



53rd Edition

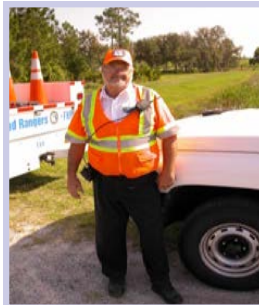
Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

November 2013



TIM Champion Recognition

Your Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team members take this opportunity to acknowledge a **TIM Champion** for his "Above & Beyond" contributions to the Polk County TIM Team efforts: Mr. Harry Whitney, Road Ranger Supervisor for Interstate 4 (I-4) in Polk County.



In 2004 Mr. Whitney signed on with Arrow Towing as a Road Ranger on patrol out of the Tampa area and in 2007, Mr. Whitney took over as Supervisor for Polk County.

When we asked Mr. Whitney what was his best moment as a Road Ranger, he stated that in 2006, he helped a handicapped gentleman that was paralyzed from the waist down and was stranded on I-4. He informed gentleman that help was on the way. Mr. Whitney stated that later that afternoon when he was finishing his shift, he went back to the location where the gentleman was still there. Mr. Whitney asked if he could help by taking him home. He was very appreciative and wrote a letter to FDOT thanking Mr. Whitney for his above and beyond help.

When we asked Mr. Whitney what his worst moment was as a Road Ranger, he stated it was 2008 when the well known tragic 70 car pile up on I-4 occurred. He had only been in the Polk County Supervisor position for two days. Early in the morning on January 9, 2008, nearly 15 miles of I-4 in Florida was closed for many hours after poor visibility contributed to a massive pileup involving 70 cars.

Mr. Whitney's strongest advocacy is for the "Move Over" law. Mr. Whitney believes there needs to be more signage and the law needs to be strongly enforced to help the safety of the Road Rangers and first responders out on the roadways.

Mr. Whitney's closing statement to motorist would be, "We are there to help you. Call *347 and we will get the information." The TIM Team and Mr. Bill Fuller, District One Traffic Incident Management Project Managers would like to salute Mr. Whitney for his dedication to his chosen profession.

ITS Florida Outstanding Achievement Award



On October 10, 2013, ITS Florida's Outstanding Achievement Award was awarded to the Florida Department of Transportation, District One Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team and its leadership by Mr. Bill Fuller, District One Traffic Incident Management Project Manager, for successfully conducting Strategic Highway Research Program training (SHRP2).

This Outstanding Achievement Award for leadership in successfully bringing the SHRP-2 responder training was a team effort and could not have been successfully accomplished without everyone's hard work and dedication.

To date, the District One TIM Team has brought the SHRP-2 Training to over 430 first responders from the District One Counties; Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Pinellas, and Hillsborough. Additionally, the District One TIM Team plans to take this training to first responders in Polk and Collier County very soon!

ITS Florida is one of the leading advocates for the deployment of technologies that improve the safety, security and efficiency of the nation's surface transportation system. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) encompass a broad range of wireless and wire line communications, information processing, advanced computing, and electronics technologies. When integrated into the nation's roadways, vehicles, and public transit systems, these technologies can help reduce congestion, enhance mobility options, and help save lives. Members include private corporations, public agencies, and academic institutions involved in the research, development and deployment of ITS technologies.

Founded in 1992 as an educational and information sharing group, ITS Florida was the first formal ITS state chapter organization, and became affiliated with ITS America in April 1994. ITS Florida was named the Best ITS America State Chapter for 2004 and again in 2011!

-Articles submitted by William Fuller, District One Traffic Incident Management Project Manager.



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Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting:

January 9 , 2014

10:00 am

Polk County Sheriff's Office Complex Procap Room

1891 Jim Keene Boulevard

Winter Haven, FL 33880



Active Arterial Management (AAM) -Series

Series - Part 1

Arterial Congestion Background

Florida has an extensive Arterial Roadway Network in which the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and many of the County Traffic Operations Departments throughout Florida have made significant investments over the years to build and maintain these facilities.

The extent of the arterial network within the State of Florida for urban and non-urban conditions reaches 32,127 miles with approximately 160,515,000 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) daily. With this volume of traffic along the Arterial Network, congestion along arterial roadways has become an increasing problem throughout the State, especially in high-density urban areas. However, due to the limitations of right of way and construction funding, it has become a challenge for FDOT to improve congestion and maintain travel time reliability consistently throughout the state.



The State of Florida has a history of success with operating and maintaining Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) on the freeway system. Successes of technology implementation on freeway systems have included reduced travel times, improved travel time reliability, decreased secondary crashes, decreased time for emergency response, and a reduction in the number of stops and delays on the freeways. The arterial network system utilizes an Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS) for signal traffic control to support traffic flow in arterial roadway. Applying the successful operational strategies of the (ITS) technology in conjunction with (ATMS) for the arterial roadways has the potential to accelerate the benefits of reduction of unnecessary delays and improve the overall reliability of the arterial system. This approach, called Active Arterial Management (AAM), is one proactive method for relieving arterial congestion in the future.



The U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has defined the objective of AAM as “the advancement of management practices and operations strategies that promote the safe and efficient use of arterial roadway capacity to reduce congestion.” The need for Arterial Management strategies is also being recognized in Florida, including Palm Beach and Pinellas Counties, and throughout the United States. Other states, including Texas, California, and Georgia have also begun implementing various programs to work towards optimizing their arterial transportation network. These programs have focused not only on capital improvements, but also operations and maintenance with the overall goal of reducing congestion in the arterial network with more cost effective operations techniques such as Active Arterial Management.

AAM - Maximizing Existing Investment

FDOT and Counties Statewide have already invested millions of dollars on traffic signal technology, ATMS equipment and software, signal maintenance, etc. This existing investment has resulted in the improvement in the functionality of the statewide arterial transportation system as a whole. However, these entities have yet to realize the full benefits of their current investments on the arterial system, which in turn affects the ability to efficiently and reliably move more drivers, transit, freight, and other forms of transportation throughout the state. In order to maximize the benefits of ATMS, an additional investment of dedicated funding will be required for arterial roadway signal system maintenance, arterial operations, and capital improvements in conjunction with defined performance measures. The expected cost savings outcome of the AAM are very high, making the additional required capital not a spending, but a great source of investment to the involved entities and to the traveling public. The technology will provide travel time information, increase travel time reliability and support an efficient incident management, resulting in reduced congestion, increased response times, minimize secondary incidents, and more. Stay tuned for the next installment of the AAM Series (Part 2) where we will discuss in specific detail the fiscal cost of the current problem of congested arterial roadways, specific AAM solutions, and the overall Benefit/Cost ratio of the proposed AAM investments.

¹ Florida Highway Mileage and Travel (DVMT) Report - State Highway System, 2011, Florida Department of Transportation.

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/statistics/mileage-rpts/shs2011.pdf>

² Florida Highway Mileage and Travel (DVMT) Report - State Highway System, 2011, Florida Department of Transportation.

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/statistics/mileage-rpts/shs2011.pdf>

³ http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/arterial_mgmt/

⁴ <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/07july/05.cfm>

Article Submitted by Metric Engineering, Inc.—Robert Mastascusa, P.E.

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.