



Polk County
Traffic Incident Management Team

April 15, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering, Inc.	Ray Mikol	HNTB/TMC
Tom Arsenault	Metric Engineering, Inc.	Michael Bissett	Auto Base
Raul Corbo	Anchor Towing/Road Ranger	Martin Smith	FDOT
Jessica Ogden	FDOT D7	Kevin Salsbery	FDOT
Mike Swanson	Professional Towing	Heather ARC Towing	XXXXX
Romona Burke	FDOT D7	Eddy Gasset	FDOT
Ray Mikol	TMC/HNTB	Mike Season	Professional Wrecker Ops
Larry Saxon	Florida Turnpike	Allison Evanitz	Commute Connector
Chris Miller	FHP	Heather Cullaton	ARC Towing
Richard Tucker	Ferrovial Services	Manny Garcia	Ferrovial Services
		Luis Herandez	RTMC/HNTB

Call to Order: The Sarasota-Manatee TIM Team meeting was held virtually on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 10:00 am via GoTo Meeting. Tom Arsenault and Brandy Boccuti facilitated the meeting.

Introductions: The team members provided their name and agency in the chat box for introductions and meeting attendance record.

Brandy Boccuti informed the team that the virtual TIM Team meeting is being provided to the TIM Team stakeholders to allow the opportunity to connect safely during this COVID19 time.

Additionally, the virtual meeting guidelines were reviewed with the team to help the meeting run more smoothly.

Agency News:**Road Rangers**

The team was reminded that the Road Rangers in Sarasota-Manatee and Collier-Lee-Charlotte County area has added Road Ranger Tow trucks to their fleet. The tow truck capability will allow the Road Ranger to safely move a vehicle blocking/obstructing traffic safely off the Roadways.

Towing and Wrecker News

Towing informed the team that they recently had their Tow Show in Orlando which included a successful amount of attendance at the event.

Other Agency News

Larry Saxon, Florida Turnpike, updated the team on the Road Rangers on the Polk Parkway stating the Road Rangers are covering around 500 calls a month for the area. Additionally, the coverage is currently 6:00am – 10:00pm. However, with the increase in calls and RISC events they are currently looking at increasing the coverage.

Polk County Sherriff's Office reminded the team that Sun 'n Fun will be occurring over the weekend and is expected to have 30%-40% more attendance than last year. This event will increase traffic on the I-4/County Line Road.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

Brandy Boccuti reminded the team that April is National Distracted Driving month. Distracted driving is one of the top concerns among first responders working along the highways.

- Distracted driving is an increasing threat to first responders!
- Nationwide these and other types of experiences are being felt by First Responders who are seeing an increase in people using cell phones and being distracted when passing by accidents.
- Drivers are passing by taking photos, posting to social media, and texting.

Distracted driving behavior is exposing First Responders more frequently to very dangerous traffic conditions in an already dangerous situation. To learn more, please visit the following website: <https://www.respondersafety.com>.

Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering, informed the team about new helmets and head protection for emergency responders operating at roadway incidents. For over a decade, the Emergency Responder Safety Institute (ERSI), a committee of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association (CVVFA), has advocated for the development of a purpose-designed helmet for roadway incident response.

On January 11, 2020, Lt. Eric Hill (Lubbock Fire Rescue) and Officer Nicholas Reina (Lubbock Police Department) was killed when they were struck by a civilian vehicle while working an incident on the roadway. Firefighter Matt Dawson was severely injured. In the wake of this terrible tragedy, Lt. Brady Robinette resolved to take a closer look at how different types of available helmets performed when subjected to the types of forces that occur when an emergency responder is struck at a roadway incident.

As a result of his initial research, Lubbock Fire Rescue purchased a different type of helmet to be used at their roadway responses when fire suppression is not necessary. ERSI commends Lt. Brady

Robinette of Lubbock Fire Rescue on his initiative to re-examine which type of helmet best protects first responders when they work roadway incidents. To learn more, please visit [Respondersafety.com](https://www.respondersafety.com) which includes a training module on the new equipment.

Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering, informed the team about the upcoming National First Responder (SHRP2) Training that will be offered virtually to the District One TIM Team on June 29, 2021. The training was developed *BY RESPONDERS - FOR RESPONDERS*, with the objective that nationally, responders acquire a common set of core competencies that promote a shared understanding of the requirements for achieving the safety of responders and motorists, quick response, and effective communications at traffic incident scenes.

The SHRP-2 National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training is endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the National Volunteer Fire Council. Participants will receive a National TIM Responder Training certificate from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) after completing the training.

Participants will focus on unified national best practices for traffic incident management. The training provides a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach with safety as the primary focus along with quick clearance to reduce roadway exposure. To learn more and to register for the training, please contact Brandy Boccuti, TIM Coordinator, at bboccuti@metriceng.com

Tom Arsenault, Metric Engineering, informed the team on the Florida 511 live traffic cameras now available as another tool to the first responders and provided a live demonstration. The application provides up to the minute traffic information for Florida and has the ability to view the real time traffic map with travel times, traffic accident details, traffic cameras and other road conditions. To learn more, please visit the following website: <https://fl511.com>

Luis Hernandez, SWIFT SunGuide Center, presented to the team on arterial incident management and how it has grown over the last three years.

- FDOT District 1 has been providing direct incident reporting and responder coordination for State Roads and U.S. Highways for years.
- With increased communication and cooperation from local agencies, along with better reliability of third-party and crowd-sourced traffic data, we have been able to reliably cover all roads in the 12 County District.
- Snapshots to show how arterial incident management has grown over the last three years where provided.
- The District 1 TMCs are actively inviting all agencies to forward real-time incident information for coordination of state DOT resources and direct reporting to the public.
- Notify TMC by Phone 24/7: 239-225-1960 or,
- Email notifications to: D1ITS.swiftsunguidecenter@dot.state.fl.us
- The District 1 TMCs will contact local agencies to obtain incident information for reporting to the motoring public.
- TMCs will request general incident information including, to include general information on injuries/fatalities for incident severity, internal notification, and trend study purposes.
- The TMCs do not request nor disseminate personally identifiable or sensitive information.
- All operations staff hold valid CJIS Security Awareness credentials

To learn more and to view the full presentation, please visit the TIM Team website: www.swftim.org

After Action Reviews (AAR) provide agencies with actionable intel on an incident or event that can be used for improved strategies for future occurrences, demonstrating the benefit of quick clearance practices and improve cross-agency coordination and communication.

AARs were performed on the following recent major incidents:

01/07/2021

Vehicle vs Pedestrian Crash
I-4 Westbound at Kathleen Rd.

FHP reported a tractor trailer struck a pedestrian walking on the interstate. This resulted in a fatality and long-term investigation.

Total closure
Lanes blocked: 4:25 am
All lanes open: 9:26 am
Total closure: 5 hours 1 minute
(Caused major WB congestion)

01/10/2021

Single vehicle crash
I-4 EB AT MM—33

Vehicle rolled over into the woods and resulted in 1 fatality and a long-term investigation.

Closure times:
Lanes blocked: 04:32 am
All lanes open: 07:48 am
Total closure: 3 hours 16 minutes

01/27/2021

Crash
I-4 WB ramp to CR-557

Single vehicle box truck crash with serious injuries

Closure times:
Lanes blocked: 05:41 am
All lanes open: 09:52 am
Total closure: 4 hours 11 minutes

02/06/2021

Crash
I-4 WB ramp to Polk Parkway West (MM-27)
Single vehicle crashed into the woods resulting in a vehicle fire. FHP reported a single fatality as a result. Long term investigation.

Closure times:

Lanes blocked: 12:05 am

All lanes open: 04:28 am

Total closure: 4 hours 22 minutes

02/16/2021

Tractor trailer Crash

I-4 EB before Champions Gate

Single tractor trailer accident.

Closure times:

Lanes blocked: 01:19 am

All lanes open: 05:10 am

Total closure: 3 hours 50 minutes

02/28/2021

Vehicle vs Tractor trailer crash

I-4 EB beyond CR-557

Single vehicle reportedly struck a tractor trailer and multiple other vehicles.

Resulted in a diesel leak of over 50-75 gallons.

FHP activated HAZMAT response for clean up.

NorthStar Environmental Group responded for HAZMAT.

Closure times:

Lanes blocked: 10:20 pm

All lanes open: 02:34 am

Total closure: 4 hours 14 minutes

03/12/2021

Tractor trailer vs patrol unit

I-4 WB at Kathleen Rd.

FHP and Polk Sheriff pulled over to assist a disabled vehicle. When Polk Sheriff departed the scene, a tractor trailer struck their patrol car and jackknifed into the left median.

HAZMAT contractor Hall Environmental assisted with cleanup.

Closure times:

Lanes blocked: 07:40 pm

All lanes open: 03:46 am

Total closure: 8 hours 06 minutes

FDOT Construction Update

The team was reminded 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 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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.swftim.org/>

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Brandy Boccuti, Metric Engineering, Inc. at (407) 949-4283 or via email at brandy.boccuti@metriceng.com