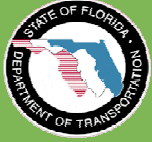




25th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

March 2009



I-4 Weigh-In-Motion Stations are "Hi-Tech"

Florida Department of Transportation's Motor Carrier Compliance Office built Weigh-in-Motion Stations for trucks on eastbound and westbound I-4 is open and operating with 'high-tech' features designed to optimize the inspection process, improve motorist safety, and reduce CVO delays. Here's how it works: sensors at the station entrance take a picture and 3D image of each truck. They also weigh the trucks as they enter at speeds up to 45 mph. Then, officers inside the station examine the data displayed on computer screens. They determine which trucks are legal and which may be in violation well before they arrive at the station itself. Trucks under the legal weight limit are allowed to pass through without stopping. Overweight trucks are stopped and inspected more closely. Carrier Compliance Captain Troy Thompson says keeping the trucks moving prevents long lines from forming and makes the interstate safer for all drivers. "It stops the vehicles from backing up along the entrance to the scales," he said. "And possibly up onto the interstate." (Bay News 9,2009)

Chugging by at 45 mph, the trucks have their weight registered, speed calculated, dimensions measured and axles counted by underground sensors; all in about 10 seconds. The department is also launching a new idea at the Seffner station to help crack down on cargo theft. Each license plate will be run through a computer to make sure the trucks aren't stolen. This is the first time this technology has been used at a weigh station in Florida, Thompson said. Trucks are occasionally stolen for their pricey cargo, said Troy Thompson, captain of Florida Department of Transportation's Motor Carrier Compliance Office. (Jessica Vander Velde, 2009 St. Petersburg Times)

Florida Weigh Stations are Modern Wonders. They have a sophisticated weigh-in-motion system that lets you pass through them (unless, of course, you are overweight or one of the lucky few to be chosen for a random inspection). They use **PrePass**. If you don't have PrePass or if you get the red light, you are likely to get the arrow for the bypass lane where the speed limit is usually 35 mph or even 45 mph. All commercial vehicles are required to cross the weigh stations in Florida-no

Mission

The TIM Team Program brings together all agencies involved in clearing the roadway crashes with the objective of improving detection, verification, response, and clearance times to expeditiously remove a motor vehicle crash or incident from the roadway while providing the best real-time information to motorists, resulting in a safer highway environment for both incident responders and motorists.

matter how small the vehicle is. PrePass trucks that receive a green light in Florida must still enter an open weigh station if they are pulling an oversize/overweight (even permitted) load. In addition to weigh stations, Florida uses Agricultural Inspection Stations. These are normally a few miles before or after the weigh stations. Drivers with PrePass can be set up for preclearance.



Another part of the MCCO enforcement operation is to enforce commercial motor vehicle and driver safety regulations by performing vehicle inspections and enforcing Florida's traffic laws. The program's safety enforcement responsibility also includes inspections of hazardous materials vehicles and passenger buses. These inspections are conducted both on the roadside in safe locations and at MCCO weigh stations throughout the state. This allows the officers to detect possible vehicle defects and driver deficiencies that could lead to CMV traffic crashes. These activities are assisting in the reduction of commercial motor vehicle crashes in the state. MCCO responds to fatal CMV crashes in order to provide the on-scene investigators more accurate information regarding the motor carrier and equipment involved in the crash. – Don Olson (<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/mcco/information/safety.shtm>)

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Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting – June 11, 2009



Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN)

The Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN) program is a key component of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrations (FMCSA) drive to improve commercial motor vehicle safety. The CVISN Program supports FMCSA's goals by focusing safety enforcement on high-risk operators; integrating systems to improve the accuracy, integrity, and verifiability of credentials; improving efficiency through electronic screening of commercial vehicles; and enabling online application and issuance of credentials.



Over Weight/Over Dimensional Online Road-use Permit Application System

The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), in an effort to streamline the permitting process, offers a web-based permit application system for overweight and over dimensional permits. This system allows applicants to submit requests for overweight and over dimensional permits over the Internet. Payment for the permit can be made by credit card, check or a pre-paid ARI account. Those applications receiving approval for permit will be issued a permit by the Florida Department of Transportation State Permits Office. Trip permits can be faxed directly to the permit applicant if requested, or sent by U.S. Mail. Annual permits will be sent by U.S. Mail. More information is available at: <http://www.floridatruckinginfo.com/>

Many truck accidents are caused by unsafe loading of the truck's trailer. Problem areas include the following: overweight loads - leading to truck handling problems, trailer and sometimes tractor rollovers, crashes because of greatly increased braking distances, and tire blowouts. (<http://www.patruckaccidents.com/PracticeAreas/Load-Issues-Over-Size-Over-Weight.asp>)



T I M TEAM NEW WEBSITE!

www.swfltim.org

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter, or would like to submit an article, please contact Don Olson at don.olson@dot.state.fl.us.

The Polk County TIM Team is committed to implementing the Quick Clearance principles of Florida's Open Roads Policy through the "3 Cs" of TIM: Communication, Cooperation and Coordination, and providing the public with the best real-time Motorist Information available. Team membership draws from state, regional, and local transportation agencies, public safety providers, and other organizations and companies that service the traveling public. The Teams, sponsored by the FDOT, meet bi-monthly.

