives.

Local, state and federal transportation officials observe it in April, the start of highway construction season across most of the country. The 2014 National Work Zone Awareness Week will be held April 7-11, 2014, and the national “kick-off” event will take place on April 8th in Seattle, Washington. The 2014 theme is “Work Zone Speeding: A Costly Mistake”.

Mr. Fuller spoke to the team about the Stay Alive...Just Drive traffic safety campaign. The campaign encourages all Southwest Floridians to support the effort to curb distracted driving.

Florida continues to experience high numbers of fatalities, life altering injuries, and costly property damage as a result of motor vehicle collisions on our roadways. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children and young adults ages 3 - 34 and the leading cause of long term disability, including brain and spinal-cord injuries, for all ages.

It is imperative that motorists take driving seriously, learn to share the road, develop a mindset that will help them drive less aggressively, and remember to keep their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel.

Ultimately the campaign would like to reach every motorist with at least one message on average, every single day of the year regarding the dangers of distracted driving. All residents and visitors are urged to practice safe and law abiding driving habits and follow the simple philosophy of Stay Alert, Stay Focused, Stay Alive...Just Drive.

Mr. Fuller also updated the team about the 511 app from Google Play and iTunes. Florida 511 is a free download providing up-to-date traffic information on all of Florida’s interstates, toll roads and many major metropolitan roadways including I-95, I-4, I-75, I-10 and Florida’s Turnpike. The app offers text and audio traffic updates and important alerts, as well as camera views on crashes, congestion, construction and more. All Florida 511 traffic data is provided by the Florida Department of Transportation.

The app uses GPS tracking to identify the users’ current location and provide users with traffic information within a selected number of miles of their location. Users can set the app to provide information for a range of up to 200 miles from their location, view traffic in a select city or county by typing in a desired location or receive traffic information based on their registered My Florida 511 custom routes. Travel time information also is available based on location and direction of travel. The app can also be accessed through the web at <http://www.fl511.com/>

Mr. Fuller also informed the team that every February the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be running an awareness campaign against hit and run incidents. The slogan for the campaign is, don’t get hurt twice, by leaving the scene and going to jail.

Mr. Rory Howe presented to the team the watch out behind you presentation. The presentation is the product of over two years of work by the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association (CVVFA) Emergency Responder Safety Institute Team. It includes state of the art material and best practices gathered from North America and Europe Emergency Service Organizations respond to a wide variety

of incidents involving operations on, or near a highway. These operations pose special risks to personnel performing fire, rescue, traffic control, and EMS functions. Every year a significant number of emergency service personnel are killed or injured while operating on highways. To view the full presentation, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

Mr. Bill Fuller presented a video to the team that included an incident that occurred on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 of a dispute between a California Highway Patrol officer and Chula Vista Fire Department firefighter.

Officials from both the California Highway Patrol and Chula Vista Fire Department responded to an incident that left a firefighter in handcuffs at an accident site when the two responders got into a dispute over where the fire engine should have parked while firefighters were responding to the crash that happened north on I-805 between Telegraph Canyon Road and East Orange Avenue. To view the full video, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

Mr. Bill Fuller presented on distracted driving. Each day in the United States, more than 9 people are killed and more than 1,060 people are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. Distracted driving is driving while doing another activity that takes your attention away from driving. Distracted driving can increase the chance of a motor vehicle crash.

There are three main types of distraction:

- Visual: taking your eyes off the road;
- Manual: taking your hands off the wheel
- Cognitive: taking your mind off of driving

Mr. Fuller also presented a video on distracted driving which included a distracted driver caught on a police officer's dash cam that was texting and driving which resulted in a rollover crash. To view the video, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the team about the Open Roads Policy agreement which was revised on January 2014. The Open Roads Policy agreement was formed by the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) which establishes a policy to expedite the removal of vehicles, cargo, and debris from roadways on the State Highway System to restore, in an urgent manner, the safe and orderly flow of traffic following a motor vehicle crash or other incidents on Florida's roadways. It has been 12 years since the first agreement was produced and since then, local agencies and first responder staff have changed and the momentum of the agreement has been lost. It was mentioned that a local Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) can be created to include the agreement and incorporate the guidelines into their agencies. To view the full revised 2014 Open Roads Policy Agreement, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

Mr. Bill Fuller presented to the team the TIM Strategy for 2014 which is as follows; Safe quick clearance during Traffic Incident Management (TIM) scenarios and the continuous development of standard operating guidelines to address safety issues is the objective of District One's TIM strategy in 2014.

Primary TIM team meeting topic:

- Traffic Incident Management in response to regional incidents (incident debriefings) and in perspective of the National Incident Management System (NIMS): Unified command structure.
- Agency notification through a Regional Traffic Management Center (RTMC) operations and active participation in critical traffic incident reviews

- FHWA self-assessment identifies, evaluates and implements improvements in three (3) areas

The secondary TIM team meeting topic:

- Roles and responsibilities of TIM team member agencies including member agency presentations

Specific items of interest:

- National Uniform Goals
- Maintenance of traffic
- Diversion routes
- Incident reporting and agency notification
- The appointment of “champions” in each field of expertise
- Inter-Agency Video and Event Data Distribution System (iVEDDS)- Traffic monitoring
- TIM training topics
- National topics related to TIM
- Upcoming events that may affect team agencies operations

Mr. Bill Fuller presented a video to the team that included a new system for detecting wrong way drivers on the highways. Wrong-way driving often leads to the most feared of traffic incidents, the head-on collision. Wrong-way crashes are more likely to produce serious injuries and fatalities. Most of the time the offenders are confused, distracted or intoxicated drivers, so one might think there's little that can be done to prevent wrong-way driving. Intoxicated drivers tend to keep their eyes down on the road directly in front of them, trying to keep their vehicle between the lines, often not seeing standard traffic signs. Driving the wrong way in one-way traffic or wrong side of road factored into 3.1 percent of all fatal crashes in the U.S.

Installing do not enter and wrong way blinker sign LED signs can deter drivers from making wrong-way movements onto freeways and other restricted roads. By providing the extra visible warning cues standard traffic signs lack. The solar-powered blinker sign is directional and activated only by vehicles traveling in the wrong direction (speed threshold is adjustable). Additional signs facing the opposite direction can be added to warn drivers of the wrong way traveling vehicle. To view the full video, please visit the website below. Note: FDOT does not sponsor any products or companies that are included in the video.

<http://www.tapconet.com/solar-led-division/wrong-way-warning-system-blinkersign>

Mr. Bill Fuller presented on Road Ranger awareness. A brief over view of the information provided was as follows:

- Project manager responsibilities
- Road ranger qualifications and responsibilities
- Required training and certifications
- Authorized Stops
- Standard Operating Guidelines
- Response Priority
- Road Rangers “Do’s and Don’ts”
- Authorized equipment on Road Ranger vehicles

To view the full presentation, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

**Quarterly Road Ranger Report:**

The performance measures report for January 1, 2014 – March 31, 2014 was provided to the team. The full report is available on the TIM website at: [www.swfltim.org](http://www.swfltim.org).

**FDOT Construction Update**

Mr. Bill Fuller requested that all TIM Team members make sure they are receiving the District One Weekly Road Watch Reports and to contact him if there were any concerns.

**Active Construction:** No updated information was provided by the TIM Team.

**Completed Construction:**

No updated information was provided by the TIM Team.

**Anticipated Future Construction:**

No updated information was provided by the TIM Team.

Additional construction information is available on the FDOT Road Watch website located at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/construc/constmap/d1.shtm>. This resource is updated on a weekly basis.

**Future Meetings:**

The next Polk County TIM Team will be July 10, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex, Procav Room, and 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880

As always, please continue to visit the TIM Team website for updates, and also 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 the District One TIM Team Manager, Mr. Bill Fuller at (239) 225-1915 or via email at [william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us).

