



Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

July 11, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 10:00 AM at the Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex, 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880. Tom Arsenault and Brandy Boccuti facilitated the meeting.

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

Agency News:

Road Rangers

Tom Arsenault, Metric Engineering, provided a brief update on the Road Ranger program. The team reviewed assist data for Polk County, highlighting consistent response to vehicle breakdowns, lane blockages, and debris removal across the I-4 corridor.

Emphasis was placed on the continued importance of safe vehicle positioning, particularly in high-speed zones and near construction areas. Tom reminded Road Rangers to always coordinate with law enforcement on scene before positioning vehicles in travel lanes.

No major changes in coverage or staffing were reported, and the team continues to monitor incident data to evaluate peak assist times and potential service improvements.

Sterling Bond, District 7 TMC Manager, discussed continued support of TIM operations through dynamic message boards, real-time monitoring, and responder communication.

The TMC has been closely involved with recent wrong-way driver alerts and incident clearance coordination. Agencies were reminded to provide timely updates during active events so the TMC can ensure accurate messaging and camera tracking.

System performance reviews and infrastructure updates remain ongoing as part of District One's continuous improvement efforts.

Towing and Wrecker News

No agency updates

Other Agency News

Florida Highway Patrol thanked the TIM Team for ongoing support and collaboration. They reported active aggressive driving enforcement efforts along I-4 and noted recent success in reducing secondary crashes during peak travel times.

Polk County Fire Rescue shared appreciation for Road Ranger and TMC coordination during recent high-impact incidents. They highlighted the need for continued focus on safe staging and better visibility at nighttime scenes.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

Tom Arsenault, 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 the communication, coordination, and collaboration among our incident responders.

Randy Tucker, Webber Infrastructure Management, presented on FDOT's Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU) Plan for I-4 in Polk County, highlighting both blue sky and gray sky expectations for response crews.

Topics included:

- Deployment of permanent and temporary ESU signage
- Pre-storm preparations including sweeping and debris removal
- The corridor-wide plan broken into three zones (East, Middle, West), each with dedicated teams
- Procedures for activation under gray sky conditions, including debris patrols and sign deployment
- Webber's coordination with FDOT and the District 7 Emergency Operations Center during hurricane response

Crews are fully equipped with sweepers, TMAs, and communication protocols to ensure fast, safe activation of the ESU system. Higher-level oversight is provided by project and deputy managers who monitor real-time operations along the corridor.

Tom Arsenault, 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:

05/17/2024

Eastbound I-4 at State Road 559 (Polk County)

Incident Details:

- 06:15:11 Crash reported involving two commercial vehicles and passenger car.
- 06:17:48 Law enforcement dispatched.
- 06:22:39 Road Ranger arrived on scene.
- 06:33:50 EMS on scene confirming multiple injuries.
- 06:58:22 Full closure of eastbound lanes initiated.
- 07:25:33 Tow vendor arrived.

- 08:44:11 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 2 hours, 28 minutes, 59 seconds

06/30/2024

Westbound I-4 at Mile Marker 35 (Polk County)

Incident Details:

- 14:12:00 Crash reported by motorist.
- 22:08:10 Crash reported involving three vehicles, including motorcycle.
- 22:10:50 FHP and EMS dispatched.
- 22:15:16 Road Ranger on scene assisting with initial lane closure.
- 22:31:40 LifeFlight launched for injured motorcyclist.
- 23:14:50 Towing and cleanup began.
- 00:26:17 All lanes reopened.
- Total closure time: 2 hours, 18 minutes, 7 seconds

FDOT Construction Update

An update was provided on ongoing and upcoming construction activities throughout Polk County. Attendees were reminded of the importance of advance communication with FDOT for night work, detours, or road closures that could affect emergency response access.

Highlights included:

- I-4 Corridor: Resurfacing, shoulder work, and safety barrier upgrades were ongoing along multiple segments. Nighttime lane closures were expected to continue through the next quarter.
- SR 60 and US 98: Intersection and signalization improvements were underway, with daytime flagging operations affecting traffic near Bartow.
- SR 540 near Winter Haven: Drainage improvements were nearing completion, with final paving scheduled within the following weeks.

The team was provided with recent construction updates. The FDOT District 1 weekly construction updates are also available to all first responders by request to Janella Newsome, FDOT, Janella.Newsome@dot.state.fl.us or by calling (863) 519-2828.

Future Meetings:

The next Polk County TIM Team will be October 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned

*The list of attendees is attached to these meeting minutes.

As always, please continue to visit the TIM Team website for updates, and help support our TIM Team by providing the TIM Team website to others that may be interested in joining our team! <http://www.swfltim.org/>

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

TIM TEAM MEETING

Polk County SIGN IN SHEET

July 11, 2024

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