



Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

October 16, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The Polk TIM Team meeting was held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, 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

The new RTMC (Fort Myers) and STMC (Bradenton) operations contract will begin November 1, 2025. A smooth transition is anticipated.

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 incident support functions.

Towing and Wrecker News

No agency updates

Other Agency News

Larry Saxon, Florida Turnpike, provided construction updates on the corridor.

- Polk Parkway (SR 570) Resurfacing and Safety improvements (MM 8-17) – Forecasted completion date May 2026.
 - Cost \$19,400,000.
 - Weather issues caused 67 days of delays.
 - Some deep milling required due to pavement failure. Construction is confident that the schedule can be recovered and the project completed on time.
- Central Polk Parkway (SR 570B) – SR 540 (exit 14) to US 17 – Expected completion date June 2027.
 - 689 days ahead of schedule.
 - Construction expecting final accept April 2027. SR 540 ramp expected to open mid-Oct 2025.
 - Marshall Hampton Reserve entrance relocation completed.
- Central Polk Parkway (SR 570B) – US 17 to SR 60 – Completion date anticipated to be in April 2030. Expecting to last 1669 days (4.6 years)
 - Cost \$135,000,000.

- Grubbing and clearing started Aug 2025.
- Several Homeless camps had to be removed along 91 Mile Rd at Peace Creek and Snake Valley.
- Corradino Group and Prince Construction.
- PD&E – Project 451419-1: Central Polk Parkway East from US 17/92, south of Power Line Road extension, to the future Poinciana Connector (SR 538)
 - The proposed Central Polk Parkway East project will provide a direct link to Interstate 4 and SR 429 (Western Beltway) through the future Poinciana Connector (SR 538)
- PD&E – Project 451419-2: Central Polk Parkway East from SR 60 to US 17/92
 - Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) for Central Polk Parkway East from SR 60 to US 17/92
 - ACE will evaluate corridor alternatives for a new tolled, limited-access highway from 60 to US 17/92
 - The proposed highway will provide a direct link to Interstate 4 and SR 429 (Western Beltway) through the future Poinciana Connector (SR 538).
- Asset Damage – Stickers are being provided to law enforcement for assets such as poles that are damaged during incidents.

Update on TIM Initiatives:

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

- 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.

Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) – Beau Baggett, Metric Engineering

- What is Crash Responder Safety Week?
 - Crash Responder Safety Week will be observed from November 17–21, 2025.
 - This nationwide initiative, coordinated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and supported by TIM Teams, honors those who risk their lives at roadway incident scenes.
 - Responder safety requires action from responders, agencies, and the public.
 - The theme for this year is “Responders Ahead! Reduce Your Speed As You Proceed.”
- First Responder Struck-By Crisis:
 - Struck-by incidents are a leading danger for first responders on roadways, with 6 to 8 fatalities monthly in the U.S. and many life-altering injuries.
 - Many incidents and near misses go unreported, leaving gaps in understanding.
 - Most occur during secondary accidents when responders are already on scene.
- Reporting struck by or near misses matters because every report provides valuable data for identifying patterns, improving training, and preventing future tragedies.
 - For a national struck-by reporting and database with open access to reports visit: ResponderSafety.com
- The Importance of Roadway Safety: Survivor Stories video was shared with the team.
- Florida’s Move Over Law is one of the most important tools to reduce struck-by incidents and protect responders. The requirements and changes to the law were discussed.
- National TIM Responder (SHRP2) Training is a four-hour course aimed at enhancing safety for responders on active roadways through best practices.
 - Uses realistic tabletop crash simulations that mirror real-world scenarios.
 - Trained responders apply consistent, proven practices in the field.

- Results include faster incident clearance, stronger coordination, and reduced risk of struck-by incidents.
- TIM Meetings:
 - TIM Meetings improve safety by building trust among first responders, reviewing incidents and lessons learned, and sharing best practices.
 - Goal of TIM Teams – Safer crash scenes, faster clearance, and better protection for both responders and motorists.
- Additional Comments:
 - Team members were encouraged to share struck-by incidents

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:

07/23/2025

Westbound I-4 MM 41 Eastern Polk Pkwy Ramp

RISC 26-03

Semi vs. Box Truck vs. Guardrail

Incident Details:

- 4:52 AM Initial Notification
- WB Left Lane Closed
- 5:17 AM Polk SO On Scene
- 5:55 AM Rotation Wrecker Requested
- 6:01 AM RISC Activated, Rotation Wrecker Canceled
- 6:59 AM RISC Vendor Heavy Tows on Scene
- 7:00 AM Notice to Proceed (NTP) Given
- 7:16 AM Left Lane Opened
- 8:07 AM All Vehicles Clear of Scene
- Total Event Duration – 3 Hours 15 Minutes

08/12/2025

EB I-4 MM 28 (Memorial Blvd)

MIE 25-33

Fatal Crash – Single Vehicle Rollover

- Additional Notes: Driver not seat belted, observed changing lanes several times before losing control, vehicle not airbag equipped

Incident Details:

- 2:35 AM – Called in
- 2:42 AM – PCSO on Scene, large debris field noted
- 2:44 AM – Medics on Scene
- 2:45 AM – All Lanes Blocked
- 2:46 AM – Confirmed Fatal
- 2:49 AM – Diverting All Traffic to Memorial
- 5:06 AM – Tow Truck Requested
- 7:21 AM – All Lanes Open
- Total Event Duration – 4 Hours, 46 Minutes

7/28/2025 to 9/19/2025
WB I-4 Exit 32 (US-98)
MIE 25-41, 44 & 45
Multiple Wrong Way Drivers

Incident Details:

- 7/28/2025 @ 11:26 AM
- 8/31/2025 @ 1:00 AM
- 8/31/2025 @ 10:34 PM
- EB Off Ramp Notes:
 - Area under construction – PCMS board to be added
 - Vehicles appear to come from NB in SB lanes of US-98 (No video available)
 - Several driveways on NB side that could contribute to a driver going the wrong way at night
 - All roadway markings and signage on the EB Exit Ramp appear adequate otherwise

Larry Saxon, Florida Turnpike, provided an overview of the STEALTH reporting and debrief process, which documents timeline events and identifies lessons learned following RISC activations. To date, there have been 106 RISC activations in 2025, approaching last year's total of 149.

2/19/2025
MM 11 Eastbound
RISC 25-19
Cement Tanker Truck vs Large Box Truck

Incident Details:

- 3:59PM – RISC Activation
- Roadway Maintenance Asset Maintenance left the ramp detour unmanned to go back to the yard to get more cones, allowing traffic to drive through MOT. Responders at the scene were put in danger by approaching motorists. Additional training has been provided since this incident.

6/14/2025
MM 0 WB
RISC 25-62

Incident Details:

- Tractor trailer rollover loaded with bottled orange juice slid into guardrail on curved ramp constitutes a RISC activation
- Due to heavy rain and thunderstorms, response and clearance times were delayed.

6/23/2025
MM 10 EB
RISC 26-64

Incident Details:

- Tractor trailer loaded with watermelons on fire in an active construction zone during morning rush hour.

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 January 8, 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