

Meeting Date: 01/05/05
Meeting Time: 1:30 pm
Location: FHP Troop L, 14190 SR 84, Davie, Florida

Call Meeting to Order

Charles Robbins of DMJM+HARRIS, called the meeting to order and self-introductions for all attendees followed. Mr. Robbins allotted time for the group to review the minutes dated 11/03/04. No comments on the previous meeting minutes.

Other TIM Issues

Mr. Robbins introduced Tom Dickson the Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV) Operator, who gave the TIM Members an update on the SIRV Program. The vehicle was available for display outside of the meeting facility. Mr. Dickson encouraged all members to take a look at the vehicle and provide input.

The Standard Operating Guidelines for the vehicle are being written and will become a living document and updated throughout the pilot program. The vehicle was established in order to consistently strengthen incident management on I-95, I-75, and I-595. Additional duties to be accomplished within the SIRV Program will be to serve as an oversight for Road Ranger activities, facilitate incident debriefings, and support TIM Meetings.

Tom was wearing the standard uniform to be worn by all SIRV Operators. Once there are additional SIRV Operators hired, they can be contacted via their mobile phones. In the meantime the TMC is the main point of contact.

The vehicle is on stand by and available for dispatch 24/7. It will be the TMC's responsibility to dispatch the SIRV Operator when needed. Once dispatched, the initial point of contact for the SIRV Operator will be the Road Rangers on scene. DOT Maintenance will subsequently be notified for additional MOT once lane closures exceed three hours or a fuel spill involved or damaged to the infrastructure.

The vehicle is equipped with 100 cones, flares, turbo flares amongst other types of equipment. In addition, radios will be available for distribution to on scene commanders. One of the goals is to replace Road Ranger presence with MOT whenever possible. This will enable the Road Rangers to continue to provide motorist assistance elsewhere when needed.

Tom requested the full cooperation from all agencies during the data collection process. The data collected will play a vital role in the program evaluation. Amongst other things, Tom will be contacting agencies to conduct debriefings. He will then make the minutes available to the agencies involved. Tom is also currently conducting Road Ranger Inspections to ensure required equipment and training is being implemented. He will also be auditing the Road Ranger books.

Guy Francese from the FDOT D-4 explained that Tom will have a comprehensive agency contact list. He will be the official contact person on scene.

Mr. Robbins introduced Guy Francese from the Florida Department of Transportation who gave an overview of the Statewide Traffic Incident Management Meeting that was part of the Transpo2004 in Jacksonville.

Mr. Francese stated he attended most of the Incident Management Sessions. There were presentations on Best practices for Incident Management in Florida, Incident Management Hero Program in Georgia, and Incident Management Programs in Athens Greece. One of the presentations was titled "ITS Yes it Can Help" which included the turnpike program called "Eye in the Sky". Mr. Francese displayed a brochure with details

of the program. This program entails a remote CCTV van similar to a news crew van with a 45-foot telescope that feeds live images to the TMC. It can be compared to a mobile TMC.

Other presentations were regarding the service patrols. Presentations included the Road Ranger Program, Georgia Hero Program, and the California Freeway Service Patrol Program. The SIRV and the HERO vehicle were on display. Our SIRV Vehicle was designed based on the Washington State Incident Response Vehicle.

Caltran developed a Prediction Model on how they deploy their service patrols. When the original Road Ranger beats were set up it was based on what FHP had for their beats. This CALTRAN Prediction Model takes into consideration variables such as traffic volume and accidents. In turn, this gives a better idea of how best to deploy service patrols. They will be sending us a copy of their software.

They also developed benefit cost ratios for all of their ten service patrol programs. We will be considering including benefit cost ratios into our performance measures as it will be a good tool in order to expand the program into other counties such as Martin, Indian River, and St. Lucie Counties.

There was a standard tractor-trailer vehicle rollover demonstration. One of the main lessons learned was the importance of keeping the structural integrity of the trailer by not opening any doors if the trailer is on it's side. Losing the structural integrity would compromise the efforts to upright it.

In conclusion, Mr. Francese presented a Traffic Incident Management Outstanding Achievement Award that was presented at Transpo2004 for the FDOT District Four TIM Team, which includes Palm Beach and Broward County. Some of the contributing factors for winning the award were the development of the Palm Beach Incident Response Manual and the ID Signs.

Steven Corbin from D-4 FDOT SunGuide TMC gave an overview of the current FDOT Projects. There will be 45 cameras installed throughout I-95 and I-595 by the end of June 2005. This will provide for real-time video feeds of accidents, which in turn will improve and enhance the response.

On other issues, Mr. Corbin informed the TIM Members regarding the Regional TMC Operations Committee that meets on a monthly basis. Some of the agencies involved are the Turnpike, ITMS, and Palm Beach District 6. The committee completed the Regional SOG's. Goal is to create regional methods of how to mitigate severe incidents.

Mr. Corbin announced the Broward County SunGuide TMC Service Awards that will be presented at the SunGuide TMC on January 19, 2005 at 11:30am. The Traffic Incident Management Award is being presented to Sean Loscalzo from Superior Towing for participation and leadership. Steve referenced a rollover incident that occurred in 2004 in which Sean carried out the policies being established in the TIM Meetings. He pointed Sean had a great impact on eliminating two and a half miles of congestion within a half hour. His decision to drag the tractor-trailer two lanes resulted in the immediate opening of 2 lanes within 10-15 minutes.

All members interested in participating in the awards ceremony were encouraged to contact Mohary Irizarry from DMJMHARRIS in order to receive an invitation and directions. Other awards being presented include the ITS Operations Award, Road Ranger Award, and the Road Watcher Award. The Road Watcher Program consists of FDOT employees that alert the TMC of disabled vehicles and or accidents while to and from work. This program has been in effect since 2003. Since then, there have been a total of 18 reported live lane events. Mr. Corbin explained that when quantified that translates into a savings of over a million dollars.

Ted Smith from PB Farradyne announced that the Statewide TIM Team has experienced some changes. Mike Akridge is now the fulltime Statewide TIM Team Director, and there is also a consultant team. The Statewide TIM Team is using the same working groups used in our Broward TIM Meetings and are looking for new ideas.

Mr. Smith stated the Strategic plan is 95% complete and is going through internal review with FDOT. There is also a Business Plan being developed that outlines how DOT is going to proceed with the strategic plan, to include funding sources, a timetable and a calendar of events.

Specifically, the Clearance Committee is addressing the issue of rewriting the state wrecker location. Florida Highway Patrol has been directed by the legislature to put together rules for using wreckers. The goal is to develop a new set or revise a set of recommendations for the wrecker allocation system and make recommendation to FHP Col Knight for review. This does not have to go back to the legislature as they have already directed FHP to develop the rules however; we are working with them. Today, the professional wrecker operators of Florida produced a draft of the equipment specifications. The industry is working hand in hand with FHP. The clearance team has a new chairman. Capt. John Roberts was selected as the State Chairman of the clearance committee. All members interested in attending the next Statewide TIM Meeting it will be held on March 2005 in Orlando.

Capt. Roberts expressed the need for support from local TIM Teams. He explained that there are a lot of other initiatives and agendas besides revamping the rules for the use of wreckers. One of the other initiatives while trying to improve operations is obtaining funding for additional troopers for alligator alley. Capt. Roberts took the opportunity to thank Broward Sheriffs Office for assisting with incidents.

The committee is looking for more creative ways for funding. One way, similar to the turnpike, would be for motorist that use alligator alley to pay for the additional troops through tolls.

Capt Roberts clarified that funds from alligator alley are collected by the turnpike and are used for resurfacing and road maintenance.

Mr. Robbins asked if there was Cost Proposals for this effort? John Sparks stated that it is approximately less than a million for the first year for cars and equipment for both districts and 750,000 per year for following years. The cost estimate is for 9 troopers in Collier and 5 troopers in Broward.

Guy stated that he has mentioned it to Mark Plass in traffic operations. He has relayed the information to Jim Wolfe who is the director of DOT Operations. The main question Mark Plass has is whether the Toll monies will be able to be used.

Toll monies being collected by the turnpike should legally be used for maintenance and operation of the roadway. Adequate number of troopers or law enforcement assets on that highway is an operational issue. This was done in Orlando last year. FDOT and FHWA funded 21 troopers to work on I-4 in Orlando. We know that it can be done, it's just a matter of whether south Florida will take advantage of this opportunity instead of using highway motor vehicle taxes.

Mr. Corbin asked regarding the cents per mile charged at Alligator Alley versus the Turnpike. Mr. Sparks stated 3.5 million motorists travel Alligator Alley yearly and there is a 2 cent charge per mile. The turnpike charges 8 cents per mile. Mr. Corbin suggested the initiation of an increase in toll as there is such a large discrepancy in per mile charge.

The reason for the difference in charge is that the Alley uses Federal State funding and allocates the funds for maintenance and operations, whereas the turnpike is using bonds as their funding source. The tax monies are being used to pay off bonds to a private entity. Ted Smith ensured this issue is being discussed at the Statewide level.

In addition, Steve Corbin announced District 1 and District 4 ITS Deployment projects have started or will start shortly to equip the alley with cameras, detectors and some signs that will assist with emergency response.

Guy Francese asked for the status of a Fire Station on the Alley. Ted Smith stated it will be located between mile markers 34-38. There is an ongoing effort for mutual aid on the highway patrol side. The problem that Collier County is facing is with emergency response from Fire Rescue and EMS. There is a little Fire Station 21 miles south of I-75 on State Rd 29 responds to Mile post 50 which is the county line. This is a volunteer department that has very antiquated equipment. The average response time is an hour. 70% percent of the incidents are high speed, rollover, ejection type incidents, which explains the level of severity. There are negotiations being taken place with the Broward Chief who is willing to sign a mutual aid agreement, and has given a commitment. The Broward County Fire Rescue is putting up a station at the new Broward County Rest area. They will be starting with an office type trailer and maybe one truck. Eventually there will be a substation on the alley. The public doesn't understand jurisdictional issues therefore; the mutual aid agreements should be seamless.

Working Groups Updates

The TIM Members then worked on different action items within their working groups.

Clearance Team

-Action Item: Review the Palm Beach Response Manual Draft for the purposes of deciding whether Broward should use the same format.

Dennis Van Haitsma from the Broward County Sheriffs Office suggested that the Broward Manual be sorted by agency versus by topic. The group agreed to use this more user-friendly approach when formatting the Broward Manual.

Tom Dickson stated the SIRV Operations would have to be included into the Broward Manual.

Sean Loscalzo suggested that under "On scene staging" the towing operator shouldn't position the truck behind the scene as stated in the manual. The truck should be in front so that it can be backed up into the incident once needed. The towing truck should not be used as MOT.

David Ferranti asked that the section on the Fire Department be revisited to include HAZMAT as a primary response element being that the Fire Department has four major HAZMAT Teams in Broward. He also suggested that there be guidelines for the cooperation between the Fire Department and Towing during major incidents. He explained that towing is often used for there hydraulics for rescue missions. There should also be specific language when dispatching that differentiates a regular response for towing versus an emergency response for rescue.

Mr. Robbins stated that there will be time allotted in future meetings to allow discussion regarding the Broward Incident Response Manual.

Communications/Training Team

-Action Item: Develop multi-agency and or tabletop exercises.

Guy Francese stated the group decided to develop tabletop exercises similar to what the turnpike does during hurricanes. An actual incident would be used while ensuring all agencies are represented. The use of the Road Ranger Training Module was suggested. An MOT Certified Trainer reviewed the module. He took the Roadway Standards and broke them down to the level of how it relates to the Road Rangers.

Mr. Robbins suggested that the team start with the incident used for the Post Incident Assessment held in the Hollywood Fire Station in August 2004.

Detection and Verification Team

-Action Item: Highlight Shared Response on the Highways

Thomas Miller from DMJM HARRIS stated that while reviewing maps of I-595 the group acknowledged the need to identify Emergency Vehicle Turnaround points on I-595 due the complexity involved in turning an emergency vehicle around on I-595.

The group also identified the need for TMC Personnel to make contact with all emergency dispatch points within Broward County to inform them they can contact the TMC's directly versus going through FHP or other agencies. This will eliminate unnecessary dispatch.

Broward TIM Meeting 01-05-05

County	Last Name	First Name	Agency	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Fax	E-mail
Broward	Berg	Gwen	FDOT - Turnpike							
Broward	Chung	Derrick	FDOT Ft. Lauderdale Maintenance			FL		(954) 448-2928		derrick.chung@dot.state.fl.us
Broward	Corbin	Steve	FDOT - Traffic Operations	3400 W. Commercial Blvd.	Ft. Lauderdale	FL	33309	(954) 777-4361	(954) 777-4498	steven.corbin@dot.state.fl.us
Broward	Cosme	Gerardo	DMJM+HARRIS	1100 Park Central Blvd. South, Ste 1800	Pompano Beach	FL	33064	(954) 972-0895	(954) 590-3593	gerardo.cosme@dmjmharris.com
Broward	Dalton	Colleen	FDOT - Turnpike Enterprise	P.O. Box 9828	Pompano Beach	FL	33310	(954) 975-4855	(954) 321-5538	cdleen.dalton@dot.state.fl.us
Broward	Dickson	Tom	DMJM+HARRIS SIRV Operator	2300 W. Commerical Blvd.	Fort Lauderdale	FL	33309	(954) 847-2785	(954) 847-2683	tom.dickson@dmjmharris.com
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Broward	Ferranti	Jim	Davie Fire Dept.	6905 SW 45th Street	Davie	FL	33314			james_ferranti@davie.fl.gov
Broward	Francese	Guy	FDOT - 4	3400 W. Commercial Blvd.	Ft. Lauderdale	FL	33309	(954) 777-4366	(954) 777-4398	gaetano.francese@dot.state.fl.us
Broward	Irizarry	Mohary	DMJM+HARRIS	1100 Park Central Blvd. South, Ste 1800	Pompano Beach	FL	33064	(954) 972-0895	(954) 590-3593	mohary.irizarry@dmjmharris.com
Broward	Jones Jr.	Roger	FDOT - Operations	4558 NW 9th Ave.	Ft. Lauderdale	FL	33309			
Broward	Loscalzo	Sean	C.I.R.T. Superior Towing	2385 SW 66 Terr.	Davie	FL	33317	(954) 424-8781	(954) 370-7276	asuperior@aol.com
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Broward	Ramos	Maggie	Sunshine Towing	2950 SW 71st Avenue	Miami	FL	33155	(305) 218-7913	(954) 797-8608	sunshinebroward@cs.com
Broward	Roberts	Captain John	FHP	14190 SR 84	Davie	FL		(954) 845-6014	(954) 845-6015	roberts.j@fhp.hsmv.state.fl.us
Broward	Robbins	Charles	DMJM+HARRIS	1100 Park Central Blvd. South, Ste 1800	Pompano Beach	FL	33064	(954) 972-0895	(954) 590-3593	charles.robbins@dmjmharris.com
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Broward	Van Haitsma	Dennis	Broward Co. Sheriff's Office - District 11	100 SW 3rd St.	Pompano Bch	FL	33061	(954) 786-4305	(954) 786-2105	dennis_vanhaitsma@sheriff.org
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