



**Polk County
Traffic Incident Management Team**

October 13, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Chris Williams	FDOT	Jamie Fitzgerald	Jorgensen
Charles Stratton	Metric Engineering	Benjamin Loeser	FDOT
Brandy Boccuti	Metric Engineering	Jennifer Perry	FDOT
Rory Howe	Parsons	Ben Skidmore	SWS Enviro.
Butch VanDyken	Stepp's	Racheal Healy	SWS Enviro.
Jim Hilbert	Florida's Turnpike Enterprise	Richard Tucker	Broadspectrum
David Tilki	Florida's Turnpike Enterprise	Stacy Hill	FDOT

Call to Order: The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 10:00 AM at the Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex, Procap Room, and 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 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

No agency news

Other Agency News

The Turnpike informed the team that year to date they have had 82 Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) events. Out of the 82 RISC incidents, 91% of the RISC vendors received their bonus for meeting the roadway clearance time of 90 minutes or less.

SWS Environmental stated they have been busy with cleanup work due to the recent hurricanes that included work from Daytona to North Carolina. SWS Environmental also stated there was a recent incident that involved a tanker roll over on Highway 60, which required major cleanup.

Update on TIM Initiatives:**National/State/Regional**

Rory Howe presented to the team an update on the National Tim Responder Training Program (SHRP-2).

The Florida Highway Administration (FHWA) current goal is 20% of first responders to be trained in the National TIM Responder Training (SHRP-2). Currently, as of July 11, 2016 Florida is at 9.1%.

To help reach the 20% statewide goal the following points were made for Florida:

- Florida has a strong Traffic Incident Management network and active TIM teams throughout the state.
- Florida has a very large and diverse first responder network.
- District 1 can utilize best practices from around the state and from states throughout the U.S. to amplify training efforts.

Some of the challenges and solutions of the SHRP-2 training are as follows:

Challenge:

- Obtaining and maintaining leadership/executive level buy-in from all agencies, statewide and local, for TIM training efforts.

Solutions:

- Document and share both the qualitative and quantitative benefits of participating in the TIM training program.
- Identify opportunities to mandate or require TIM training both at the local and state level.
- Include the public in outreach and awareness efforts.
- Integrate the principles of the TIM training into agency policies, procedures, and/or guidelines.

Challenge:

- Lack of ownership for TIM training efforts.

Solutions:

- Establish a multidiscipline TIM training committee, or at a minimum, identify an individual that will be responsible for overseeing the TIM training program in Florida.
- Develop a TIM training succession plan.
- Review and update Florida's TIM Training Implementation Plan.
- Engage the local metropolitan planning commission and/or Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP).

Lastly, additional ideas that were provided to help Florida meet the 20% goals were:

- More train-the-trainer sessions.
- Cross-border train-the-trainer sessions with other states/region.
- Centralize entry of sessions into SharePoint site.
- Trainer commitment form.
- Training academy accreditation.
- "Trainer of the Month" award.
- Identify EMS trainers.
- Include communication/ public affairs personnel in training to raise awareness.

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 2016 National Teen Driver Safety Week. The campaign took place October 16-22, 2016. National Teen Driver Safety Week is a time designated by Congress each year to raise awareness of teen driver safety topics and to encourage safe teen driver and passenger behavior.

This Year's Campaign Theme is "5 to Drive"

- No cell phone use or texting while driving,
- No extra passengers,
- No speeding,
- No alcohol, and
- No driving or riding without a seat belt.

Charles Stratton informed the team about the International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference (IACP) which took place October 15-18, 2016. Every year, the IACP Annual Conference and Exposition supplies you and your department with powerful advantages, bringing together an unmatched educational program, renowned keynote speakers, community-building special events and the largest collection of tactical equipment and technology solutions available for law enforcement.

The Chiefs of Police Annual Conference Schedule:

- ACP 2016 San Diego, CA: October 15 - 18, 2016
- IACP 2017 Philadelphia, PA: October 21 - 24, 2017
- IACP 2018 Orlando, FL: October 6-9, 2018
- IACP 2019 Chicago, IL: October 26-29, 2019

To learn more about the event and to register for next year (held in Orlando, Florida), please visit the following website: <http://www.theiacp.org>

Chris Williams and Charles Stratton spoke to the team about the National Traffic Incident Management Awareness Week which will take place November 13-18, 2016. This is the first year that this event will take place and ideas to help promote the event was requested from the TIM members.

The goal of this week will be to raise awareness about the dangers emergency responders face on the roadway and to encourage drivers to be aware near incident scenes. The week will also be used to raise awareness among TIM professionals on the importance of being careful on the highway.

If you have any ideas for the event, please send to Chris Williams at Chris.Williams@dot.state.fl.us and/or (239) 225-1915.

Additionally, the TIM Network will shortly launch a webpage to help promote Traffic Incident Awareness Week. If you have web content such as a PSA video, or outreach materials that you would like to contribute, please email the link to Eric Rensel at erensel@gfnet.com.

Chris Williams informed the team that the Florida Department of Transportation has launched a new website at <http://fdot.gov/>

Chris Williams informed that the Florida 511 is rolling out a new Application, with further expansion into 2017. The new company that has taken over the application will have rights to the current application look and will incorporate more user friendly options. New to Florida 511 is Drive Mode. Users can enter Drive Mode to get a quick view of local incidents and traffic speeds. Then, they are able to enter their destination and receive up to three routes with travel times based on current traffic conditions. Drive Mode also provides to the driver audible alerts of incidents occurring along their route.

Also, the team was informed that they are currently working on an expansion to the 511 Florida application to add the use of emergency evacuations, which would allow motorist to log onto the app and see updated information such as fuel vendors that may be running low on fuel etc.

Florida 511 features include:

- Drive Mode with interactive traffic map
- Up to three door-to-door routes provided per destination
- Travel times
- Real-time traffic conditions, including crashes, construction and closures
- Easily connect to the mobile website
- Traffic cameras
- Links to other travel or transportation related agencies

The application is free and can be downloaded onto any smart device. To learn more, please visit the following website: <https://fl511.com/App>

Chris Williams informed the team that a board is currently evaluating 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.

Chris Williams informed the team on the 2016 America's Transportation Awards Competition. The America's Transportation Awards competition is presented by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and co-sponsored by the AAA motor club and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The competition recognizes projects completed by state transportation departments that improve travel safety, reduce roadway congestion and provide more travel options to consumers. Projects are entered under three categories: Quality of Life/Community Development, Best Use of Innovation and Under Budget and grouped into three sizes: small for projects costing less than \$25 million, medium for those between \$26 million and \$199 million and large for those costing \$200 million or more.

To learn more, please visit the following website: <https://americatransportationawards.org/>

Chris Williams spoke to the team about recognizing 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.

Charles Stratton reviewed with the team the 2015-2016 Statewide Road Ranger Survey for Incident Responders. The survey was designed to gather data from those who work and communicate with the Road Rangers on a regular basis.

The survey included the following:

- Determine the incident responders' opinion of the program.
- Compare results and customer satisfaction to last year's survey.
- Solicit comments and suggestions to improve the program from the incident responder's perspective.

To read the full report, please visit the TIM team website at: <http://www.swftim.org>.

Charles Stratton and Chris Williams spoke to the team about the Florida Statewide Traffic Incident Management Workshop that took place July 21-22, 2016. The Florida Statewide TIM Workshop included all Florida Department of Transportation Districts and the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise where TIM topics was discussed such as activities, accomplishments, and goals.

Some of the specific topics discussed at the meeting where:

- Cost to Benefit Ratio Tool for TIM.
- Updating the FloridaTIM.com website.
- Road Ranger Warrant Recommendation Software being created.
- Providing a refresher on the Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Program.
- Success in district TIM programs and future enhancements.
- Reinvigorating Florida's TIM training program.
- Next level TIM performance measures.
- Florida Highway Administration (FHWA) current goal of 20% of first responders to be trained in the National TIM Responder Training (SHRP-2). Currently, as of July 11, 2016 Florida is at 9.1%.

Charles Stratton and Chris Williams reviewed with the team the 2016 TIM Self-Assessment results. The team was informed that the self-assessment results will be used to identify 3-4 areas that the team will concentrate on as goals for the upcoming year.

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) programs continue to play a vital role in the safe and quick clearance of traffic incidents while providing a framework for reducing congestion and maximizing use of existing transportation infrastructure. A critical component of capitalizing on the success of existing programs and aiding the development of new TIM programs is periodic evaluation of the components of successful multi-agency TIM programs. The TIM Self-Assessment (TIM SA) was designed to provide an easy-to-use tool for measuring TIM program performance.

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 January 12, 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