



**Polk County  
Traffic Incident Management Team**

*April 9, 2015  
Meeting Minutes*

**Attendees:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Bill Fuller	FDOT	Rick Grube	City of Lakeland
Rory Howe	Parsons	Harry Whitney	Road Rangers
Tom Martin	Parsons	Johnny Adkins	Stepp's Towing
Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering	Joe Burke	FDOT
David Brewington	Brewington Towing	Ben Skidmore	SWS Environmental Svcs.
Jefferson Brook	FHP	David Tilki	Turnpike
Tom McMullian	Transfield	Luis Ruiz	FDOT
Ricky Thomas	ICA	Tony Huffman	B&D Towing
Don Gulla	Road Ranger	Robert Slotabec	SWS Environmental

**Call to Order:** The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, April 9, 2015 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.

Bill Fuller reminded the Team of the TIM meeting(s) goal will be "practice what we preach", by keeping the meetings to 90 minutes!

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

**Agency News:**

**Road Rangers**

Bill Fuller informed the team of a recent incident that occurred on January 29, 2015 that involved a local Road Ranger and another vehicle. The Road Ranger was making a left hand turn onto a ramp to head North on I-75, at which time a motorist ran a red light and crashed into the Road Ranger truck while traveling at least 60 miles per hour. Fortunately, neither the Road Ranger nor the motorist received major injuries.

Mr. Fuller also provided the Ranger Report for October 01, 2014 - December 31, 2014 to the team. To read the full report, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>.

### Towing and Wrecker News

The team was informed about the recent 2015 Tow Show that occurred on April 9-12, 2015 at the Hilton Across from Disney Village in Orlando Florida. The 2015 tow show schedule included new and exciting experiences in the towing industry. The event was a great way to learn more about the industry and connect with other incident responders. Additionally, the team was informed that the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP-2) training was also provided at the event.

### Other Agency News

No agency news.

### **Update on TIM Initiatives:**

#### National/State/Regional

We had a special guest speaker at the TIM team meeting, Captain Tom Martin, Retired Virginia State Police. Most of you know Mr. Martin from the highly publicized and very popular TIM training video that he created called "The Many Hats of Traffic Incident Management". To view the video, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

Mr. Martin has been an invited speaker and has served on expert panels at numerous state and national homeland security, incident management and transportation conferences. He retired from the Virginia State police after 34 years' service and is currently employed at Parsons Company as the Statewide Incident Management Manager for the VDOT. He has diverse practical law enforcement experience having served as the Commander of both large patrol Divisions and the Criminal Intelligence Division. During his time with the State Police, Mr. Martin participated in a number of major law enforcement events, including the terrorist attack at the Pentagon. He was also a multi-agency task force leader deployed to Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. He has a significant background in law enforcement, incident response and command, coordinated incident management, congestion management, service patrols and emergency operations.



Mr. Martin provided a "National" perspective on current TIM events, particularly occurring with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Mr. Martin spoke to the team about the VDOT Transportation Operations Center and Statewide Advanced Traffic Management Systems project.

Overview of Contract: Serco is managing the Floor Operations, Safety Service Patrol (SSP) Operations and ITS Maintenance in each of the five VDOT Regional Transportation Operations Centers (TOCs) specifically located in Richmond, Staunton, Salem, Virginia Beach and Fairfax, Virginia.

#### Benefits and Achievements:

- Successful transition of five regions (TOC Floor Operations, SSP Operations, ITS Maintenance Operations and Program Management)
- Enhanced staffing to facilitate emergency preparedness
- Over 350 staff, trained, recertified and transitioned to Serco team
- Performance Management resulting in Statewide Situational Awareness and Interoperability

#### Capabilities:

- Transportation Center Floor Operations
- Safety Service Patrol

- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Field Maintenance
- ATMS Development
- Statewide Incident Management & Emergency Preparation
- Program Management

Key Facts:

- Program Management Office co-located with Network Operations Center centrally in Richmond, VA near VDOT Central Office
- Patrolling 800 miles of freeway statewide
- Daily average of over 600 incidents and motorist assist statewide
- Monitoring over 3,000 Field Devices
- Completed over 1,000 ITS Maintenance work orders
- Stakeholder outreach program with law enforcement, emergency responders and VDOT Districts
- Transfer of 169 Safety Service Patrol Vehicles

Additionally, Mr. Martin also spoke to the team about the current structure of the Regional TIM team throughout Virginia. To view the entire presentation, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

Rory Howe spoke to the team about the importance of push bumper use to quickly remove vehicles out of the travel lanes. The push bumpers are designed to absorb impact and reduce the damage to patrol vehicles in the case of minor collisions. It covers grill guards, wrap-style guards, general push bumpers and mounting kits.

Additionally, the Push Bumper, Colorado Highway State Patrol Video was provided to the team. To view the video, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>.

Mr. Howe spoke to the team about the Michigan State Police (MSP) trying to get authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to become one of the first police agencies to get statewide authorization to fly drones. A news station, Grand Rapids News 8 recently interviewed the Michigan State Police about the use of drones during incidents. They stated that aerial video would have been helpful in reconstructing a recent deadly 193 vehicle pileup on I-94 west of Battle Creek. The MSP chopper and news choppers weren't able to fly over the accident due to smoke and weather and with the drone could get a bird's eye view, quickly safely and efficiently.

There are additional benefits: drones could offer high resolution pictures quickly in a situation like the deadly I-94 wreck. MSP got approval last year for training flights from the FAA last winter, now the goal is FAA approval to use them in the field.

Additionally, the Michigan State Police Seeking FAA Approval to Use Drones Video was provided to the team. To view the video, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

Bill Fuller informed the team that the month of April 2015 is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

- Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety.
- Text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far the most alarming distraction.
- In 2014, 3,154 people were killed and an estimated 424,000 people were injured in distraction-affected crashes.

- Sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent-at 55MPH – of driving further than the length of a football field (371ft.)

Bill Fuller informed the team that lawmakers are looking to make texting while driving a primary offense. State lawmakers have filed three bills to strengthen the current law. Senate Bills 246 and 192 are waiting for review along with House Bill 1. All of the bills would allow law enforcement to pull a motorist over immediately if caught texting and driving. The fine would double if you are caught texting in a school zone or near a cross walk. In 2013, texting and driving became a secondary offense in Florida. This means that law enforcement cannot pull you over unless you break another traffic rule first.

Bill Fuller informed the team that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is taking aim at commercial trucking safety in regards to distracted driving. NTSB is currently concentrating on the commercial trucking industry when it comes to distracted driving. Although texting and use of handheld devices while driving is already illegal for interstate commercial truck drivers and all hazmat drivers, NTSB wants the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to take things a step further and ban all phone use, including hands-free devices.

Bill Fuller spoke to the team about the roles and responsibilities of DBI Services and the Road Rangers.

DBI Specific Contractor Responsibilities for other Emergencies; 82 Million Dollar Contract:

Respond and deploy resources according to the goals established in the Open Roads Policy. Arrive on-site, 24/7, prepared to take necessary action with necessary manpower and emergency response equipment. Be available to relieve Law Enforcement personnel of Traffic Control functions within 15 minutes of arrival on-site. Manage all aspects of Traffic control related to an Incident/Event, including coordination with Governmental agencies when detour routes are required. Manage and maintain the entire detour route even if re-routed onto Roads not covered under the contract.

Road Rangers; Justification; 14 Million Dollar Contract:

Provide highway assistance services to motorists stranded with disabled vehicles and support and promote the "Open Roads Policy". The objective of the program is to assist travelers in need of minor roadside vehicle assistance, such as changing flat tires, jumping dead batteries, or providing enough gasoline for them to reach a filling station. Besides helping stranded motorists, the Road Rangers help remove roadway debris. Another valuable service that Road Rangers provide is in support of the incident management program, as patrolling Road Rangers are often the first to notice and respond to an incident.

Bill Fuller spoke to the team about the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP-2) training and the Train the Trainer program. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation continues to train trainers in all U.S. States and two U.S. territories to launch classroom sessions of the newly released Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Basic Training Course. To date, almost 5,200 fire, law enforcement and transportation TIM experts have received training on how to implement the course in a classroom setting. The FHWA highly encourages Safety Service Patrol professionals to attend a course offering in their area.

A Congressionally mandated effort managed by the Transportation Research Board (TRB), the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO), and the FHWA through the Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) resulted in a Traffic Incident Responder training course to address on-scene operations and management. This multi-disciplinary training course promotes a shared understanding of the requirements for quick clearance and for safeguarding responders and motorists. FHWA produced a 2-day Train-the-Trainer course and is traveling around the Nation training

TIM experts to conduct the classroom-based course. The training objectives are:

- Promoting more effective multi-agency, coordinated, and planned incident response.
- Improving responder safety.
- Improving travel-time reliability for person and freight trips on the Nation's highways by improving incident clearance time.
- Reducing congestion, collisions, and delays caused by secondary crashes.

Mr. Fuller encouraged the TIM team to participate in the training and to send their contact information if they are interested in participating in the Train-The-Trainer program in the near future. Mr. Fuller stated that he will keep the team informed of any SHRP-2 train the trainer opportunities in the future. If you have any questions, 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](mailto:william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us).

The Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Report from October 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014 was provided to the team. To view the full report, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org/>

The FDOT SWIFT SunGuide Operations Report for January 2015 was provided to the team. To view the full report, please visit the TIM team website at: <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 9, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex, Procap 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)