



22nd Edition

Polk County Traffic Incident Management Team

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Upcoming Events:

TIM Team Meeting — December 11, 2008



**ITS Florida
Transportation
Exposition**

TIM Team members participated in Transpo 2008 to attend technical workshops and learn from each other's experiences. Topical themes address planning, implementing, managing and fostering innovation. Of special interest to TIM Team members was the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) initiative for the development of TIM MOT Training. An equally important workshop discussed "Coordinated Emergency Response" and special focus on the low-visibility traffic incident on I-4 in Polk County that included 70 vehicles. The technical panel included Polk County Fire/Rescue, FHP, FDOT, FL SERT EOC and Orange County SO Central Florida Intelligence Exchange (Regional Fusion Center). More information will be given at upcoming TIM Team meetings. - Don Olson



**The FMS Design /
Build Project for I-75
Charlotte County is
coming soon:**

The FDOT District One Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Freeway Management System (FMS) project for I-75 in Charlotte County will consist of all of the components needed to provide a fully functional extension of the FMS that is being deployed in Lee and Collier counties. The subsystems that will be deployed in the project include a fiber optic communication network, a Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) camera system, a Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) system, a Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) system, a road weather information system (RWIS), a vehicle detection system (VDS), the upgrades needed for additional data collection, and the upgrades needed to incorporate additional video feeds into the video wall at the Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) in Lee County.

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.

These devices will facilitate incident verification and expedite dispatch of the appropriate equipment leading to accelerated response times for the TIM Team agencies responding to an incident along the I-75 roadway in Charlotte County. Together with other TIM Team initiatives, the FMS project will support working toward our goals of scene safety, quick clearance, and reduced congestion for the improved operation of the transportation system. - Don Olson



**National Driver Certification Program for
Professional Wrecker Operators**

Through a grant from the Federal Department of Transportation, TRAA established the only National Standards for tow truck operators and from these standards developed the National Driver Certification Program. The Towing and Recovery Association of America (TRAA) has developed a three-level [National Driver Certification Program](#). Tests include Light, Medium, and Heavy Duty Towing & Recovery in the areas of: Customer Service, Safety, Incident Management, Truck Operation, and Equipment. An increasing number of law enforcement agencies that contract with towers are now requiring TRAA certification as a qualification for participation in a contractual relationship. TRAA's training incorporates traffic incident management training. (National Traffic Incident Management Coalition & TRAA) Florida TIM Teams support this initiative and similar training certifications for TIM Team member agencies. - Don Olson





Florida Road Ranger Service Patrol Art Davison

Safety is Paramount ... FHP Red Tag on Abandoned Vehicles

will systematically initiate prompt removal of this roadside hazard. Florida Highway Patrol Troopers and Florida Road Ranger Service Patrols are working hard to address abandoned vehicles along the side of the roadway. After an abandoned vehicle is called in to the FHP Regional Communications Center, it is assigned a case number, and the clock begins. FHP Troopers have the authority to remove the vehicle at their discretion after 6 hours by calling for a rotation tow truck. There are two types of nonconsensual tows: (1) law-enforcement-ordered removal of a vehicle from public rights-of-way; and (2) "trespass tows," which is the removal of unauthorized vehicles from private property. Policies related to the first type of non-consensual tow are an important issue in traffic incident management. Abandoned vehicles parked in the emergency lane may impede emergency response vehicles driving to an incident scene. TIM Team members are working to identify and remove abandoned vehicles to improve travel for Florida's motorists. (Times Photo by Joseph Garnett Jr. Published June 25, 2007 in the St. Petersburg Times Newspaper) - Don Olson



FHP adds Dodge Chargers to its fleet

Don't be surprised if you go down the highway, and see the blue lights in your rear view mirror are from a police car that looks like it's been pumping iron and drinking protein shakes. "It handles like a dream. It's a real police car," said Trooper Robert Dooley, who got his 2008 Dodge Charger earlier this month. "It reminds me of a mean-looking muscle car. It looks like it's ready to go out there and do whatever we've got to do." It comes in Hemi form with a 340-horsepower V-8 and also as a 250-horsepower six-cylinder model, the one the Highway Patrol uses. Both are menacing, particularly with the black front and black push rack on the grille. "It's like a bulldog," said Sgt. Gary Baker, a driving instructor at the FHP training academy. "It's an awesome patrol car." The Dodge Chargers have been growing in popularity among law enforcement agencies. And while they're speedy and sexy, they feel like a race car, their drivers say. "It handles the road like a dream," Dooley said, adding that the Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor, the workhorse of the Highway Patrol's fleet, sometimes feel top-heavy when making sharp turns. "[The Charger is] like a race car. It just hugs the road all the way around." Despite the extra weight inherent in many squad cars, thanks to bigger engines, tougher suspensions, structural reinforcements and other heavy-duty equipment, the Charger Police Package is rated at 149 mph, Baker said. They're also fuel-efficient. The cars cost about \$22,627 and have the ability to convert from eight cylinders to four when high power is not needed and when idling, which Baker says is one of its big gas-saving features.

(C. Ron Allen, Sun-Sentinel, Originally published 09:44 p.m., August 29, 2008; Updated 09:44 p.m., August 29, 2008)



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.



Traffic Incident Management

