



67th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

July 2016

Introducing Our "New TIM Team Champion" In District 1



Christopher (Chris) Williams was recently introduced at the TIM Team meetings as the new District 1 ITS Operations/TIM Team Coordinator/Road Ranger Program Project Manager. Mr. Williams brings with him a strong background and a wealth of knowledge in the service community, including experience as both a law enforcement officer and a firefighter. Mr. Williams gives promise as our "New TIM Team Champion" and will help devising innovative ways to strengthen the District One TIM Teams.

Successful TIM Teams involves significant commitments by all "impacted stakeholders", it is essential that each agency be fully committed with our local TIM Teams. Within the TIM Team, the core leadership in essence become the champions within their individual agencies.

Well trained, experienced incident responders improve the quick clearance of incidents, thus lessening the impact of traffic congestion and improving safety. The development of Traffic Incident Management programs, including active TIM Teams, is an important step toward improving TIM in a region. Traffic Incident Management (TIM) is a key strategy for improving the efficiency and reliability of highway operations. As concerns about traffic congestion have increased, a call for increased institutional support for highway operations functions, including TIM, has arisen.

Program Strengths:



- Promotes more effective multi-agency, coordinated, and planned incident response
- Improves travel-time reliability for person and freight trips on Nation's highways by improving incident clearance time
- Reduces congestion, collisions, and delays caused by secondary crashes
- Improves responder safety

Help support our TIM team by participating in your local TIM teams and champion others from your agency to attend!

Sarasota/Manatee County Team: (Bi-Monthly)

Manatee County Public Safety Center, 2101 47th Terrace East 2101, Bradenton Florida, 34203.

Next meeting - August 9th at 1:30 p.m.

Collier/Lee/Charlotte County Team: (Bi-Monthly)

SWIFT SunGuide Center, Conference Room A, 10041 Daniels Parkway Fort Myers, FL 33913.

Next meeting - August 10th at 9:30 a.m.

Polk County Team: (Quarterly)

Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex, Procap Room, 1891 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880. Next Meeting - October 13th at 10:00 a.m.

If you would like to speak to Chris Williams, ITS Operations/ TIM Team Coordinator/ Road Ranger Program Project Manager, about any TIM Team ideas and/or TIM outreach, please contact him at Chris.Williams@dot.state.fl.us and/or 239.225.1915.

Please also visit the TIM Team website where you can access the latest information about your local TIM team: <http://www.swftim.org/>

FHWA Knowledge Management System (KMS) Website



The KMS is a national repository of traffic incident management (TIM) resources, good practices, lessons learned, and other tools that are relevant to TIM practices for all disciplines.

Practitioners will find useful resources on such topics as: Guidance and Policy, Quick Clearance Legislation Training and Outreach, Agreements, After Action Reviews (AARs), Traffic Management Center (TMC) Operations, and TIM Committee Formation and Sustainability. To access the database, please visit the following website: <http://kms.timnetwork.org/index.php>

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Upcoming Events:

Next TIM Team Meeting:
County Sheriff's Office Comp Procap Room
1891 Jim Keene Boulevard
Winter Haven, FL 33880
10:00 AM

- October 13, 2016



Connected Vehicle Benefits for Emergency Responders



For the past decade, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has been researching and testing a system of vehicles that can sense the environment around them and communicate with other vehicles and with infrastructure. These vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) communications will enable safety, mobility, and environmental advancements that current technologies are unable to provide. The technology is expected to reduce unimpaired vehicle crashes by 80 percent, while also reducing the 4.8 billion hours that Americans spend in traffic annually. ⁽¹⁾

Connected vehicle technology will help address many of the transportation challenges facing communities today:

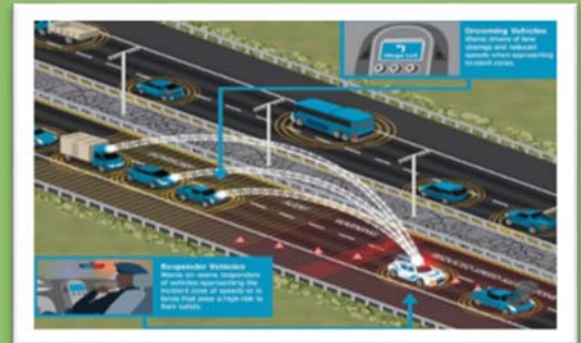
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Make intersections safer
- Curb vehicle pollution
- Make truck corridors move more efficiently
- Make crosswalks safer for pedestrians and the disabled
- Make public bus transfers move more smoothly
- Make work zones safer for roadside personnel
- Make high-incident management safer for first responders. ⁽¹⁾

Additionally, emergency vehicles are able to "talk" to each other, connect with local traffic signals, and communicate with local Traffic Management Centers (TMCs) through vehicle connectivity technology. Individual responders receive real time information during an incident response and assigning priority right of way to fire trucks, police vehicles or ambulances, depending on the circumstances of the individual incident. Operators of vehicles in the system would know which lanes are closed, and could select alternate routes to more efficiently reach emergencies, or to find a clear outbound corridor to a hospital or other emergency services destination. If additional emergency vehicles are heading in the direction of the incident, they would be able to find the fastest routes through traffic.

Even nationally, the technology is beginning to be incorporated to help increase responder safety by reducing response times, as well as reduce secondary crashes. In Europe, beginning March 31, 2018, all new vehicles sold in the European Union will be required to carry an emergency call system that automatically dispatches assistance to the scene of a crash (called eCall). The system will be fitted to new cars/light duty vehicles and operate throughout the European Union, plus Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. The main benefit will be that it will help the emergency services reach victims faster. In fact, it is thought it will speed-up response times by forty percent in urban areas and fifty percent in the county - and that could save two-thousand five-hundred lives per -year. Furthermore, emergency teams will be able to secure crash sites sooner, reducing the risk of secondary accidents. ⁽²⁾

Dia Gainor who is the Executive Director and a past President of the National Association of State EMS Officials, takes the technology one step further, stating that her organization is pushing for what she calls vehicle-to-responder communication. "A vehicle should be able to warn me about potential hazards," Gainor said, putting herself in the role of a first responder. "I would want to know, for example, about an un-deployed airbag that could suddenly deploy while my head is in front of it. Or if it's a hybrid vehicle, I want to know if I need to beware of an electrical system that is still charged." Gainor envisions connected vehicles that even scan themselves for damages in a crash, locate passengers, and communicate to an emergency responder the best location for extrication tools to free a passenger. ⁽³⁾

To learn more, please also visit the Connected Vehicle website, created by the USDOT, where you can view up to date information and videos on the technology in the transportation industry at: http://its.dot.gov/cv_basics/index.htm



⁽¹⁾ "Connected Vehicle Benefits Fact Sheet PDF." USDOT. 05/31/2016.

http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwi3JiiOvNAhUCeD4KHAcPAAwQFggjMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.its.dot.gov%2Ffactsheets%2Fpdf%2FConnectedVehicleBenefits.pdf&usq=AFQjCNFqGosWqUj_Mi9n-2gPkLnyLI5C7w

⁽²⁾ "Soon European Cars Will Call for Help Automatically After a Crash." Popular Mechanics. April 29, 2015 Web. <http://www.popularmechanics.com/cars/a15289/european-cars-ecall-crashes/>

⁽³⁾ "How EMS will benefit from smartphones and connected vehicles." EMS1. Sep 15, 2015 Web. <http://www.ems1.com/columnists/susanna-j-smith/articles/1990952-How-EMS-will-benefit-from-smartphones-and-connected-vehicles/>

Article Submitted by Metric Engineering, Inc.. – Brandy Boccuti.

T I M TEAM WEBSITE!

www.swfitim.org

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.



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.