



SMART SunGuide TMC
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SMART MOVES

10th Edition

June 2007

Secretary Kopelousos Visits District 4 TMC



L-R: Guy Francese, Sarah Stanley, Bob Murphy, Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos, Hesham Ali, Dong Chen, and Steve Corbin

As part of a multi-day visit to District 4, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos spent some time at the SMART SunGuide Transportation Management Center (TMC) on May 17, 2007. While at the building, the Secretary was able to see a Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV), discuss ongoing and upcoming District 4 ITS projects, and meet operations staff in the control room.

Traffic Incident Management Teams Use MOU for Representation at Meetings



The Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Teams of Broward and Palm Beach Counties bring together various agencies responsible for responding to incidents. They address issues that arise as a result of the diverse institutional functions and individual agency goals.

The success of the TIM Teams is dependent on regular participation of area agencies. The best meeting outcomes occur when there is full representation for discussions and collaboration.

Transportation Research Board Announced Fort Lauderdale for '08 Mid-Year Meeting

FDOT District 4 and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will be the hosts for the "2008 Freeway and Tolling Operations Conference." The conference will be built around the Transportation Research Board (TRB) mid-year meeting. It will include the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA), and have support from ITS America. The conference is scheduled for June 15-19, 2008 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD



Conference delegates will have the opportunity to attend scheduled committee meetings as well as take part in several different tours. This conference will show off the local successful ITS programs and regional approach to freeway and tollway management operations. Updates on this event will be provided in each quarterly SMART Moves newsletter during the coming year. Don't miss the next edition!

In order to ensure that each meeting is meaningful and effective, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been mailed to existing TIM Team members. In summary, this MOU states that there will be an agency representative at each TIM Team meeting. As always, the teams are open to new members.

If you have questions about the MOU or would like more information on the TIM Teams, please contact Guy Francese at Gaetano.Francese@dot.state.fl.us or 954-847-2797.

For an e-copy of this newsletter, visit

www.SMARTSunGuide.com

SEFRTOC Establishes Regional Procedures for Wildfires

In Florida the wildfire season lasts from approximately December until June; with May being the peak of the season. There are three sides of the fire behavior triangle: fuels, weather, and topography. Of the three, weather is the least predictable and sudden changes can result in danger to life and property – as well as unexpected road closures.

Wildfire events along the Alligator Alley portion of I-75 in Broward and Collier Counties closed the road for an average of 4 ½ hours, six times during the months of April and May. Because Alligator Alley is one of the major east-west highways that cross South Florida, disseminating useful information to motorists on a regional basis is a critical part of responding to these lengthy closures.

To that end, the Southeast Florida Regional TMC Operations Committee (SEFRTOC) has developed formal procedures to facilitate an efficient regional response to these events. The committee includes managers from SunGuide District 6 in Miami-Dade; SMART SunGuide District 4 in Broward, Palm Beach Interim Traffic Management System (ITMS), the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, Florida's Turnpike, and Smart Route Systems - 511.

Upon verification of a road closure on I-75 northbound at US 27 in Broward County, the SMART SunGuide TMC notifies the SEFRTOC partners to put the plan in motion. Dynamic Message Signs in the three counties advise motorists that the road is closed and to call 511 for additional information. When they dial 511, motorists are advised of the closure via a floodgate message and are instructed to say I-75 or press 75# to get additional information. Motorists who request additional information are given US 41/Tamiami Trail to the south and SR80 to the north as possible alternates.

The committee is also working with the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) and the Asset Management Contractor (Infrastructure Corporation of America) on I-75 to provide printed directions to be provided to motorists requesting assistance as they encounter the closure on their journey. The specific routes have been verified and will only be suggested as possible alternates.



Dial
***FHP**
(*347) for Road
Ranger Service Patrol
Assistance

Dial
511
for real-time traffic
information

Road Rangers and 511: Raising Awareness One Person at a Time

The Road Ranger Service Patrol and 511 Traffic Information program are two free FDOT services for motorists. To increase awareness of these services, SMART SunGuide TMC has been participating in local employee health and safety fairs. Within just one month, over 300 motorists in the Broward area have been educated on how Road Rangers and 511 can benefit them. Many people are so enthusiastic about the programs that they take extra materials to share with their family and friends.

On a larger scale, the 511 team recently hosted a booth at the Air & Sea Show in Fort Lauderdale. They taught new users how 511 works as well as collected feedback from current users. The 511 team has additional activities planned through the fall.



FDOT Booth at ITSA 2007 a Success!

The Intelligent Transportation Society of America Annual meeting was held June 4-6, 2007, in Palm Springs, California. The FDOT booth was coordinated and hosted by the District 4 TMC and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise staff.

The booth displayed information about the FDOT ITS programs and live traffic video played over several mounted televisions. Staff was available to distribute collateral and answer questions about programs. As a fun activity for conference attendees, "Traffic Idol," a mock traffic reporter activity, was run at the booth. Those who participated read cue cards with traffic information while being video taped in front of a TMC display.

The District 4 nomination of the Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV) Program for the Best of ITS Award, "Best New Product, Service or Application" made the short list. Although it did not win the award, ITSA attendees were educated on what SIRV does for FDOT District 4.



Palm Beach ITMS Answers *FHP Calls



The Palm Beach ITMS started accepting *FHP calls from motorists requesting assistance in Palm Beach County on Tuesday, June 26. This is a follow up initiative to incorporating the same program into the SMART SunGuide TMC, which began as a 30-day pilot program last March.

All ITMS operators completed FHP call taker training prior to the start date. The training provided an introduction to call taking, including customer service techniques, important listening skills, and safety tips. Management was provided additional literature with both non-emergency and public numbers to provide to Palm Beach motorists for assistance. This information has been distributed to the staff and will be added to the ITMS Agency Contact List.



L-R: Bo Qian, Jim Hilbert, Steve Corbin, Hugh Stetter, Dan White, Nicole McGlynn, Paul Mannix, Kendra Blackford, Katherine Duval, and Dave Ashton.
Front Row: Bob Murphy

Please join us in welcoming Wayne Meltzer to the SMART SunGuide TMC SIRV Team. Wayne brings 15 years experience as a Florida Highway Patrol Sergeant / Auxiliary Officer.



District IV Deployment Update

Phase 1 Cameras and detector sites were installed along all of I-95 in Broward County, and I-595 from Hiatus to I-95. Status: As of May 2007, Phase 1 is complete and is being maintained and operated by TMC maintenance program.

Phase 2 Conduits, pull boxes, vaults, fiber optics, and concrete poles to be installed along I-75 in Broward County. Status: All underground work complete as of April 2007. Fiber optics and concrete pole installation is in progress.

FDOT District 4 – Northern Three Counties I-95 ITS Deployment Project

The Northern Three Counties I-95 ITS Deployment Project (N3C) impacts Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties. It started as three separate design-build projects that were brought together as a single deployment to eliminate the Department's risk of owning three disconnected FMS projects. The N3C Project begins at the Palm Beach / Martin County line and extends approximately 71 miles to the Indian River / Brevard County line. The proposed fiber optic cable will be terminated at both ends of the project for future connections to the FDOT D4 Palm Beach County I-95 Deployment Project (Feb. 2008 Advertising date) at the south and to District 5 at the north. At the Okeechobee Road exit in Fort Pierce, a fiber optic connection will be made between the N3C Project and a new redundant emergency building (Northern Counties Incident Management Office) that will be constructed at the Treasure Coast Operations Center in 2008. The total project budget is \$26.5 million. For more information on the criteria of this project, please contact Dong Chen at Dong.Chen@dot.state.fl.us or 954-847-2796.



District 4 ITS on Display at Intertraffic 2007

The Intertraffic tradeshow will be hosted in Fort Lauderdale on October 10-12. This show will bring together the audiences of three different events: National Traffic Management & Work Zone Safety Conference, American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) National Convention and Intertraffic North America. The event will be hosted at the Broward Convention Center. For more information, visit www.northamerica.intertraffic.com.

Visit the exhibit hall FREE with pre-registration!

SIGN UP NOW!

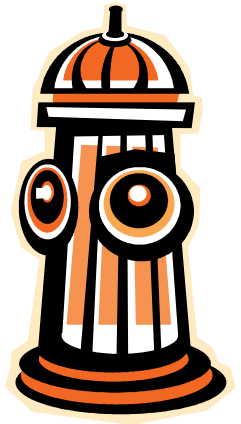
Pre-registration closes on 10/01/07. On-site registration is \$25.00.

FDOT District 4 is hosting a booth that will showcase the innovation and leadership of Florida ITS programs. TMC staff is working together with the Intertraffic event planning team to coordinate several group tours of the TMC. There will be two speaking sessions jointly coordinated with FDOT; Motorist Assistance Programs and Emergency Notification, Evacuation and Disaster Response. Additionally, FDOT is assisting in coordinating a demonstration to take place at the convention center where attendees will witness techniques to recover rolled over vehicles using pickup or tow trucks.

More information on FDOT participation in this event will be shared in the next issue of SMART Moves.

Accessing Fire Hydrants Along I-95 Becoming Easier

One of the challenges faced by firefighters responding to events on I-95 is locating and accessing hydrants beyond the noise walls. While there are some strategically placed holes in the wall for this purpose, there are stretches of wall that have no hydrant access. To expedite hydrant locating for firefighters, A TIM Team task has been initiated to begin surveying locations of fire hydrants within 1,000 feet of I-95 for both Broward and Palm Beach Counties.



The survey will include noting the locations where holes in the noise wall are available as well as the location of the nearest hydrant. The challenges faced with this survey include finding holes that landscaping has covered up or planning how to access hydrants located within residential neighborhoods.

Identification of water sources is the first step and as soon as all locations are documented, proper signage will be developed and posted. This endeavor is so beneficial to fire rescue teams that The Palm Beach Post has reported on it and information has been sent to the FDOT Central Office.

To schedule a tour of the SMART SunGuide TMC, visit www.SMARTSunGuide.com or contact Sarah Stanley at 954-847-2697