



## Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

*October 11th, 2012  
Meeting Minutes*

### Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Rick Grube	City of Lakeland	Ricky Thomas	ICA
Bill Fuller	FDOT	Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering
Kevin Salsbery	FDOT	Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering
Michelle Venero	Florida Highway Patrol	Michael Blaze	Polk County
Edward McKissach	FTE	Harry Whitney	Road Rangers.
David Tilki	FTE		
Gary Millsaps	Delcan		

**Call to Order:** The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, October 11, 2012 at 10:00 AM at the City of Lakeland Construction and Maintenance Building, 407 Fairway Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33801. Bill Fuller, Gary Millsaps, and Charles Stratton facilitated the meeting.

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

### **Agency News:**

#### Road Rangers

Mr. Bob Diezi, Road Ranger in District One, briefly reviewed the District One Road Ranger response statistics. Please see below the breakdown of incidents/activities for the month of July August, and September 2012.

DISTRICT ONE ROAD RANGER RESPONSE STATISTICS			
TYPE OF SERVICE	JULY 2012	AUGUST 2012	SEPTEMBER 2012
TIRE	169	158	213
MOT	29	53	28
FUEL	40	85	75
WATER	36	52	52

<b>DISTRICT ONE ROAD RANGER RESPONSE STATISTICS</b>			
<b>TYPE OF SERVICE</b>	<b>JULY 2012</b>	<b>AUGUST 2012</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 2012</b>
PUSH	0	0	0
MECHANICAL	77	148	145
AGENCY ASSIST.	0	2	0
RED TAG	0	0	0
CRASHES	8	11	4
DISABLED	342	456	472
ABANDONED	70	96	54
DEBRIS	95	107	138
VEHICLE FIRE	1	0	1
OTHER	12	15	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>1196</b>

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the team about the Road Ranger comment cards. Every motorist that receives assistance from a Road Ranger receives a comment card to fill out. This year 23,000 Road Ranger comment cards have been received; which included 23 different states, 51 cities, and Canada. Mr. Fuller announced that the Road Rangers have received extremely positive reviews resulting in an overall grade of an A+.

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the team that the Road Ranger contract was re-awarded to Anchor Towing. He also informed the team that the Road Rangers will be receiving new trucks with the new contract.

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the team that the Road Ranger schedule is available to anyone upon request. To request the schedule, please contact Mr. Fuller at (239) 225-9815 or via email at [william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us)

#### Towing and Wrecker News

No Agency news.

#### Other Agency News

Mike Washburn, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) informed the team that the Department has initiated 37 RISC activations to date this year. Mr. Washburn also informed the team of the FTE initiative, which included additional location markers on a Turnpike Shield every ½ mile, both direction, and include direction of travel to help with verification of location.

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

##### National/State/Regional

Mr. Gary Millsaps presented/provided to the team an educational teaching resource, Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Outreach Toolkit, to help promote Traffic Incident Management (TIM). The TIM Outreach Toolkit, provided by the U.S Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) was developed to help TIM programs across the country promote their message clearly and cost-effectively by teaching the general public about the value of TIM and how they can work together towards the goal of safe, free-flowing, reliable roadways for everyone. The tool kit includes a PowerPoint that promotes audience participation by asking open-ended questions, fun fact quizzes, and precise cost facts to help promote the benefits of the TIM goals. The kit also includes handouts, Brochures, and Posters.

To access the free The Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Outreach Toolkit, please visit the following site: [http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/eto\\_tim\\_pse/timtoolbox/](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/eto_tim_pse/timtoolbox/)

Mr. Fuller informed the team that the American Red Cross has released a hurricane application for iPhones and Androids. Features of the app include:

- One touch “I’m safe” messaging that allows users to broadcast reassurance to family and friends;
- Location-based NOAA weather alerts for the United States and its territories that users can share on social networks;
- Remote monitoring of personalized weather alerts where family and friends reside;
- Locations of open Red Cross shelters;
- Simple steps and checklists people can use to create a family emergency plan;
- Preloaded content that gives users instant access to critical action steps, even without mobile connectivity;
- Toolkit with flashlight, strobe light and audible alarm

The App can be found in the [Apple App store](#) and the [Google Store](#) for Android under American Red Cross.

Mr. Bill Fuller informed the team about Transpo 2012. The event is ITS Florida’s bi-annual gathering of consultants, vendors, and government officials. This year, it includes a half day of presentations aimed at traffic incident management, which includes experts discussing the issues that responders encounter every day. Responders can attend the Tuesday, October 30th sessions and visit the Exhibit Hall for only \$25. To take advantage of the discount, responders must contact Lauren with CMC Associates at 850-224-7775 for registration prior to the event. For more information please visit: <http://www.itstranspo.org/>.

Mr. Fuller also informed the team that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is kicking off a four week pilot campaign to increase public awareness regarding pedestrian safety. As part of Secretary Prasad’s ongoing initiative to reduce bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities, the message “Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow... Safety Doesn’t Happen By Accident” will be presented via television, social media, transit advertising, and local education and enforcement activities.

Mr. Fuller provided the following statistics and facts in regards to pedestrian safety and why this awareness is so important:

- In 2010 there were 4,280 pedestrians fatalities in the United States from traffic incidents
- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently released that the pedestrian fatalities has increased by 5%: from 2009 to 2010

The top 10 worse states for pedestrian fatalities follows:

- |                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Florida (Top Ranked) | 6. North Carolina |
| 2. Delaware             | 7. Maryland       |
| 3. Arizona              | 8. Georgia        |
| 4. South Carolina       | 9. Mississippi    |
| 5. Hawaii               | 10. Oklahoma      |

For more information please visit: <http://www.AlertTodayFlorida.com>

FDOT Safety Office Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/FDOTSafetyOffice>

Mr. Bill Fuller and Mr. Gary Millsaps updated the team about the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2). As a reminder, the program was created by Congress to address the challenges of moving people and goods efficiently and safely on the nation's highways. This short-term research program addresses four strategic focus areas:

- **Safety** - The role of human behavior in highway safety
- **Renewal** - More efficient highway project delivery
- **Reliability** - Congestion reduction through improved travel time
- **Capacity** - Improved integration of community, economic, and environmental considerations for new highway capacity

SHRP 2 has developed a new multi-agency national TIM training program named National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training. The final pilot course will be conducted in September in Knoxville TN. After this, the training course will be handed over to FHWA for full implementation. This multi-agency training equips responders with a common set of core competencies and assists them in achieving the TIM National Unified Goal (NUG) of strengthening TIM programs in the areas of:

- Responder safety
- Safe, quick clearance
- Prompt, reliable, interoperable communications

Mr. Fuller and Mr. Millsaps explained to the team that in late January they will be putting together a SHRP 2 training class. The two day module will be presented into a four hour, one day class. It was further explained that they are looking to find volunteers from different agency backgrounds who can be trained to become trainers in their area of expertise.

For more information, contact Paul Jodoin, Transportation Specialist, 202-366-0731 / [www.ops.fhwa.gov/eto](http://www.ops.fhwa.gov/eto); or Bill Fuller at (239) 225-9815 / [william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:william.fuller@dot.state.fl.us).

### **Strategic Direction for TIM Teams 2011-2012**

Mr. Charles Stratton and Mr. Bill Fuller spoke to the team about the Local Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The multi-agency TIM Team has taken the initiative to establish a series of Agency Memorandums of Agreements or MOUs. The incident response agencies have the responsibility to do whatever is reasonable to enhance the safety of our transportation system. This is a team effort to reduce the risk to all incident responders, secondary crashes, and delays associated with incidents, crashes, roadway maintenance, construction, and law enforcement activities.

The draft TIM Team "Local" TIM MOU has been distributed for review to each participating agency. The MOU includes the following:

1. Identify local Agencies that will support the TIM program and sign the agreement
2. A local Open Roads Policy that will establish time goals for roadway and incident scene clearance times
  - Identify how the data will be collected, analyzed and reported to the TIM Team
  - Identify how often the reports will be reviewed to determine whether progress is made in achieving the established time goals
3. Define Incident scene roles and responsibilities for each participating agency
4. Establish a local incident scene Lighting Policy
5. Establish a local incident Communication Policy or a commitment from each participating agency to notify FDOT's SWIFT SunGuide Center

## 6. Define how often this document will be updated

Mr. Fuller explained that the MOU is intended to provide the framework and guidelines to promote a collaborative effort by and between the TIM Team Agency Members within Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, and Polk Counties, to further refine and promote the TIM program within FDOT District One. Parties to this Document recognize and understand the importance of data and resource-sharing and public safety through efficient and timely use of TIM. However, the associated MOU's do not obligate the TIM Team Agency Members, or the TIM Team Agency Member representatives to commit or donate funds, equipment or personnel to the association's activities or initiatives. The TIM Team Agency Members do however commit to participating in collaborative efforts intended to advance the interest of the TIM program for the benefit of public safety.

Mr. Fuller updated the team informing them that there were some minor revisions to the MOU and is currently being reviewed by legal.

Mr. Charles Stratton informed the team of the 2012 Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Program Self-Assessment Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Results Summary along with the results of 2010 and 2011 for comparison which shows the improvement over the years and the positive direction that the TIM Teams are achieving.

- 2012 – 80.9%
- 2011 – 70.7%

Mr. Bill Fuller provided/reviewed an educational/training presentation that is available on the process of Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC). The presentations training objectives included the following:

- Overview of the RISC program
- Identify RISC communications procedures
- Identify responsibilities during RISC response
- Identify financial incentive bonus categories
- Identify RISC implementation scenarios

The full educational/training presentation is available on the TIM Team website for agencies to review and help bring to their teams to help better under the RISC process at the following link: <http://www.swfltim.org/Docs/The%20Process%20of%20Rapid%20Incident%20Scene%20Clearance.pdf>

### **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:***

Polk Parkway is currently under construction and down to one lane at mile marker 15.

#### ***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 held in January 2013 (date TBD).

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 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).