ITS ROLE IN 595 EXPRESS

In just a few short months construction will begin along I-595 to convert the median into tolled reversible lanes.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Unit has had extensive involvement with the 595 Express project. As RS&H, the company providing Corridor Design Consultant services, began writing the Request for Proposals (RFP), the ITS Unit was asked to draft the ITS Operations portion. Comments were collected from experienced staff within the ITS Unit as well as from the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team, provided input on issues such as access points for emergency response vehicles. Day to day operations, device requirements and maintenance, as well as connectivity (physical and operations) between the concessionaire and the District were carefully defined within the section.

The ITS Unit was also part of the review process for the submitted proposals, to ensure the best team possible was awarded the project. Meetings have already commenced with the selected concessionaire and are set to occur each week through the duration of the project. By mid-spring there was a master plan review and the team was preparing for their move into the Broward Transportation Management Center (TMC).

The ITS Unit role is only a small part of the overall plan, but is critical to the success of 595 Express. "We are ahead of overall construction because we need to

(Continued on page 3)
SMART SUNGUIDE
TRIP CALCULATOR

The SMART SunGuide Web site has added a new feature allowing users to estimate the duration of their freeway travel in Broward County.

Located on the home page, the trip calculator provides information above and beyond travel times. Here’s how it works: A user creates a travel route based on I-95, I-595 and I-75 in the Broward County. Then, by clicking onto the trip calculator icon, the user further customizes the routes with days and times traveled. The trip calculator then uses 95th percentile travel times, meaning that 95 percent of the time, travel time should be equal to or less than the posted time.

“We’re excited to provide this additional service to our current personalized travel route feature. Now users have a personalized planning tool at their fingertips,” said Dong Chen, FDOT District Four ITS Program Manager. “We hope that our users find this useful when it comes to making decision on when to travel, especially for daily commuters in Broward County.”

This additional service will be available for Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties in the future. FDOT plans to incorporate even more options into their Web site, including adding the popular Twitter, in the near future.

SAVED TAX DOLLARS RESULT IN AWARDS RECOGNITION

Since 1989, the Davis Productivity Award program has publicly recognized and rewarded state employees and work units whose work significantly and measurably increases productivity and promotes innovation to improve the delivery of state services and save money for Florida taxpayers and businesses. Davis Productivity Awards were given to the following teams in the ITS program.

Intelligent Transportation System Deployment Team - Dong Chen, Dan Smith and Tony Mendoza
“Created Additional Communications Redundancy Through Resource Sharing”

Intelligent Transportation System Operations Team - Steve Corbin and Guy Francese
“Transferred FHP Motorist Calls to the TMC”

Intelligent Transportation System Maintenance Team - Tony Mendoza and Dong Chen
“Reduced Impact of Severe Weather Related Power Loss”

Intelligent Transportation System Deployment Team - Dong Chen and Dan Smith
“Value Engineered $1.2M Maintenance Cost Into Construction Project”

Intelligent Transportation System Deployment Team - Dong Chen and Dan Smith
“Reduced Proposal Stipend Payout by Combining Contracts”

QUICK TIP
If you want a quick look at an active incident in Broward or Palm Beach County...
1) go to www.SMARTSunGuide.com
2) Use the Traffic Incidents box in the upper left to scroll through active incidents.
3) Upon finding the incident of interest, look to the lower right of the Traffic Incidents box and click on VIEW DETAILS. An incident Detail View box will appear and allow you to see the closest camera, sign, incident, etc. You can customize this view by clicking on the device icons along the bottom of the Detail View box.
Our vision is to be the best TMC in the nation by 2010.

ITMS IS MOVING TO THE VISTA CENTER!

On April 1, 2009, FDOT District Four began a new contract for its TIM program. After five years as the TIM Consultant, AECOM (formerly DMJM Harris, Inc.) was pleased to be reselected as the District’s TIM Consultant. Gaetano “Guy” Francese, District Four Freeway Operations Manager, is the FDOT Project Manager for the 27 month project, which includes facilitating bi-monthly meetings for the Broward, Palm Beach and newly formed Treasure Coast TIM Teams. The Treasure Coast TIM Team is made up of the District’s northern three counties – Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River and will be run by the newest member to the TIM Consultant team – Charles “Chuck” McGinness, previously a transportation reporter with the Palm Beach Post.

TIM Team Meetings bring together freeway incident first responders as well as state and county stakeholders to exchange information on current traffic incident management practices ranging from responder safety to maintenance of traffic. For more information on the District Four TIM program or to view previous meeting minutes, please visit our Web site at www.SMARTSunGuide.com.

“...we need to be 100% ready on day one.”
TIM COORDINATOR VISITS NEW YORK

Mike McGee, the TIM Coordinator for FDOT District Four, recently traveled to Niagara Falls, New York and Ontario to attend the Niagara International Transportation and Technology Coalition (NITTEC) conference on Traffic Incident Management. The Niagara Falls region, like many at international borders, has to deal with border patrol and immigration issues during the course of moving traffic through checkpoints. As a result, the TIM Team not only has the local, county, state and provincial (Canada) law enforcement and fire rescue agencies, departments of transportation, and towing contractors; they also have national agencies dealing with customs, immigration, and national security.

By providing a network of inter-operable communication and cooperation, the NITTEC members effectively manage traffic not only on their side of the border, but also consider traffic conditions in the other country. Mike brought back valuable information to the TIM Team, including how to use OnStar vehicle programs and the 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook.

TIM Teams everywhere are working to provide safe and efficient highways by safely responding to incidents, effectively manage traffic using maintenance of traffic, warning signs, arrow boards, and dynamic message signs; treat the injured and remove vehicles from the roadway as safely and as quickly as possible; and to restore traffic to its normal flow.

Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) activations are expected to begin in the summer of 2009. There are currently five contracts with RISC vendors, which are listed below.

1. Severe Incident Recovery Team:
   - A Superior Towing
   - Emerald Towing
2. Open Roads Recovery Team:
   - Kauff’s Towing
   - Zucalla’s Towing
   - Sister’s Towing
   - Moss Towing
3. J&J Towing
4. Westway Towing
5. Tri-County Towing

For more information on the RISC program, contact Guy Francese at Gaetano.Francese@dot.state.fl.us

FHP AND FDOT PRE-HURRICANE WORKSHOP

On May 29th, the annual Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) pre-hurricane season workshop was hosted at the FHP Troop L Davie Headquarters. Representatives from FDOT Districts One and Four were present to discuss changes to both of the Districts’ Alligator Alley One-Way Evacuation Plans. Attendees were informed about the additional ITS devices recently added to I-75 and FHP Troop L’s new access to CCTV camera images, which allows them to monitor conditions on I-75 during an evacuation. For more information, please contact Guy Francese at Gaetano.Francese@dot.state.fl.us.

Traffic Incident Management is one of several successful proactive programs designed to assist our regional TMC’s with incident management and surface transportation-related activities throughout South Florida. Our mission is to develop recommendations that will provide a safe, efficient, and appropriate multi-agency response to traffic incidents through timely and accurate detection and verification. All public and private agencies are welcome to join including: law enforcement, emergency response, fire rescue, towing services, emergency medical services, hazardous material contractors, transportation, traffic information media, and public safety communications. To become a member of the TIM Team, please contact Guy Francese at Gaetano.Francese@dot.state.fl.us
SIRV IN ARIZONA

On March 25-26, 2009, Tom Dickson, Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV) Program Manager, gave a presentation on the benefits of the SIRV program at the 2009 National Conference on Planned & Unplanned Events in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference addressed non-recurring congestion and associated safety impacts as part of traffic incident management. Tom’s presentation was featured in a session titled “Large Scale Events” and focused on the SIRV program and the benefits, since its implementation in Broward County.

VISIOPaD™ DEPLOYMENT IN BROWARD

FDOT District Four recently enhanced the existing video-based Automatic Incident Detection (AID) system in Broward County, known as VisioPaD™, to include all 97 closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras covering I-95, I-595, and now, I-75. The VisioPaD™ system is integrated into the SunGuide advanced traffic management system providing SMART SunGuide TMC Operators real-time monitoring of traffic incidents with complete automated on-screen audible and visual alarms for incidents detected that are provided within seconds of the occurrence of an incident.

USING 511 IN NATURAL DISASTERS

When wildfires and other natural disasters threaten Florida, a free phone call to 511 provides travel information and roadway conditions. 511 is a valuable tool providing updated, local reports during wildfires.

511 features:
- Traffic information and commuter travel times on interstates and toll roads, including Florida’s Turnpike, and many other major roadways
- Road and bridge closures, toll suspensions, and major evacuation routes
- Cell phone or landline use
- Available 24/7
- Public safety alerts
- Traffic cameras and personalized services on www.FL511.com

Be Prepared! Know Before You Go!
Following these safety tips will make your travel safer:
1. Call 511 before you hit the road, at a rest area or have a passenger call to avoid talking while driving.
2. Call 511 before you enter a new roadway to become aware of the current road condition.
3. Drive slowly and turn on your lights in low visibility conditions.
4. Always wear a seat belt
NEW 511 SIGNS ON CAMERA POLES

FDOT District Four recently installed over 85 new 511 signs along I-75 and I-95 in Broward County. Unlike the existing post-mounted signs sprinkled throughout the county, these new signs have been installed on FDOT camera poles in order to educate motorists about the connection between the highway cameras and 511’s real-time travel information.

Next time you are traveling on the highway, see if you notice a lot more of these signs out there. And remember, tell friends to try 511 by calling or visiting www.southflorida511.com!