



Polk
Traffic Incident Management Team

June 11, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Dean Empie	Transfield Services Inc	Justin Troller	City Commissioner, Lakeland
Mike McArthur	Stepp's Towing	Dominick Moscherto	Tony Ason
Robert Pitman	Polk County Fire	Ezra Folson	FDOT/MCCo
David Tilki	FDOT Turnpike	Chris Brewington	Brewington Towing
Cynthia Williams	FHP	Ben Skidmore	Eagle – SWS
Michael Blaze	Polk County	Jerry Chambless	Common Ground Environmental
Heather Cullaton	ARC Towing Service	Michael Moran	Traffic Supervisor
Darren Dewitt	ICA	Jim Hilbert	TMC Program Manager
Robert Sessions	Polk County Sherriff Office	Ted Smith	Delcan Corp
Ken Straub	SWS	Don Olson	FDOT
Steve Webb	Webb's Towing	Catalina Echeverri	VANUS
Mike Washburn	FTE		
Angie Allen	FDOT		
Romona Burke	FDOT		

Call to Order: The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 9:30 AM at the Lakeland Florida Highway Patrol Station 3247 Lakeland Hills Blvd. (SR 33) Lakeland, Florida. Ted Smith and Don Olson facilitated the meeting.

Introductions: Don Olson introduced himself and welcomed all the attendees to the Polk County TIM meeting. Don asked TIM team members to introduce themselves and share any news from the agencies they represent. Don announced the Polk County's TIM Team 1 year anniversary.

Update on T I M Initiatives:

Road Rangers

The funding for 2 Road Rangers on I-4 is now restored. The Road Rangers have a split shift to cover I-4 in Polk County from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Also, starting July 1st a second vehicle will be operational on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

Road Rangers in Polk County will receive valuable training this weekend and next weekend focused on MOT and Scene Safety at a Traffic Crash. The classroom portion of the training was developed by an Ad Hoc TIM Team who had several development meetings at the

University of South Florida, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). The training will be submitted to the US DOT and FHWA for possible inclusion into the MUTCD Training. Previously, the Road Rangers were required to complete the intermediate level MOT training that applies to road closures and construction sites rather than traffic incident response, vehicle positioning and scene safety.

Southwest Florida 511 System

The new 511 is coming out. The 511 databases are populated by the devices along I-4. As seen below, there are links to Traffic, My Florida 511, Construction Info, Emergency Info, Transit, Links, Help, and Newsroom.

Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC)

The Towing & Recovery Association of America (TRAA) is currently trying to set national standards for towing operators. The national driver program started well and it works for light duty certification but not for the heavy duty certification. A program similar to Florida's RISC is the TRIP program in Georgia. The program has been very successful, reducing duration of incidents in Georgia. In Washington they decided to use the TRIP program to set standards nationally.

The turnpike is starting the next generation RISC program on the mainline starting next Monday. The plan is to have the right equipment and operator and a response time of 30 minutes for urban areas and 45 minutes for rural areas. The new approach will require new hires to become certified within 6 months. It is expected that if the program is successful, most likely the rest of the state will follow.

'Proper Parking at Incident Scenes' Video

Ted Smith provided a video developed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the I-95 Corridor Coalition that demonstrates scene safety and best practices. The video is available for download on the project website, www.swfltim.org, under 'Document Archives'.

Incident Review

The incident occurred May 1st on I-4. A 19-year-old driver escaped uninjured after lodging his pick up truck underneath a tanker carrying liquid propane. The tanker driver was also uninjured. The incident occurred at 10:00 am and the lanes were reopened by 1:00pm. The authorities shut down I-4 from Exit 33 to Exit 38. Traffic was diverted to other local roads while the liquid propane was transferred to another tanker.

Discussion and Direction for TIM Teams 2009

Don used the incident to ask the Polk TIM Team to come up with a diversion route standardization as an initiative. Each agency has their diversion route planned but they do not always match. Don would like for the TIM Team in cooperation with District 7 to put together a standard diversion plan that includes notification, communication, and contingency.

Don asked the TIM Team what process is used on the Polk County Parkway. FHP stated that they communicate with the Turnpike's troopers to wave tolls. A diversion route for SR 60 is more complicated because some portions have no access to other roads. Ted asked the Turnpike if they have full coverage on the roadways especially on the Polk County Parkway. Ted suggested using the images provided by the turnpike to know the situation of the roads.

Dynamic Message Signs do not post diversion routes because of the possibility of secondary accidents and the public getting angry with the DOT for providing the wrong information. For approximately one week Alligator Alley was closed on and off due to fires. The TMCs in District 4 and District 6 coordinated all the DMSs to alert drivers if I-75 was open or closed. Ted suggested that the TMC in Tampa and the TMC in District 5 coordinate DMS messages to let drivers know if I-4 is closed.

Don asked the members for ideas for the next TIM Team meeting. A TIM Team member asked what the process is when hazardous materials are spilled in the roadway. The ultimate disposal should be done by the appropriate people. Towers can compile it on scene but they cannot dispose it. The responsible party should pay for any spills even if the tower spills it while responding to the incident. Ted mentioned that Amerigas sponsors classes with a mock-up tanker for training purposed. Ted will contact Amerigas and will try to arrange a training session with the TIM Team responders.

Scheduled 2009 Meeting Dates:

TBD

Meeting Notes by Christina Florez and Catalina Echeverri, VANUS, Inc. (305) 823-5662