



Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

January 8, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex, 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880. Beau Baggett and Brandy Boccuti facilitated the meeting.

Introductions: The team members introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.

Agency News:

Road Rangers

Photos of the Road Ranger Incident Response Truck (IRT) were shared with the team. Rick Pemberton, IncidentClear, discussed the capabilities of the IRT, including rapid vehicle relocation and enhanced incident support functions.

IncidentClear representatives reported that they are actively hiring Road Rangers in the Sarasota and Polk areas.

Towing and Wrecker News

No agency updates

Other Agency News

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT):

- The new Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) in Fort Myers and the Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) in Bradenton operations contract began November 1, 2025. A smooth transition has occurred, with most staff remaining in place.

Asset Maintenance:

- Asset damage stickers are being distributed to law enforcement to assist with identifying and reporting damaged infrastructure, including poles and guardrail, to improve documentation and follow-up repairs.

Polk County Sheriff's Office:

- The Polk County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) reported that fatal crashes in 2025 were down approximately 20 compared to the previous year.

Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) – Larry Saxon

- Construction updates were provided for the following projects:

- Polk Parkway (SR 570) Resurfacing and Safety Improvements Mile Marker 8–17.
 - Forecasted completion: May 2026
 - Weather delays totaled 67 days. Deep milling was required in some areas due to pavement failure. Construction is confident that the schedule can be recovered.
- Central Polk Parkway (SR 570B) – SR 540 (Exit 14) to US 17
 - Expected completion: June 2027
 - Currently ahead of schedule.
 - SR 540 ramp partially opened with westbound access.
 - Final acceptance is anticipated April 2027.
- Central Polk Parkway (SR 570B) – US 17 to SR 60
 - Anticipated completion: April 2030
 - Grubbing and clearing began August 2025.
 - Several homeless encampments were removed along 91 Mile Road at Peace Creek and Snake Valley.
 - A retention pond issue is being addressed due to drainage concerns.
- Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Studies – Project 451419-1 and 451419-2
 - Corridor evaluations are underway for future connections from SR 60 to US 17/92, ultimately linking to I4 and SR 429 through the future Poinciana Connector (SR 538).

Update on TIM Initiatives:

Beau Baggett, Metric Engineering, reminded the team about the purpose of the TIM Meeting.

- TIM is the coordinated detection, response to and removal of traffic incidents as quickly and safely as possible. TIM is a coordinated effort among multiple agencies.
- The primary purpose of TIM is to reduce the duration and impact of incidents as well as to improve the safety of motorists and most importantly our incident responders.
- The TIM Meeting is to help prop up communication, coordination, and collaboration among our incident responders.

Corporal Jennifer Torres, Florida Highway Patrol, joined Prosecutor Martin Stark to present Fatal Crash Prosecution and Lessons for Responders to the team. Mr. Stark further discussed the prosecution requirements of the above case, expressing the prosecution's responsibility for proving all the elements of the charges.

- Elements of the following charges were discussed: Operating a motor vehicle causing death without a Driver's license, leaving the scene of a crash involving death, and vehicular homicide
- Investigation Highlights:
 - Evidence included: crash report, vehicle damage, DNA, paint transfer, and black box data showing speed and no braking
 - Ring doorbell footage and phone records confirmed the driver's route and identity.
 - Defendant claimed he wasn't driving; defense disproved via forensic and digital evidence.
- Challenges: Time for DNA processing; coordination with FDLE; suspect fled to New Jersey before arrest.
- Additional Comments:
 - Hendry County Sheriff's Office highlighted the work of Florida Highway Patrol in investigating the case.
 - Post-crash improvements: Speed humps, street lighting, and license plate readers installed on Case and Evans Roads.
 - Community involvement and cooperation praised; neighbors provided critical tips.

Beau Baggett, Metric Engineering, provided the Road Ranger performance statistics.

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:

Event #1799820

December 16, 2025 – 12:37 PM

Westbound I-4, Mile Marker 48

CR-557 Ramp / Old Grade Road

Incident Details:

- Vehicle Fire
- RV towing pickup truck caught fire due to mechanical issues
- Vehicle stopped along SR-557 exit ramp
- No injuries reported
- 12:37 PM – Initial Notification
- 12:42 PM – Ramp Closed
- 12:42 PM – Road Ranger On Scene
- 12:47 PM – Fire Department and Sheriff's Office On Scene
- 12:48 PM – WB Right Lane Closed
- 1:01 PM – FHP On Scene
- 1:04 PM – RISC Not Activated per FHP
- 1:22 PM – WB Right Lane Reopened (34-minute closure)
- 2:13 PM – 75 Gallons of Fuel Spilled – DEP Notified
- 2:42 PM – Tow Truck On Scene
- 3:16 PM – Ramp Reopened (1 hour 34 minute closure)
- 3:39 PM – Ramp Closed for Tow Operations
- 5:25 PM – Ramp Reopened (1 hour 46 minute closure)
- 6:46 PM – All Units Clear
- Total Event Duration: 6 Hours 9 Minutes

MIE 25-71

December 6, 2025 – 12:40 AM

Eastbound I-4, Mile Marker 43

Incident Details:

- Fatal Crash – Auto vs. Pedestrian
- Pedestrian entered the roadway and was struck by multiple vehicles. Several vehicles fled the scene. The pedestrian was pronounced deceased on scene.
- 12:40 AM – Initial Notification
- 12:46 AM – Full Roadway Closure Began
- 7:13 AM – Full Closure Ended
- Incident Verification: 1 minute 22 seconds
- Time to Post DMS: 6 minutes 46 seconds
- Open Roads Duration: 378 Minutes
- Roadway Clearance Duration: 382 Minutes
- Incident Clearance Duration: 394 Minutes

MIE 25-67

November 25, 2025 – 2:35 AM

Eastbound I-4, Mile Marker 27

Incident Details:

- Fatal Crash – Auto vs. Pedestrian
- Pedestrian walking in outside travel lane
- Vehicle struck pedestrian
- Driver initially failed to stop and later reported collision
- Pedestrian pronounced deceased on scene at 2:47 AM
- Incident Verification: 0 seconds
- Time to Post DMS: 1 minute 23 seconds
- Open Roads Duration: 330 Minutes (5 hours 30 minutes)
- Roadway Clearance Duration: 329 Minutes
- Incident Clearance Duration: 388 Minutes

FDOT Construction Update

The team received an update on current construction activities. FDOT District 1 weekly construction updates are available to all first responders upon request by contacting FDOT-D1COMM@dot.state.fl.us

Future Meetings:

The next Polk County TIM Team will be on April 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned

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