

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team

TIM Meeting Minutes August 2008



Meeting Date: August 5, 2008

Meeting Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Palm Beach County Vista Center
2300 N. Jog Rd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Attendees: Listing Attached

Call Meeting to Order

Bob Murphy of DMJM Harris called the meeting to order. Introductions immediately followed.

Distributed Documents:

- Agenda
- June meeting minutes
- I-95 Construction Notices
- Post Incident Analysis Handout

Road Ranger Program Status – Guy Francese

Guy informed the group that the press release will be sent out very soon regarding the changes to the Road Ranger program. The changes will be Monday through Friday 6am – 7pm. No nights or weekends. Palm Beach takes effect August 30, 2008 at midnight. Broward will take effect October 1, 2008. There has been a proposal from a potential sponsor. Tallahassee has made changes to the acceptance process and there are delays on accepting the sponsor. Palm Beach will go from 7 trucks to 5 trucks.

District VI started their program change on August 1. To keep the 24/7 coverage they reduced the number of vehicles they had and do not cover I-75 in Miami. Road Rangers in District VI also stopped carrying gas and no longer provide fuel as a free service. The Road Rangers also remain stationary on off peak hours.

Guy also informed the group that they met with Lake Worth Regional Communications to discuss how dispatching would work. The phone system will be updated to reflect the Road Ranger changes to inform motorists.

RISC Program Update – Guy Francese

The advertisement for the RISC contract will be released before the end of August. There have been delays due to other higher priority projects. Tallahassee is giving the districts flexibility on how to run the RISC contract. It is going to be more district friendly. This contract will be an open contract for 3 years and will allow any contractor to join.

Jim Jennings from Emerald Towing asked if RISC contractors can be used for MOT for non RISC calls when there are no Road Rangers after 7pm. Guy will look into this question.

I-95 Construction Update – Meredith Rapp & Alicia DeFago

- Project 3: I-95 HOV Expansion - 10th Avenue North to South of Southern Boulevard, (SR80)
Completed!!!! Final accepted by Department on June 25, 2008
- Project 5: I-95 HOV Expansion - North of Southern Boulevard (SR80) to North of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard
Australian Ave., Congress Ave., and Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. Bridge construction continues
Expected Completion Date: August 2009
- Project 6: I-95 HOV Expansion - North of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard to North of Blue Heron Boulevard Median and HOV Lane Paving Operations Continue Expected Completion Date:
September 2008

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I-95 Northern HOV Expansion:

This June, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 4 Palm Beach Operations, will begin the I-95 Expansion Projects between PGA Boulevard in Palm Beach Gardens and Indiantown Road in the Town of Jupiter. This work consists of three separate projects including:

- SR 9A / I-95 from PGA Boulevard to Donald Ross Road
- SR 9A / I-95 from Donald Ross Road to Indiantown Road
- SR 706 / Indiantown Road from the Florida Turnpike to Chasewood Plaza.

These projects are the last of several designed to ease congestion and improve mobility along the I-95 corridor in Palm Beach County. Work includes widening I-95 from six to 10 lanes; the addition of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes in each direction; new drainage, lighting, signs, traffic signals and modifications to the existing I-95 on and off ramps.

The anticipated construction schedule for these projects is as follows: *(Please note that this schedule is tentative and might change because of bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances.)* Project One – Indiantown Road between the Florida Turnpike and Chasewood Plaza began on June 16 and will last approximately seven months.

Project Two – I-95 from Donald Ross Road to Indiantown Road will begin this summer and end in winter 2011.

Project Three – I-95 from PGA Boulevard to Donald Ross Road will begin this fall and end by spring 2012. In order to complete this work safely, it will be necessary to close travel lanes at various times and locations. A detailed Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan will be implemented to minimize impacts to motorists, residents and businesses. ***Please use caution when traveling through the various work zones.***

Electronic Message Boards will provide advanced notification of major lane closures, traffic shifts and ramp closures. Motorists are encouraged to visit the project Web site: www.pbfdot.com/95Expansion for the latest lane closure information or call **511** before they drive to get current travel conditions.

For more Information, please contact Alicia De Fago, Public Information Specialist, at 561-718-4709 or via email 95info@pbfdot.com. You may also visit the public information field office, located at 11641 Kew Gardens Avenue, Suite 101, in Palm Beach Gardens. The office is open Monday through Friday, from 8a.m. until 5 p.m.

Southeast Florida Regional Traffic Operations Committee (SEFRTOC) – Bob Murphy

Currently working with BSO and PBSO on LEO alerts used to assist in finding suspects involved in police shootings. Criteria needed to have a LEO alert is a vehicle description and tag number. The information is then displayed on the dynamic message signs (DMS).

Every month there is a Quality Assurance Quality Control (QAQC) process done on the 511 system that disseminates traffic information to the motoring public. The accuracy is nearly 100%. Helena white of PB ITMS is researching the yearly trends on the data the TMC uses.

Travel times have started on I-595 and the plan for I-95 in Broward and Miami-Dade County will soon start.

Tribute to Chuck McGinness – Guy Francese, Bob Murphy, Mike McGee

Chuck has been a part of the TIM team meetings since 1999. His last day with the Palm Beach Post will be August 14, 2008. He has written many articles that have impacted the transportation world and has even written articles that received attention from Tallahassee to help issues here in South Florida. We wish Chuck good luck in his future endeavors.

511 Traveler Information – Mike Millard

Mike reported to the team that June 2008 was the worse call count in 5 years. The calls were down 139,000. The drop began in May 2008. In the month of July the calls increased 10,000 calls to 149,000. Multiple factors are contributed to the low count such as high gas prices, which causes fewer drivers on the roadways.

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Post Incident Analysis (PIA) – Helena White

On June 6, 2008 at approximately 7:06pm incident 520248 occurred on I-95 SB beyond Congress Avenue. This was a head on collision that involved five vehicles and 1 fatality. This incident lasted about 3 ½ - 4 hours with full lane closures. On evening shifts in Palm Beach there are 5 Road Rangers, this incident had 4 of the 5 Road Rangers for the remainder of the full incident. FDOT Maintenance was notified but there was no response made by FDOT Maintenance.

Training Safety Tip: Additional Vehicle Staging – Mike McGee

This is a new tip that is going to be a 5 minute discussion every meeting to make a proactive stance of more training at TIM team meetings.

Mike asked the team if anyone knows of Fire or Police that have policies in place about vehicle staging at scenes. The photograph used for this exercise was the plane crash that happened in September of 2007 on I-95 SB at Commercial Blvd. The picture depicts close to 20 pieces of fire equipment piled together in a circle at the scene.

Mike O’Niel from Boca Raton Fire Rescue stated that Mike McGee can get in contact with the County Training Officer to retrieve this information.

Other Issues – Mike McGee

- FHWA TIM Self Assessment – Submitted results to FHWA. The scores for both counties increased positively.
- Location Reference Markers (LRM) Update – Guy stated that the contract has been extended to DMJM Harris and showed a sample of what the sign will look like. The markers will be placed every 2 tenths of a mile. Guy mentioned that the City of Sunrise requested ramp id’s be made for the interstates to help understand where accidents are when units respond. Guy is currently looking into this issue.
- TIM MOU Update – For Palm Beach County we are at 90%. There are still two outstanding agencies waiting for signatures.

Action Items:

- Mike O’Niel to give Mike McGee information for the County training officers for vehicle staging policies.
- Guy to look into having RISC contractors respond to non RISC calls to be used for MOT after 7pm when the Road Ranger program changes take effect.

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<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Barbato	Dan	Target Engineering
Burrie	Scott	FDOT PB Operations
Churchill	John	Palm Beach Sheriffs Office
De La Cruz	Aridias	PB Road Ranger Supervisor
DeFago	Alicia	QCA / PIO I-95 Expansion
Dickson	Thomas	Broward SIRV
Dovey	Bob	PBC Commissioners Office
Hardley	Kurt	FHP Troop L
Jennings	Jim	Emerald Towing
Landgraf	Greg	TBE Group
Main	Jeff	Palm Beach Gardens Police Department
Millard	Mike	511 SRS
Mindick	Josh	Boca Raton Police Department
Needham	David	District 4 Broward TMC
O'Niel	Mike	Boca Raton Fire Rescue
Ortiz	Luis	PB ITMS
Ross	Patrick	West Palm Beach Police Department
Rapp	Meredith	TCG/I-95 Mobility
Toth	Kevin	PB ITMS
White	Helena	PB ITMS