



**Polk County
Traffic Incident Management Team**

January 12, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering	Jamie Fitzgerald	Jorgensen
Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering	Benjamin Loeser	FDOT
Rory Howe	Parsons	Richard Tucker	Broadspectrum
Mike Bissett	Polk County Sheriff's Office	Stacy Hill	FDOT
Chris Brewington	Brewington Towing	Kevin Salsbery	FDOT
David Brewington	Brewington Towing	Harry Whitney	Road Rangers
Romona Burke	FDOT	Steven Gaffney	Road Rangers
Rick Grube	City of Lakeland	Rick Smith	SWS Environmental Svcs.
Mark Kara	Professional Towing	Jeff Tobergte	FL DEP
Domenic LetoBarone	FDEP	Ken Neiland	Professional Towing
Cathie McKenzie	Gannett Fleming, Inc.	Kristine Quenneville	FHP
		Todd Riley	Stepp's Towing

Call to Order: The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the Central District Headquarters, 3635 Avenue G Northwest, Winter Haven, Florida 33880. Charles Stratton, Rory Howe, and Brandy Boccuti facilitated the meeting.

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

Agency News:

Road Rangers

The team was informed that additional Road Ranger services were provided to FDOT District 7 due to high level of traffic on Interstate 4 and around Interstate 275 caused by the recent evacuations from the Hurricane Mathew. They also had additional resources on hold for back up that could be provided to District 7, if needed.

Towing and Wrecker News

The towing agency informed the team that there will be a Heady Duty Towing training class hosted by the Sunshine State Towing Association (SSTA).

Also, the team was informed about the upcoming 2017 Tow Show which will take place April 20-23, 2017. The 2017 Tow Show will include both 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. To learn more, please visit the following website: <http://www.towequip.com/towshows>

Additionally, the team was updated on the Florida Administrative Code 15B-9, which contains the wrecker qualifications. The wrecker's qualification code was originally created in 1994 and has been a concern of the wrecker's community, as it is very outdated in certain regulations/requirements. It was stated that the Florida Department of Transportation has sent their recommended revisions of the code to Tallahassee. It is estimated that any changes to the code will not be in effect until 2018, as Tallahassee is currently scheduling Public Hearings on the topic.

Other Agency News

The Sheriff's Office informed the team that there has been a rise in crashes which is currently averaging out to a crash a day in the Polk County area.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

National/State/Regional

Rory Howe presented to the team about "Minding the Queue." Two critical locations for traffic control exist with each incident. One is at the incident scene itself where clearly understood direction is needed to move traffic safely past the incident and protect responders working on the incident. The second is at the end of the queue of traffic that forms beginning at the incident and could extend back for many miles. While drivers approaching the end of a short queue may see the incident, drivers approaching the end of a long queue may be taken by surprise by a sudden slowing of traffic. Studies prove the likelihood of a secondary crash increases by 2.8 percent for each minute the primary incident continues to be a hazard. As much as 25% of all traffic incidents are secondary crashes, and up to 20% of those involve serious injuries or fatalities. It is important to monitor the end of the traffic queue and move the advanced warning devices to warn approaching motorists as the queue grows.

Possible Liability:

There has been a concern with possible liability to first responders that are not properly following the MUTCD 6I, in regards to advance warning at traffic queue sites. Fatalities and injuries that result in secondary incidents may be proved that is was avoidable, if proper set up was provided at the incident sites.

Protect the Queue Initiative:

In June of 2013, the Protect the Queue campaign was born in TDOT. This movement stresses to all employees and partnering agencies the importance of protecting drivers caught in a traffic queue. A training program on the most effective queue management techniques was launched. Since the start of TDOT's Protect the Queue campaign, data gathered from July 2013 through December 2013 shows a 19% reduction in secondary incidents over the same period in 2012. This equates to 20 fewer secondary incidents, and could represent four lives saved.

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

Brandy Boccuti informed the team about the 2017 National Work Zone Awareness Week which will take place April 3-7, 2017. National Work Zone Awareness Week is an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving through highway work zones. The key message is for drivers to use extra caution in work zones.

Brandy Boccuti informed the team about the 2017 Lifesavers National Conference that will take place March 26-28-2017 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The theme for the 2017 conference is "Celebrating 35 Years of Delivering Solutions to Today's Critical Highway Safety Problems." Lifesavers is the premier U.S. highway safety meeting dedicated to reducing the tragic toll of deaths and injuries on our nation's roadways. Drawing over 2,000 participants in 2016, Lifesavers continues to be the must attend conference since its start in 1982. Each year, Lifesavers provides a forum for the presentation of proven countermeasures and initiatives that address today's critical highway safety problems.

To learn more about the event, please visit the following website: <http://lifesaversconference.org/>

The team discussed the following 2017 areas of focus, which were selected from the 2016 Traffic Incident Management Self-Assessment results:

1. Conduct multidiscipline, multi-agency after-action reviews (AARs)
2. Medical Examiners:
 - For incidents involving a fatality, is there a procedure in place for early notification and timely response of the Medical Examiner?
 - For incidents involving a fatality, is there a procedure for the removal of the deceased prior to Medical Examiner arrival?
3. TIM Outreach

The purpose of the yearly Traffic Incident Management Self-Assessments are to provide a formal process for State and local transportation, public safety and private sector partners to collaboratively assess their traffic incident management programs and identify opportunities for improvement.

Brandy Boccuti informed the team about the National Traffic Incident Management Training Certificate. Through a special agreement with the Federal Highway Administration, the Responder Safety Learning Network offers a National TIM Training Certificate for registered users who complete ten specific RSLN online self-paced programs.

To earn credit for each program, you must view the program in its entirety and pass the Skills Challenge test. Once you earn credit for all ten programs, you will be able to download a special certificate that is the equivalent of completing the National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training Program.

The ten RSLN programs required for the National TIM Training Certificate are:

1. Advanced Warning
2. Blocking Procedures at Roadway Incidents
3. High Visibility Innovations
4. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
5. Move It or Work It
6. See and Be Seen: Emergency Lighting Awareness
7. Special Circumstances: Safe Operations for Vehicle Fires
8. Special Hazards
9. Termination Phase of an Incident
10. Traffic Incident Management: Incident Command and Management

To learn more about the National TIM Training Certificate, please visit the following website, which is a free learning website for first responders: <http://www.respondersafety.com>

Charles Stratton informed the team about the 2016 Florida Automated Vehicles Summit which took place November 29-30, 2016 in Tampa, Florida.

The overall focus of the Summit was:

- "Apply what you can do now", "near-term deployment opportunities", and "emerging technologies for transportation. "
- It was widely discussed at the conference that Florida is one of the most proactive states with regard to Autonomous Vehicle Legislation.
- Florida has a law which allows the use and testing of Autonomous Vehicles on state roadways but also mandates that MPO/TPOs consider Autonomous Vehicles in their Long Range Transportation Plans. This in combination with the ongoing connected vehicles pilot at Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) and the upcoming Suntrax facility is positioning Florida at the front of the Connected Vehicle/Autonomous Vehicle race.

To learn more about the connected vehicle projects, please visit the following sites:

http://www.its.dot.gov/pilots/pilots_thea.htm

<https://floridapolytechnic.org/news-item/fdot-and-partnership-florida-poly-develop-suntrax/>

The team discussed any updates on the "First Responder Appreciation" award and discussed possible board members. The award would recognize first responders that go "above and beyond" their duty while responding to incidents on the local highways. The responders would be nominated by their local agencies and a board of local TIM members would be created that would vote on the nominations. The topic will be further discussed at upcoming meetings, as a foundation for the reward will be an ongoing topic. Please note, additional board members will be added to the committee in upcoming TIM meetings.

Below is the list of current TIM members on the board to review the first responder nominations.

- Todd Riley, Stepp's Towing
- Chris Williams, FDOT
- Mike Bissett, Polk County Sheriff's Office

The team reviewed the following recent major incidents as a lessons learned:

- 01/04/2017 - I-4 Eastbound Entry Ramp from CR 557 (595090)

To view the incident SWIFT SunGuide Event Chronology report, please visit our TIM team website at: <http://www.swfltim.org>

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 April 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.swftim.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.