



Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

January 12, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Chris Brewington	Brewington Towing	Kevin Salsbery	FDOT
David Brewington	Brewington Towing	Michelle Venero	Florida Highway Patrol
Mike Propst	Common Ground Enviro	Kelly Kinny	FTE
Rick Grube	City of Lakeland	Gary Millsaps	Delcan
Domenic Letobarone	FDEP	Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering
Chris Birozak	FDOT	Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering
Charissa Dowdye	FDOT	Michael Blaze	Polk County
Bill Fuller	FDOT	Harry Whitney	Road Rangers
Bruce Surrency	FDOT	Brian Coconato	SWS Environmental
		Dean Empie	Transfield Services
		Jerry Vanecek	Transfield Services

Call to Order: The Polk County TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 10:00 AM at the City of Lakeland Construction and Maintenance Building, 407 Fairway Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33801. Charles Stratton, Bill Fuller, and Gary Millsaps facilitated the meeting.

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

Agency News:

Road Rangers

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the team of two new Road Rangers, Mr. Steve White and Brett Ewing. Mr. Steve White is temporarily filling in for the Road Rangers and will soon join the Florida Highway Patrol upon completion of his classes.

Towing and Wrecker News

No wrecker news.

Other Agency News

The Florida Highway Patrol announced a new Sargent, Mr. Mike Thomas.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

National/State/Regional

Mr. Gary Millsaps spoke about responder safety and also showed a short video "Your Vest Won't Stop This Bullet: A Guide to Safer Traffic Stops."

Traffic law enforcement remains dangerous work. Police officers are 1,000 times more likely than other drivers to be parked alongside roadways and are four times more likely than other drivers to be involved in crashes. In fact, more police officers in the United States have died accidentally than have been killed feloniously each year beginning in 1998, and being struck by

vehicles has ranked as the number two cause of accidental police officer deaths (behind vehicle crashes) for at least the last decade.

Below are some points that the video discussed to help improve responder safety on the road.

Officer Visibility

The need for officers to be alert and readily visible to others when investigating collisions, directing traffic, or attending to disabled vehicles is indispensable to their safety and security. Officers must not focus so intently upon completing these duties that they unconsciously overlook the importance of being clearly recognizable to approaching motorists.

Selecting the Location

When making traffic stops you should select safe locations for those stops. They should seek driveways, off-ramps, parking lots, pull-offs, rest stops, service drives, well-lit areas, and wide shoulders. They should not accept blindly the places where violators choose to stop. Officers should especially avoid having the violator stop their vehicle on blind curves, hillcrests, medians, narrow or nonexistent shoulders, reduced berms, and similar spots where visibility is impaired; and officers should take into account adverse weather conditions that reduce visibility in the stop location.

Vehicle and Officer Positioning

It was recommended that on right-shoulder stops where the officer intends to make a driver's side approach, the cruiser should be parked parallel to the roadway at least 15 feet (or one car length) behind the stopped vehicle with a 50 percent overlap (offset left) between the vehicles and with the cruiser's front wheels turned fully to the right; and that the parking brake is set.

For more information on the video "Your Vest Won't Stop This Bullet: A Guide to Safer Traffic Stops", please visit: <http://www.patrolvehiclesafety.org>

Mr. Bill Fuller spoke about getting results from Regional TIM Teams (TIM) and Outreach programs. The Regional TIM Team performs a variety of functions that are helping to improve response efforts and procedures within the incident management community. The TIM Teams coordinate outreach programs to help further the TIM Team goals.

Law enforcement, fire and rescue, emergency medical services, and transportation agencies involved in traffic incident management (TIM) share a common goal: restoring the roadways as safely and quickly as possible. They know that every minute of incident delay multiplies traffic queues by a factor of four and increases the risk to responders' and drivers' lives. The TIM Team identifies issues and develops improved incident management operations through Coordination, Communication, and Cooperation.

Why a local TIM Team?

- Raise Awareness of TIM / NUG
- Improve Interagency Coordination
- Improve Responder Safety
- Improve Motorist Safety
- Improve Agency Image
- Reduce Liability

Objectives and Outcomes

- Enhance Scene Safety
 - Reduce Secondary Crashes
- Enhance Quick Clearance
 - FDOT-FHP "Open Roads Policy"
- Enhance Mobility

- ATIS 511 to Inform Motorists
- Enhance Quality of Life
 - Reduce Congestion & Pollution

The District 1 TIM Team continually works toward their goals by providing training and outreach programs. In 2011 this was accomplished by providing Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) table top exercises to the TIM Teams as well as the Northport Fire and Rescue. In addition, The I-95 Corridor Coalition provided a Quick Clearance Workshop. As for 2012, the TIM Team is already getting a head start by developing a "Local" TIM Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Mr. Gary Millsaps spoke about the purpose of TIM Teams. Mr. Millsaps explained that over 50% of the congestion is caused by non-recurring incidents and for every additional minute taken to clear a traffic incident, it will extend the duration an additional 4 to 7 minutes. This is why teamwork among emergency service agencies is imperative, if we are to enhance traffic incident management.

The Benefits of an effective TIM Team are both quantitative and qualitative. The quantitative benefits are: Increased survival rate of crash victims, reduced traffic delay, Improved response time, Improved air quality, reduced occurrence of secondary incidents, Improved safety of responders, crash victims and traveling motorists, and reduced clearance and recovery time. The qualitative benefits are enhanced traveler information, increased driver warning capabilities, improved coordination among response agencies, improved public perception of agency operations, and reduced driver frustrations.

TIM Teams can be an excellent tool for enhancing Coordination, Communications and Cooperation between various agencies within a local jurisdiction. The TIM Teams can help create a dialogue for better inter-agency cooperation, create an opportunity for multi-agency training which promotes teamwork, create a tool for developing common operational strategies, create a better understanding of other agencies and their responsibilities, and create practices that may, not only help their local jurisdiction but also the regional area.

Mr. Bill Fuller spoke briefly about the guidelines and concerns for Public Information Officers (PIO) and the media when they are present on Incident scenes. Mr. Fuller asked the team for any input on the correct procedure of where the PIO and the media should be positioned out on a scene and if there were any guidelines. It was stated that in most cases the PIO and the media have established a good relationship with the onsite responders and follow their direction.

Mr. Gary Millsaps spoke about the parking fire apparatus. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) requires emergency responders to establish a MUTCD-compliant "Traffic Incident Management Area".

A "Traffic Incident Management Area" (TIMA) is defined as an area of a highway where temporary traffic control (TTC) is imposed by authorized officials responding to a road user incident, natural disaster, hazardous material spill, or other unplanned incident. The TIMA extends from the first warning device (such as a sign, light, or cone) to the last TTC device, or to a point where vehicles return to the original lane alignment and are clear of the incident. MUTCD, chapter 6I contains detailed guidance on the recommended size of a TIMA, depending upon road configuration, vehicle speed, and weather conditions.

Mr. Millsaps reviewed slides which showed different traffic incidents and reviewed linear and block tactical positioning.

Linear Positioning: This means that incident responder vehicles are positioned in a straight line at the incident scene.

Block Positioning: This means that incident responder vehicles are positioned at angles that create a protected work area for responders and vehicle occupants.

Lane +1 Blocking: which includes blocking at least one additional lane next to the lane where the incident occurred. To increase safety, use the Lane + 1 Blocking Protocol initially to create an adequate “buffer” for responders.

Mr. Millsaps also spoke about the fire apparatus safe positioning. Blocking is the action of positioning a vehicle at an angle to halt the flow of moving traffic in one or more lanes. Large apparatus, like fire trucks, provide the best blocks. The intent is to physically block the incident lane or shoulder plus one additional lane. Additionally, the truck must be parked with their front wheels turned to their “Critical Wheel Angle”, which is when the steering wheel is turned all the way to the left or right; whatever is required to turn the wheels away from the protected area. In the event that this blocking vehicle is struck in the rear, having the wheels turned away will hopefully move the colliding vehicle away from the rescuers at the scene.

Strategic Direction for TIM Teams 2011-2012

Mr. Charles Stratton spoke to the team about the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Program Self-Assessment TIM Team Goals for 2011-2012.

Mr. Stratton spoke about the Local Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The multi-agency Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team has taken the initiative to establish a series of Agency Memorandums of Agreements or MOUs. The incident response agencies have the responsibility to do whatever is reasonable to enhance the safety of our transportation system. This is a team effort to reduce the risk to all incident responders, secondary crashes, and delays associated with incidents, crashes, roadway maintenance, construction, and law enforcement activities.

The TIM Team will work together to develop a “Local” TIM MOU signed by top officials from participating agencies that will address the following:

- A. Identify local Agencies that will support the TIM program and sign the agreement
- B. A local Open Roads Policy that will establish time goals for roadway and incident scene clearance times
 - Identify how the data will be collected, analyzed and reported to the TIM Team
 - Identify how often the reports will be reviewed to determine whether progress is made in achieving the established time goals
- C. Define Incident scene roles and responsibilities for each participating agency
- D. Establish a local incident scene Lighting Policy
- E. Establish a local incident Communication Policy or a commitment from each participating agency to notify FDOT’s SWIFT SunGuide Center
- F. Define how often this document will be updated

The following representatives will be the lead in the efforts of their agency:

Michael Blaze – Polk County

Bill Fuller – Florida Department of Transportation

Jim Hilbert – Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise

Domenic Letobarone – Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Mike McArthur – Stepp’s Towing

Dennis Murray – Florida Department of Transportation

Jimmy Sowell – SWS Environmental Services

FDOT Construction Update

Mr. Bill Fuller requested that all TIM Team members make sure they are receiving the D1 Weekly Road Watch Reports and to contact him if there were any concerns.

Active Construction:

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the team of the sink hole located on Westbound of Interstate 4 at the rest area. The sink hole is 35 feet round and 12 feet deep. There was not an estimated date of completion at the time.

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 meeting will be April 12, 2012 at 10:00am at the City of Lakeland Construction and Maintenance Building, 407 Fairway Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33801

The 3rd Annual Statewide Road Ranger Survey for Incident Responders is now available. The goal of this survey is to get input from Incident Responders on the Road Ranger Program from their perspective. By participating in the survey your input will help identify areas of improvement. Please click on the following link to access the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/roadrangersurvey>

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 maybe interested in joining our team! <http://www.swftim.org/>

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the District One TIM Team Manager, Mr. Bill Fuller at (239) 225-9815 or via email at William.fuller@dot.state.fl.us.