



**Polk County
Traffic Incident Management Team**

April 14, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering	Rick Grube	City of Lakeland
Scott Malcom	Parsons	Johnny Adkins	Stepp's Towing
Romona Burke	FDOT	Todd Riley	Stepp's Towing
Cathie McKenzie	Gannett Fleming	Kevin Salsbery	FDOT
Mark Kara	Professional Towing	Ricky Thomas	ICA
David Tilki	FTE	Jim Hilbert	FTE
Michael Bissett	Polk Co. Sheriff	Robert Slotabec	SWS Enviro.

Call to Order: The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM at the Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex, Procap Room, and 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880. Charles Stratton and Rory Howe facilitated the meeting.

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

Agency News:

Road Rangers

Bob Deizi informed the team that the District 1 Road Rangers have just completed their recertification for CPR and first aid.

Towing and Wrecker News

The team spoke about the 2016 Tow Show which took place April 7-10, 2016 at the Hilton in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The 2016 Tow Show included new and exciting experiences to the towing industry. The event was a great way to learn more about the industry and connect with other incident responders.

Other Agency News

No updates.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

National/State/Regional

Rory Howe presented to the team on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). A key Chapter in the MUTCD pertaining to Traffic Incident Management (TIM) is Chapter 6I – Control of Traffic Through Traffic Incident Management Areas.

- The primary function of temporary traffic control is to move road users reasonably safely and expeditiously past or around the incident, to reduce secondary crashes, and to preclude unnecessary use of the surrounding local road system.
- Classifies incidents by expected duration:
 - ✓ MAJOR: over 2 hours
 - ✓ INTERMEDIATE: from 30 minutes to 2 hours
 - ✓ MINOR: under 30 minutes
- Recommends interagency pre-planning and management (“unified incident management”).
- Recommendations on use of Emergency Vehicle Lighting.

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

Charles Stratton informed the team about the new Road Ranger Procedure Policy, Topic No. 750-030-015, effective April 1, 2016. The policy states that the Road Rangers are now designated as emergency vehicles under Florida Statute. The statute will help establish a uniform and consistent statewide Road Ranger program that supports Florida’s Open Road Policy. To view the full policy, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2016 National Enforcement Campaign: Click It or Ticket. The campaign will take place May 23 - June 5, 2016. The Click It or Ticket is a nationwide seat belt enforcement campaign aimed at reducing the number of highway fatalities and injuries due to non-seat-belt use. The mobilization is conducted annually by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in conjunction with law enforcement agencies, State Highway Safety Offices, and traffic safety advocates. An estimated 12,000 lives are saved every year by seat belts. According to research, safety belts reduce the number of serious traffic injuries by 50 percent and fatalities by 60 to 70 percent.

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2016 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Holiday Campaign. The campaign will take place July 4, 2016. Americans love to celebrate the Fourth of July with family, friends, food and fireworks, but all too often the festivities turn tragic on the nation’s roads. The fact is, this iconic American holiday is also one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to drunk-driving crashes. According to data from NHTSA, during July 4th holiday period over the last five years, 750 people lost their lives in crashes involving drivers with a BAC of .08 or more. These fatalities account for 39% percent of all motor vehicle traffic fatalities over this same five-year period.

The team was provided an update on the I-75/University Parkway DDI Construction project. The start date of the project was August 2015 and the estimated completion date is fall of 2017. Improvements being made as part of this project consist of constructing a diverging diamond interchange, adding an auxiliary lane on northbound and southbound I-75, constructing new bridges on I-75 over University Parkway, widening of University Parkway, widening of I-75 bridges over Errie Creek and Foley Creek, realignment of on-ramps and off-ramps at I-75/University Parkway, addition of ponds, drainage improvements, new lighting and signalization, construction of a noise wall on the west side of I-75, sidewalks, bike lanes, and pedestrian walkways. If you have any questions on the project, please contact Trudy Gerena, Senior Public Information Officer at 813-299-3579 and/or trudy@valerin-group.com. Please also visit <http://www.swflroads.com/i75/university/>, which provides up to date project information.

Charles Stratton informed the team that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reported that 2015 was the most heavily traveled year in history. By the end of November, U.S. drivers had racked

up about 2.88 trillion vehicle miles traveled, with each of the first 11 months of the year showing an increase of between 2.5 and 4.9 percent over the corresponding month from 2014. The increased miles represent a significant challenge in a traffic congestion.

Charles Stratton informed the team that the FHWA is working towards Institutionalizing Traffic Incident Management. FHWA now plans to work with TIM program administrators to strengthen TIM's capacity. There have been set-backs in TIM programs built on the shoulders of one or two champions only to backslide when the champions retire or who are no longer able to maintain the energy to blaze a trail for the TIM program.

Institutionalizing Training:

- FHWA plans to meet with Associations that influence training and standards for TIM disciplines.
 - ✓ FHWA will discuss the growing trend for fire, rescue, law enforcement, and towers to require this course be taken before personnel are assigned to a response and towers are given contracts to clear crashes.
 - ✓ Obtain advice on how to reach the goal of training one million responders and how to keep the training momentum going, including how and when responders should return for a refresher course.

Measuring Field Performance and Collecting Data While Boots Are Still on the Ground:

- Exploring the "Big Data" area, both through involvement on a new National Cooperative Highway Research Project (NCHRP), a part of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academy of Sciences, and through FHWA's own TIM Performance Measurement program.
 - ✓ FHWA has worked with practitioners to define three pieces of data that will demonstrate progress being made in building TIM capacity that will work faster at opening lanes, reduce the risk of secondary crashes, reduce the amount of time responders remain vulnerable working on the roadway with little protection, and the numbers of TIM workers killed or injured in the line of duty.
 - ✓ The first three elements address the Safe, Quick Clearance objective of the NUG, while the last addresses progress being made toward the NUG's Responder Safety objective.

Knowledge Collection and Sharing:

- Another key component of Institutionalization is sharing information.
 - ✓ FHWA is exploring a partnership with the AASHTO Transportation Operations Center of Excellence and the U.S. Fire Administration Knowledgebase to ensure that information is available no matter where you seek it as a discipline.
 - ✓ FHWA is exploring the integration of the [www.safequickclearance](http://www.safequickclearance.com) website developed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs on behalf of our TIM Responder Training program. This site includes information on where instructors are for the Trained Trainers and where classroom courses may be held.

FDOT Construction Update

Charles Stratton 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/D1/news/newsreleases/default.shtm>

Future Meetings:

The next Polk County TIM Team will be July 14, 2016 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 Charles Stratton, Metric Engineering, Inc. at (407) 644.1898 or via email at cstratton@metriceng.com