



Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

April 13, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Steve Cyra	HNTB	Stacy Hill	FDOT
Grady Carrick	Enforcement Engineering	Kevin Salsbery	FDOT
Chris Williams	FDOT	Harry Whitney	Road Rangers
Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering	Stephen Abel	Global-5
Rory Howe	Parsons	Ricky Thomas	ICA
Mike Bissett	Polk County Sheriff's Office	Mark Cygan	Lakeland Wrecker
Romona Burke	FDOT	Raul Corbo	Anchor Towing
Rick Grube	City of Lakeland	Richardo Clarke	Jorgensen
Cathie McKenzie	Gannett Fleming, Inc.	Philip Willite	Polk County
		Mark Ditto	Jorgensen
		Jason McMillan	City of Lakeland

Call to Order: The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex, 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880. Chris Williams, Charles Stratton, and Rory Howe facilitated the meeting.

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

Agency News:

Road Rangers

The team was informed that the Road Rangers are now at full staff. Additionally, the Road Rangers informed the team that there has been an increase in traffic due to construction and other factors on US 27 to Orlando.

Towing and Wrecker News

The towing agency informed the team about the 2017 Tow Show which took place April 20-23, 2017. The 2017 Tow Show included both new and exciting experiences in the towing industry. The event is a great way to learn more about the industry and connect with other incident responders. To learn more, please visit the following website: <http://www.towequip.com/towshows>

Other Agency News

The Polk County Sheriff's Office informed the team that there has been a large increase in fatalities this year in the Polk County area due to traffic crashes.

Additionally, the team was informed that there currently is a Bill in the State Legislature for Pinellas and Polk County to assume FHP duties on a trial basis for two years which would start in July.

However, there is a census from the Polk County Sheriff that the Bill will not pass. The team will be updated as any further information is released about the Bill.

The District 7 Traffic Management Center (TMC) informed the team that the Fog Detection Project is on schedule and should be completed soon. The project includes an upgrade to the highway cameras along with additional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices to help detect the fog on Interstate 4 along Polk County.

Emergency Management informed the team that they are currently preparing for the hurricane season. Additionally, the team was informed that the Emergency One-Way Plans throughout Florida is being replaced with the Emergency Hard Shoulder Plan, which will allow additional lanes of the hard shoulders during emergency evacuations.

The Florida Turnpike Enterprise informed the team that there was a conversion of the western mainline toll plaza where two lanes were converted to a SunPass only lanes.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

National/State/Regional

Rory Howe presented to the team about "Fires and Responders, from a Cop and the National Forestry Perspective."

Florida Governor Rick Scott has declared a state of emergency because of the number of wildfires burning in Florida. Officials say wildfires in the state have already burned 250 percent more terrain in the first three months of 2017 than during the same period last year. There are more than 100 active wildfires across more than 20,000 acres in Florida, according to Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam.

Since Florida is in a state of emergency in regards to the wildfires, Mr. Howe spoke to the team about the wildfires in Florida and the safety of first responders that are responding in the area. To help protect the safety of the first responders when responding to these types of incidents; all must be in compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards.

The MUTCD is the national standard for signs and traffic control devices for roads. The regulations in Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 655, Subpart F require that the MUTCD be followed on all Federal, State, and local roads open to public travel. The "Sign and Poster Guidelines for the Forest Service" (EM 7100–15) contain additional requirements for signs and traffic control devices used on National Forest System roads.

- Temporary Traffic Control
 - Temporary traffic control (TTC) is needed when incidents, such as traffic accidents, wildland fires, floods, hazardous material spills, and other unplanned events, take place on or adjacent to a road, affecting or interrupting the normal flow of traffic.
- Temporary Traffic Control Zones
 - Temporary traffic control zones guide road users through incident areas while reasonably protecting incident responders, vehicles, equipment, and road users.
 - TTC zones also may be established when necessary to restrict use of road systems to incident management personnel. Variable message signs, warning lights, flags, barricades, and cones may be used as available to enhance the visibility of TTC zones.
- Incident Sign Standards
 - Design, locate, install, and maintain signs in accordance with the MUTCD and EM 7100–15 requirements.
 - Coordinate with other public road authorities as soon as possible when incidents affect roads under their jurisdiction.

- Use professionally made signs made from fluorescent pink or orange retroreflective sheeting.
- Monitor and maintain signs and devices for the duration of the incident.
- Remove or cover signs promptly when they do not apply and when they are no longer needed.
- Use retroreflective pink signs when an incident occurs on or near a road that has orange construction signs.
- High-Visibility Safety Apparel
 - All workers, including emergency responders, who are exposed to traffic or work vehicles and construction equipment within the road right-of-way, shall wear high-visibility safety apparel that meets the Performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the "American National Standard for High-Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear" (ANSI/ ISEA 107–2004 or current edition).
- High-Visibility Safety Apparel
 - All workers, including emergency responders, who are exposed to traffic or work vehicles and construction equipment within the road right-of-way, shall wear high-visibility safety apparel that meets the Performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of American National Standards Institute/International Safety Equipment Association (ANSI/ISEA) 107–2004 (or current edition).
 - ✓ Firefighters engaged in roadside firefighting activities.
 - ✓ Uniformed law enforcement personnel directing traffic, investigating crashes, or handling lane closures, obstructed roadways, and disasters
 - ✓ Personnel conducting flagging operations for temporary traffic control
 - ✓ Personnel maintaining road closures

Approaching and Ending Fire Activity Zones:

- Incident management activities may occur throughout an incident zone over a long section of road.
- Use the FIRE ACTIVITY AHEAD sign with a distance plaque indicating the length of the traffic control zone as the first sign in a series of incident management signs.
- Use the END FIRE ACTIVITY sign to let road users know that they may resume normal driving. Place the END FIRE ACTIVITY sign on the opposite side of the road from the FIRE ACTIVITY AHEAD sign warning road users coming from the other direction.
- If the incident activity occurs over more than 5 miles of road, install additional FIRE ACTIVITY AHEAD signs with the distance plaque at least every 5 miles.

Initial Attack Engine or Crew Operations Along a Roadway:

- The *FIRE ACTIVITY AHEAD* sign may be omitted if the incident vehicle or activity is behind a barrier, more than 24 inches behind a curb, or more than 15 feet from the edge of any roadway.
- For operations lasting less than 30 minutes, signs are not required if the incident vehicle uses activated high-intensity rotating, flashing, oscillating, or strobe lights.
- Hazard-warning signals on vehicles may be used to supplement—but not replace—high-intensity rotating, flashing, oscillating, or strobe lights.

To view the full MUTCD, please visit the following website: <https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>

To learn more and to view the full presentation, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org/Polk/Polk%20Docs.htm#Handouts & Presentations>

The team was informed about the 2017 National Distracted Driving Month Campaign which takes place the month of April. The following facts were provided to the team:

- Every year, about 421,000 people are injured in crashes that have involved a driver who was distracted in some way.
- Each year, over 330,000 accidents caused by texting while driving lead to severe injuries. This means that over 78% of all distracted drivers are distracted due to texting.
- Distracted drivers of emergency vehicles were to blame in collisions that killed three Southland residents and injured about 140 others in California over the last two years, according to a state database and local reporting.
- The use of electronic equipment used by first responders, such as in-car computers, was cited as a factor in 48 or just over a quarter of collisions.
- 1 out of 4 car accidents in the US are caused by texting while driving.
- Reading a text message while driving successfully distracts a driver for a minimum of five seconds each time. This means that the chances of an accident occurring while reading a text is extremely high.

To learn more, please visit the following website: <https://www.flhsmv.gov/safety-center/driving-safety/distracted-driving/>

The team was informed of the upcoming National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Responder Training Program. The class will include lectures as well as table top activities. The target audiences for the (4) hour course are those who have the responsibility as “First Responders” to a crash or incident on our Florida roadways.

The benefits of the National Traffic Incident Management (SHRP-2) Responder Training includes:

- A unified, multidisciplinary approach that promotes a more effective incident response.
- Lessons in new multiagency standards and best practices.
- An opportunity for responders from multiple disciplines to breakdown communication barriers and begin to work more effectively together.

Participants will also receive a certificate from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) after completing the training.

Lee County (Option 1)

Emergency Operations Center
2675 Ortiz Avenue
Fort Myers, Florida, 33905
Monday, May 15, 2017
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Manatee County (Option 2)

Emergency Operations Center
2101 47th Terrace East
Bradenton, Florida 34203
Tuesday, May 16, 2017
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

To register for the training, please visit the following site: <http://www.123contactform.com/form-2566911/D1-May-2017-SHRP2-Trainings>

For more information on the training, please contact Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, at (407) 949-4283 and/or pboccuti@metriceng.com

Grady Carrick, Enforcement Engineering, Inc., and Steve Cyra, HNTB Corporation, presented to the team on Statewide Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Strategic Plan. The team was informed that they are currently putting together a TIM Strategic Plan for Florida. A strategic vision has helped Florida to remain a national leader in TIM. Going forward, Florida must continue to be strategic and plan for future success in TIM. Revising Florida’s TIM Strategic Plan, implemented in 2006, is the next step in the evolution of TIM in our state.

Currently, they are traveling and speaking to the different FDOT District TIM teams throughout Florida to gather input such as the issues, needs, and challenges the TIM community is facing and will incorporate into the plan. The team will be updated on the progress of the plan and a draft of the plan will be made available, once complete.

If you have any specific ideas and/or concerns that you would like to share in regards to the Statewide TIM Strategic Plan, please contact Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, at bboccuti@metriceng.com and we will forward to the appropriate contact.

The team reviewed the following recent major incident(s) as a lessons learned:

- 03/03/2017 - I-4 Eastbound at US 27

To view the incident SWIFT SunGuide Event Chronology report, please visit our TIM team website at: http://www.swfltim.org/Polk/Polk%20Docs.htm#Handouts_&_Presentations

FDOT Construction Update

Charles Stratton reminded the team that the District 1 Roadwatch construction report is available to all first responders. To view the weekly District 1 RoadWatch construction report, please visit the following website: <http://www.fdot.gov/info/D1/news/newsreleases/default.shtm>

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 13, 2017 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 or Chris Williams, FDOT District 1 ITS Operations/ TIM TEAM Coordinator/ Road Ranger Program Project Manager at (239) 225.1915 or via email at Chris.Williams@dot.state.fl.us.