



**Polk County
Traffic Incident Management Team**

*October 14, 2010
Meeting Minutes*

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Ted Smith	Delcan Corporation	Gary Millsaps	GDOT
Chris Birozak	FDOT	Rick Grube	City of Lakeland
Bill Fuller	FDOT	Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering, Inc.
Greg Losey	FDOT	Robert Pitman	Polk County Fire Dept.
Kevin Salsbery	FDOT	Jimmy Sowell	SWS
Mario Dipola	FDOT	Ken Straub	SWS
Eddy Gasset	FDOT Bartow Ops	Dean Empie	Transfield Services
Kelly Kinney	Florida's Turnpike	Dr. Chanyoung Lee	Univ. of South Florida

Call to Order: The Polk County TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 10:00 AM at the University of South Florida Polytechnic, 3433 Winter Lake Road, Lakeland, Florida. Charles Stratton, Ted Smith, Bill Fuller, and Gary Millsaps facilitated the meeting.

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

Agency News:

Road Rangers

Bill informed the attendees of various accidents to Road Ranger Vehicles due to distracted motorists.

Newsletter

Bill Fuller encouraged all attendees to verify and update, if necessary, all of the contact information on the sign-in sheet in order to ensure that all attendees will receive the newsletters or any TIM related email news.

Towing and Wrecker News

No new information was discussed.

Training

The TIM Team watched the fifth and final module of the video *TIMe4 Safety*, and the team will continue to view one module per TIM meeting. Additionally, copies of the video are being made available to any agency interested. To obtain a copy, interested parties can contact Bill Fuller via email at William.Fuller@dot.state.fl.us.

Update on TIM Initiatives:National

Ted Smith spoke about study for distracted drivers on the roadway. The study focused on the distraction of cell phone/handheld use and texting while driving. The study involved data from three states. As drivers were distracted, the laws governing cell phone use will stay the same, but law enforcement is to be more proactive about citing drivers for reckless driving while using a handheld device. The issue is getting worse, but cellular providers are lobbying congress to keep cell phone use legal.

State

Ted Smith spoke about the current wrecker rules. The current wrecker 15B rules are to be rewritten. The current rules are predominately based on FHP wrecker rotations. The change to the rule will ensure that all wrecker companies will have trained and certified personnel on Florida's roadways.

Ted Smith also spoke about local television stations causing additional traffic delays due to the TV crews reporting from the incident scene after crash is cleared. These incidents are increasing clearance times due to driver distraction. The TV stations have a right to report the crash, but once is crash is cleared, law enforcement will cite TV crews still reporting on site. This only affects the Orlando area. Bill Fuller stated that all TV crews should be certified in MOT like other roadway workers.

Regional

There is potential change of the policy and procedures of the use of Medivac Helicopters. This questions the use of the life saving helicopters. There were a total of 22 Medivac helicopter-related fatalities last year. The medical community is run by doctors and they need to find a common sense rule for deploying this type of transportation to the scene. It was stated that dispatching these helicopters will start to include long bone injuries. The levels of helicopter-related fatalities are increasing, mostly due to pilots landing the aircraft in live traffic lanes.

The Toyota Motor Corporation is set to release vital black box data for fatal automobile crashes. Toyota will also assist law enforcement in data analysis. United Parcel Service (UPS) will be installing 22,000 devices in their delivery trucks. This is already standard practice in the long-haul trucking industry. Most of the trucking fleets on the road currently assist law enforcement to provide vital crash data for their investigations.

Georgia TIM Teams and On Going Programs

Mr. Gary Millsaps, (Director of Georgia Incident Management and Chairman of the Georgia TIME Taskforce) presented on GDOT TIM Teams in addition to ongoing incident management programs. Mr. Millsaps spoke about the currently Highway Emergency Response Operator (HERO) program currently deployed on Georgia Interstates. HERO is a program very similar to Florida's RISC program. To increase incident response time, GDOT will deploy response software using a computer aided dispatch. The TIME taskforce uses only TRIP-certified wrecker companies. Those wrecker companies are able to remove disabled vehicles and move them to the shoulder of the roadway without being held liable for any damages only if no injuries are reported onsite. GDOT wants more HERO coverage especially in bad economic times.

National Unified Goal (NUG) Summit Update

Mr. Ted Smith spoke on the importance of the National Unified Goal (NUG). The NUG focuses on how incidents are handled and cleared. Many of the TIM partners have to think "outside the box". They are taking a new look at traditional towing programs to improve clearance times.

DOT is supporting law enforcement even though they sometimes blame them for wrecker issues. They have found that inadequate or dated equipment is part of the issue. The Federal government wants municipal agencies to improve trip reliability. They must achieve this reliability to ensure these agencies gain additional Federal funding for their roadway projects.

TIM Self Assessment for 2010

The top-three goals previously identified during the 2010 Self Assessment were:

1. Develop multi-agency agreements/memoranda of understanding detailing resource sharing (facilities, services, personnel and budget)
Team Members will provide Bill Fuller with current operating procedures and any multi-agency agreements or memoranda of understanding for the Team to review and analyze.
2. Establish targets for roadway incident clearance times and routinely review whether progress is made in achieving the targets.
TIM team members are asked to understand the difference between roadway clearance and incident clearance. The Team was asked to quickly move any accidents to the shoulder to reopen the roadway and clear debris at a later time if possible.
3. Utilize transportation resources to conduct traffic control procedures for various levels of incidents in compliance with the MUTCD.
Possibility of using the TIM Team Resource Book which includes typical traffic control scenarios.

Recent Trends of Motorcycle Crashes in Florida

Dr. Chanyoung Lee presented on recent trends of motorcycle crashes in Florida. 54 % of riders are in fact using a DOT approved helmet when they ride. It was also stated that if you witness a motorcycle crash the bystander must secure the area, find medical help, do not move the rider, and do not remove a helmet unless CPR is necessary. The data reflects a high chance for motorcycle crashes.

FDOT Construction Update

High Speed Rail

The High Speed Rail project from Tampa to Orlando has been “fast-tracked” with an anticipated completion in 2015. The construction will be happening in two phases: median clearance and rail construction (at grade, with barrier wall separation). It is anticipated that the project limits are from the Orlando International Airport to downtown Tampa, with a stop in Lakeland. No crossovers will be designed due to the special use lanes. Additional information may be found at <http://www.floridahighspeedrail.org>.

Active Construction:

- No active construction projects were discussed.

Completed Construction:

- No completed construction projects were discussed.

Anticipated Future Construction:

- CSX Rail Road has scheduled replacement of ties and new track bed on their main line that starts in Auburndale and runs west to the Sykes Blvd. Overpass. The work will also include reconstruction of railroad crossings along the line of track. Each railroad will be

closed for approximately two weeks with all efforts made to open the crossings as soon as possible. Detour routes will be marked to the closest open crossing.

Additional construction information is available on the FDOT website located at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/construc/constmap/d1.shtm>.

Open Forum

No open forum items were presented.

Action Items for Future Meetings

1. TIM Team Members will provide any multi-agency agreements/memoranda of understanding to FDOT. *(Ball in court: TIM Team Members)*

Future Meetings

The next Polk County TIM Team meeting will be January 13, 2011 at 10:00am at the University of South Florida Polytechnic, 3433 Winter Lake Road, Lakeland, Florida.

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.