



38th Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

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Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting :

Thursday  
 July 14th, 2011  
 10:00 am  
 University of South Florida  
 Polytechnic  
 3433 Winter Lake Rd  
 Lakeland, FL 33803  
 LTB Building  
 Room # 1104



The Importance of Traffic Incident Management Teams



Responding to Traffic Incidents are highly stressful situations which can cause real and dramatic changes to even the best of practices in communication, response and recovery. This is why all of the various agencies must be prepared to respond effectively together as a team, to stressful environments where their recovery challenges are constantly changing. Anything less than full **Communication, Coordination, and Cooperation** can jeopardize a safe and quick recovery and have lasting, long-term consequences to public safety. **The Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Program** in the State of Florida is comprised of multiple partners including law enforcement, fire rescue, emergency medical services, transportation agencies, towing and recovery service providers, Department of Environmental Protection, medical examiners, and hazardous material handlers.

The TIM teams primary focus is to improve the 3 C's; communication, coordination, and cooperation among incident responders. As a result, the benefits are reducing incident-related congestion, improving response and clearance times, preventing secondary crashes, improving traffic flow and air quality, decreasing economic impacts of incidents and most important, improving responder and motorist safety.

In 2002, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) jointly executed the **State of Florida's Open Roads Policy** (Quick Clearance for Safety and Mobility). This agreement defined a firm commitment to expedite the removal of vehicles, cargo, and debris from any roadway within 90 minutes to restore safe orderly traffic flow following any incident on Florida's roadways. To ensure that we reach this goal it is imperative that agencies meet regularly and train together in order to better understand each other's roles and responsibilities at a crash scene.

Come join your **Polk County TIM Team**, busy progressively developing, and improving strategies to integrate Traffic Incident Management counter-measures into our Transportation Planning and Congestion Management Processes, in an effort to mitigate traffic congestion due to non-recurring causes such as crashes, disabled vehicles, work zones, adverse weather events, and planned special events. While we focus on management of routine traffic incidents, TIM Programs build strong cooperative working relationships that enhance preparedness for managing the transportation impacts of all types of emergencies. By joining and participating in your **Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team**, you have the potential to significantly affect a reduction in the amount and duration of congestion. Congestion is one of the greatest threats to our nation's economy. We've all heard the old saying "**Time Is Money**". Well, never has it been as true as it is today, given the significant rise in energy prices. Nationwide, drivers waste just over 4 billion hours of time and over 2 billion gallons of fuel each year, by sitting idle or inching forward in traffic jams. Studies have shown that unexpected or non-recurring congestion accounts for about 50 to 60 percent of all congestion on our nation's roadways, and half of that total is generally attributable to traffic incidents. TIM is the art of conquering the challenges of clearing traffic incidents safely and quickly. Strong working partnerships among all responding disciplines and agencies is a basic underlying principle of effective traffic incident management programs. The National

Traffic Incident Management Coalition encourages partnerships that are formalized through written operational agreements, joint, written operational policies and procedures, and joint training exercises. Ideally, the partnerships include all TIM partners.

Article submitted by Bill Fuller, TIM Team Project Manager, Florida Department of Transportation

More information about the NTIMC's National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management is available on the NTIMC web site at: <http://www.timcoalition.org>.

Please also visit the Polk TIM Team website at: <http://www.switit.org/PolkTIMTeam.htm>

The National Transportation Recovery Strategy



The National Transportation Recovery Strategy (NTRS) is designed to help the transportation industry prepare for and manage the transportation recovery process following a major disaster. The overall goal of this Strategy is to promote a recovery process for transportation networks – and subsequently of communities in general – that results in a greater level of resilience. The Department of Transportation is leading a joint effort with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to produce the package of products that will enhance the NTRS. These products will be made available via a web-based resource guide which will also include a compilation of resource documents, such as Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports, best practice after-action reports from previous incidents, technical guidance documents, and how-to guides on recovery planning. Please visit the following website for further information: [http://www.dot.gov/disaster\\_recovery/](http://www.dot.gov/disaster_recovery/)

Hurricanes Preparedness Week

History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing our vulnerability and what actions we should take, we can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster. **Hurricane Preparedness Week is during May 22nd through May 28th.** Please visit the following website for further information:



<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

To help prepare for the hurricane season you can locate your counties evacuation routes by visiting the following website:

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/PublicMapping>

Multidisciplinary Core Competencies



Multidisciplinary Core Competencies is a document defining the core competencies that all Traffic Incident Responders should have. Developed by the NTIMC Training Task Force, the Multidisciplinary Core Competencies provide a common framework for training responders to work in the traffic incident environment, regardless of their discipline. Please visit the following website for further information:

<http://timcoalition.org/?siteid=41&pageid=595>

**Southern Traffic Incident eXchange (STIX) Program**



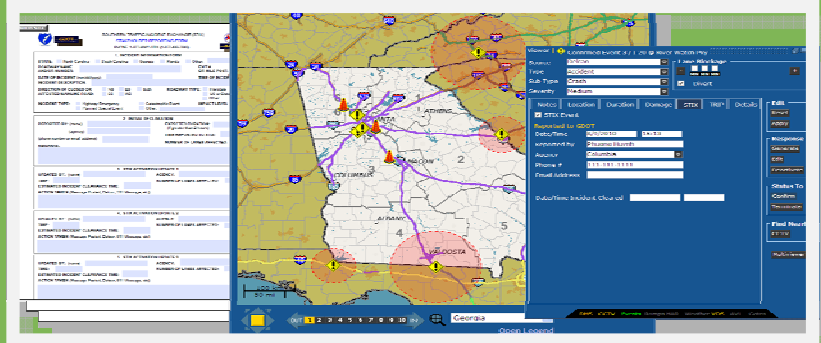
Many of the states across the country have noticed the major benefits of deploying state of the art Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices along their roadways. These devices provide reliable traffic incident management in real time to various agencies. One of the major challenges that the agencies face is the ability of sharing vital information regarding traffic incidents and traffic delays which pass through several states. The I-95 Coalition aspired to bridge this information gap to better increase traveler information and the ability to prepare for major traffic incidents. The I-95 Corridor Coalition is a partnership of major public and private multi-modal transportation agencies, toll authorities, and industry associations, all serving the corridor of the Eastern United States from Maine to Florida. These members work as a partnership to apply Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) solutions towards shared transportation issues and challenges.

The I-95 Corridor Coalition goals are to “improve mobility for people and goods, enhance safety for all travelers, and improve the economic vitality of the region.” (1) To attain this objective, the Coalition created the Southern Incident eXchange (STIX) program. The Southern Region Incident Management Information Exchange Program, referred to as the Southern Traffic Incident eXchange (STIX) Program, was created to develop interstate incident notification, information sharing, and coordination across state lines.

Within the Southern Incident eXchange (STIX) program there is a centralized location for all the vital information. The central communications hub is located at the Atlanta, Georgia’s Transportations Management Center (TMC) where STIX incident information is collected and distributed.

The following circumstances with a potential multi-state/regional impact typically qualify as a Southern Traffic Incident eXchange (STIX) incident:

- Major Incidents
- Planned Special Events
- Emergencies



**NavigAtor II: STIX Automation**

Currently Florida has STIX-identified ITS/TMC locations in Pensacola, Gainesville, Jacksonville, Tampa, Turnpike/Turkey Lake, Turnpike/Pompano, Orlando, Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, and Miami. Also Tallahassee and Sarasota are proposed locations for future use of the STIX program.

With this program in place, information will be able to be shared in real time with the South Florida’s Traffic Incident Management Project Managers , Traffic Incident Management Team Members, responders, governmental agencies, as well as the traveling public. One major benefit of this type of technology would be utilizing the Southern Traffic Incident eXchange (STIX) program during a natural disaster or a possible traffic incident. Many motorists evacuate from South Florida each year during the dangerous Hurricane Season. The information that the program would provide would be a vital tool for all of the agencies across the state to help inform governmental and private organizations by informing of the influxes of evacuations of motorists in real time. This will help elevate possible incidents during an evacuation which could further place motorist at risks and get them to their destination within a timely manner.

For more information visit the I-95 Coalition Website: <http://www.i95coalition.org/i95/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

(1) I-95 Corridor Coalition , Southern Traffic Incident eXchange(STIX) Program , Publication, January 2008, [http://www.i95coalition.org/i95/Portals/0/Public\\_Files/pm/reports/full416.pdf](http://www.i95coalition.org/i95/Portals/0/Public_Files/pm/reports/full416.pdf)

Article by Scott Agans, Metric Engineering

**T I M TEAM WEBSITE!**

[www.swfltim.org](http://www.swfltim.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.*