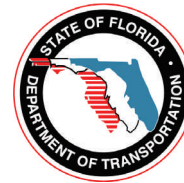




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# SMART MOVES

15th Edition

September 2008

## SMART SUNGUIDE WEB SITE HAS A FRESH NEW LOOK

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program has redesigned and re-launched its Web site - [www.SMARTSunGuide.com](http://www.SMARTSunGuide.com). The SMART SunGuide™ Web site has continuously provided Broward County highway traffic information to motorists with real-time information for I-95, I-595 and I-75. The new features include:

- Travel times
- Route Planning
- Interactive real-time traffic maps
- Color coded traffic speeds
- Detailed view for incidents

In the new format, all of these services work collectively not only as a tool for emergency response agencies, but also as a user-friendly tool for commuters.

The Web site is verified by the SMART SunGuide Transportation Management Center (TMC) and Palm Beach County Interim Traffic Management System (ITMS) before posting any information.

Users of the SMART SunGuide Web site will still have access to much of the great content that was previously there: performance measures, partner agency resources, and SMART Alerts. The new design repackages everything as well as adds new features in a way that is sure to provide each visitor with a more user-friendly browsing experience.

“We want to give our motorists as much decision making information as possible,” said Steve Corbin, FDOT District Four ITS Operations Manager. “Additionally, we feel that the new features will be valuable to the first responder agencies that we work with on a regular basis.”



The SMART SunGuide Web site has been re-launched with a fresh look and additional features.



View a selected incident by camera image, detail description and DMS signs.

For an e-copy of SMART Moves, visit [www.SMARTSunGuide.com](http://www.SMARTSunGuide.com)

## DISTRICT FOUR ITS DEPLOYMENT UPDATES

The *Broward County Phase II* deployment of ITS devices, which will cover 100% of Broward County's centerline miles of freeway (I-95, I-75 and I-595), is scheduled to be complete in September 2008.

There are three new ITS deployment projects in the early phases of construction; the *Broward County Advanced ITS*, the *Northern Three Counties (N3C) ITS Deployment* and the *Palm Beach County ITS Deployment*. Upon completion of these projects – January 2010, August 2010 and February 2013 respectively; 100% of FDOT District Four's freeway lane miles will be served by a fully integrated, state-of-the-art Intelligent Transportation System.

Check the next issue of SMART Moves for information on upcoming projects, including the *Broward County ITS Power Upgrade* and an innovative *I-75 (Alligator Alley) ITS Safety Project*.

## TIM TEAM ACKNOWLEDGES CHUCK McGINNESS

Chuck McGinness has been a part of the Traffic Incident Management Team (TIM) meetings for both Palm Beach and Broward Counties for the last nine years. In mid-August, Chuck retired from The Palm Beach Post. He wrote numerous articles regarding hot issues related to transportation that have impacted a lot of readers. He has brought attention to integral issues that even Central Office for FDOT in Tallahassee has recognized. Chuck received a certificate of commendation for his participation and dedication to the District Four Traffic Incident Management Team meetings. We wish him well in his future endeavors.



## CHANGES TO ROAD RANGER PROGRAM UNDERWAY

The FDOT District Four has recently made changes to Road Ranger patrol hours and services. There are fewer trucks on the road, limited weekday service, and restrictions on fuel distribution. Each FDOT District may experience different changes to their program.

FDOT District Four Road Rangers will continue to cover I-95, I-595 and I-75 in Broward County as well as I-95 in Palm Beach County; however, drivers can expect the following changes:

- In Palm Beach County: Road Rangers fleet was reduced from seven to five trucks. Hours will be 6 a.m. – 7 p.m., Monday to Friday.
- In Broward County: Road Rangers fleet will be reduced from twelve to ten trucks. I-75/Alligator Alley will be covered from the eastern toll plaza to Mile Marker 50 on an on-call basis. Hours will be 6 a.m.–7 p.m., Monday to Friday.
- Motorists will be asked to try starting their vehicle before receiving gas assistance. If gas is needed, Road Rangers will provide up to one gallon.

Analysis of historical data shows that 75% of motorist assists and 70% of crashes occur between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Road Rangers will offer motorist assistance, but will place emphasis on incident management. To offset the reduction in Road Ranger service hours, motorists are encouraged to be responsible for their fuel level and other vehicle maintenance.



Do You Know How to Ask for Road Ranger Service Patrol Assistance?  
**Dial \*FHP (\*347)**  
from any cell phone

## NEW TO DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGNS: LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (LEO) ALERTS



In recent months, the law enforcement community nationwide has experienced an increase in officers being killed or seriously injured. This past year, 181 officers were tragically killed in the line of duty. Over 1,600 officers have been killed in the line of duty during the past 10 years. Many of the criminals in these cases have used motor vehicles to flee the scene. With these tragedies in mind, a procedure needed to be developed that would allow local agencies to use the FDOT's Dynamic Messaging Signs (DMS) to alert motorists to critical vehicle description information, including license plates, as they use Florida's Turnpike and other state

highways. Using the Amber Alert model, which has been very successful throughout the country, the Florida Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Alert Plan was created.

On May 5, 2008, Governor Charlie Crist signed an executive order creating the Florida LEO Alert Plan. This order now authorizes the use of the messaging signs to be utilized for specific cases when an officer is killed or seriously wounded. The order directs FDOT and the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) to coordinate with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) in broadcasting information via the signs.

If the offender is not apprehended immediately, that person could pose a significant risk to the public. Therefore, it is important to be able to provide this important information to the general public as quickly as possible via FDOT's highway Dynamic Message Signs and other highway advisory methods. In the event the offender(s) is seen or if anyone has knowledge on the identity of the offender(s), that information can be provided immediately to the investigating law enforcement agency. The Florida LEO ALERT plan can assist in dramatically increasing the chances of capturing the offender(s) rapidly before he or she can leave the State of Florida.

More information is available on-line at: <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/publications/LEOAlertFINAL3.pdf>

Source: Public Agency Training Council (<http://www.patc.com/weeklyarticles/highway-message-signs.shtml>)

## 511 CALL COUNT AFFECTED BY RECENT HIGH FUEL PRICES

Rising gas prices that soared above the \$4.00 mark in June had a marked effect on 511 usage in South Florida. Call counts for the service dipped to their lowest point in five years. Interestingly, the percentage of cell phone users also fell sharply during June. As the gas prices went down again in July, 511 calls increased to a more typical level of 149,000 — a jump of roughly 7%.

Meanwhile, the development efforts for a second generation 511 for South Florida drivers continued at full speed. The updated 511 will be part of Florida's new Statewide 511 System.

Source: SmartRoute Systems



For real-time traffic  
information visit  
[www.511southflorida.com](http://www.511southflorida.com).

*“Our vision is to be the best TMC in the nation by 2010.”*

## ROAD RANGER AND SEVERE INCIDENT RESPONSE VEHICLE UPGRADE TO TOUCH-TABLET TECHNOLOGY

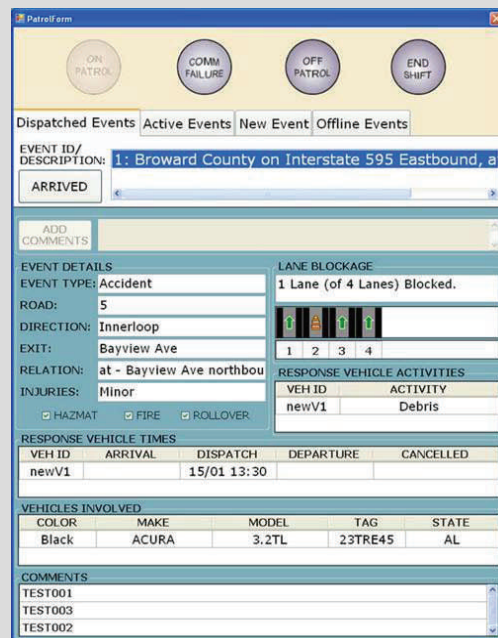
The FDOT District Four's Road Ranger (RR) Service Patrol and Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV) Team programs will be aided by a software application that will be run on field hardened tablet or laptop personal computers, permanently or temporarily installed in their vehicles.

The primary purpose of the Road Ranger Mobile Application (RRMA) and Severe Incident Response Vehicle Mobile Application (SIRV-MA), developed by IBI Group, is to provide drivers with near real-time traffic event data. It also provides Transportation Management Center (TMC) operators and supervisors with a means of more efficiently managing, dispatching and tracking the fleet.

- The RRMA and SIRV-MA will help keep the focus on serving the motorist and other responding agencies, minimizing data entry and ensuring data accuracy.
- Individual vehicles can be dispatched to a particular event; the application will be used to accurately record site arrival and departure times, and to transmit that data back to the TMC through SunGuide™ – the Department's Advanced Traffic Management Software.
- Both mobile applications will periodically report GPS position data. The in-vehicle laptop or tablet PC will be equipped with a GPS receiver and wireless communication (GPRS) card.
- In the event of a communication (phone/radio or network) failure, the application will allow drivers to record and store event data locally. All SunGuide event management configuration data (required to enter an event) is uploaded to the mobile application, allowing RR and SIRV operators to access the same event data selections as operators at the TMC. The RR and SIRV operators must select a valid location from the drop-lists provided. Once a valid location is selected, a lane pattern for that location will be displayed and the RR and SIRV operators can identify any blocked lanes if relevant. The RR and SIRV operators may also record the event type, any activities performed as part of the event, include any vehicles involved in the incident and add any relevant comments.
- In addition to responding to severe incidents, the SIRV team is also tasked with inspecting the RR fleet, completing detailed incident reports and monitoring their vehicle's inventory. To support these additional responsibilities, the SIRV-MA provides the SIRV team with electronic forms that can be filled out on-site and directly transmitted to the TMC.
- These applications will allow TMC managers to gather more accurate data, provide additional metrics and to further their means of quantitatively assessing programs that continue to reduce delay and improve safety for the motoring public.



*Road Ranger Tablet*



*Road Ranger Mobile Application*

Is there something that you would like to see featured in SMART Moves?  
Interested in joining the e-mail distribution list?  
Contact Sarah Stanley at 954-847-2697 or [ssstanley@smartsunguide.com](mailto:ssstanley@smartsunguide.com)