

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team

TIM Meeting Minutes December 2008



Meeting Date: December 2, 2008
Meeting Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Location: Palm Beach County Vista Center
2300 N. Jog Rd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Attendees: Listing Attached

Call Meeting to Order

Mike McGee of DMJM Harris/AECOM called the meeting to order. Introductions of all TIM members immediately followed.

Distributed Documents:

- Agenda
- October meeting minutes
- I-95 HOV Expansion Projects Handout
- High Visibility Safety Apparel Handout
- Post Incident Analysis Handout
- I-95 3D Interactive Training Slideshow Handout

Review Action Items/Previous Meeting Minutes – Mike McGee

Lightning Safety handout will be attached to the meeting minutes.

Mike asked everyone to review the minutes for any corrections.

I-95 Mobility 2000 Construction Update – Meredith Rapp

- I-95 from Southern Blvd. to North of Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. - Project is completed. Bridge construction continues at Australian Ave., Congress Ave., and Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. The "Belvedere Dip" repairs will be made to the Northbound inside lane, and are scheduled to take place in January 2009.
- I-95 from North of Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. to PGA - Project is completed. All lanes are now open. Contractor currently working on final punch list items.

Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Program Update – Guy Francese

Guy updated the team on the status of the RISC program. An advertisement for RISC was sent out and four responses were received. All four proposals were deemed to be responsive and inspections for equipment and facilities were conducted and passed for each proposer. The next step will be negotiations with the contractors after which the contract awards will be posted. RISC activation dates have not been set up as of now because Guy is waiting on FDOT Central Office to set up training which will be available to all FHP troops statewide. Guy stated that if training is not set up by FDOT Central Office soon, then he would set a date for RISC activation to begin and allow participating agencies to learn as they go. The training will be more effective then since there has already been some experience in the field and participants know what to expect.

Road Ranger Update – Guy Francese

Guy is in negotiations with a sponsor and is close to getting an agreement signed. In January, he will submit paperwork to fund Treasure Coast Road Rangers. The funding is scheduled to be available by July. Eight Road Rangers are planned to be on duty from the Palm Beach County line up to the Brevard County line.

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Southeast Florida Regional Traffic Operations Committee (SEFRTOC) – Dee McTague

FDOT is working to shorten Silver Alert messages and Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to start having Silver Alerts on a regional basis before going statewide.

I-95 Express lane tolling from Northbound SR 112 to Golden Glades is scheduled to begin December 5, 2008. A new Incident Response Vehicle (IRV) pilot program, similar to the SIRV program in Broward, has been started. In addition, a flatbed tow truck has been added to the Road Ranger fleet to perform quick removal in the express lanes. It will be available from noon to 8pm weekdays.

The Statewide 511 system will be scheduled to launch in the first quarter of 2009.

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Joint Operating Policy – Mike McGee

DMJM Harris/AECOM has proposed to conduct a study to develop a master Joint Operating Policy (JOP) for District Four. Mike McGee sent out a notice to the department heads of all the police and fire departments. Copies of their current policies are being requested. These policies include all traffic incident management, highway safety procedures, and incident response policies. The purpose of this JOP is to determine what agencies are lacking in fundamental traffic incident management policies. This will also insure coordination, communication, and cooperation among incident responders by making sure all policies are consistent. One agency has responded so far and other agencies are requested to do so.

Gregg Letts added his experience at the recent ITS World Congress in New York. He moderated a session on Traffic Incident Management. He explained that one of the speakers had been on the board for the I-95 Corridor Coalition. The Coalition will adopt an Incident Command Handbook based on the National Unified Goal (NUG).

Mike Millard wanted to know whether the policy would be made as recommendations or mandatory. Mike McGee made it clear that the policy would not serve as a mandatory document, but more as a standard for all agencies to update their procedures from. The main purpose is to make sure that the policies of the various agencies regarding Traffic Incident Management are consistent.

For more information please contact Mike McGee at (954) 847-2634 or mmcgee@smartsunguide.com.

Toys in the Sun Run in Broward County – Mike McGee

The event will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2008 beginning at 10 am. The parade starts lining up at the Isle of Capri at 7am. The bikes will begin pulling out at 9:45am. The roads will be closed for the parade from 10am until approximately 1pm. There will be DMS signing in Palm Beach County to give advance notice of closure. Helena White gave a report of past success in Palm Beach County with real-time DMS updates throughout the event, notifying motorists as lanes become available.

Incident Management 3D Virtual Training – Guy Francese

The 3D Virtual training was updated (Progress Update No. 2) and debuted at ITS World Congress during Interactive Session Four. It is an interactive role playing virtual training tool developed by the I-95 Corridor Coalition. The updates included a complete over-haul of the interface with an emphasis on ease-of-use. Over 75% of the Vehicle Intelligence has been completed. In other words, the vehicles in the simulation will be aware of other vehicles, users, and obstructions in the road. Other assets such as customized tools for various responder types, and tools for traffic management, have been added. Future development will include additional custom assets, more artificial intelligence, and night-time scenes. The new interface is very user-friendly and will allow multiple individuals to train within their own office and interact with other users.

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ITS America Report – Gregg Letts



Gregg was moderator for a presentation by the I-95 Corridor Coalition. Four speakers from around the world spoke on topics ranging from new software technology to the ITS Coalition. There were multiple expositions demonstrating new software and technology. There was a demonstration of the new Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (Vii) vehicle detection system that allows a vehicle to use sensors to detect other cars. The purpose is to make driving nearly effortless by allowing the vehicle to determine the correct speed and distance between each vehicle. There was also a demonstration of vehicles equipped with breathalyzers that prevents the vehicle from starting if the blood alcohol level is above the limit. A picture slideshow was also presented showing photos of the presentation and other event photos.

Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV) Team Update – Mike McGee

SIRV Operator Ralph Etienne left Broward to work with Miami MDX to operate the startup IRV pilot program. The Broward SIRV team welcomed a new SIRV Operator, Michael Warren. He will be present to introduce himself at a future meeting. Guy also indicated a SIRV team is scheduled for Palm Beach County within the next two years.

Treasure Coast TIM Coordinator – Guy Francese

A new contract has been awarded to DMJM Harris/AECOM for Traffic Incident Management, to include the Treasure Coast TIM Team. With that said, there was a need for a Treasure Coast TIM Coordinator who would facilitate meetings and RISC activation. The position may be stationed in Fort Pierce at the Treasure Coast TIM Support Office. Chuck McGinness, former writer for the Palm Beach Post, was chosen to be the new Treasure Coast TIM Coordinator.

Post Incident Analysis (PIA) – Helena White

Incident #: 554336 October 14, 2008 3:21 AM – I-95 Southbound exit to Indiantown Road. Tractor Trailer Crash

A freightliner tractor trailer southbound on I-95, lost control and jackknifed blocking one travel lane just south of Indian Town Rd. The Griffith Trucking trailer was hauling dry goods at the time of the incident. The jackknifed tractor trailer spilled approximately 100 gallons of diesel fuel on the shoulder and into the swale/drainage area of the incident.

FHP, PBSO, FDOT Maintenance, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, and Kauff's towing were among the several agencies that responded and assisted on scene. Cliff Berry (cleaning company) was contracted for the cleanup efforts.

The duration of the incident was just under 3 hours (2hrs 43mins). There was no congestion queue for this event. There were no secondary accidents caused by this incident.

Open Discussion

Mike Scheidt (had to leave early) – A question has been raised in previous meetings regarding RISC contractors being able to respond and provide MOT in low populated areas. This request was made due to a reduction in Road Ranger service patrol hours. It was suggested that RISC contractors who carry MOT support equipment can be on call for such responses. Guy asked Central Office if this was feasible. The response from Central Office was that there is FDOT Maintenance staff available to provide that support. They are not subject to time cost, plus there is a response bonus. Also, there are Asset Maintenance Contractors that are already paid to provide that service and here in District 4 there is SIRV. The RISC contract is for vehicle clearance only. The MOT resources are included in the RISC contract to expedite the clearance of the incident so that the RISC vendor doesn't have to wait on a secondary vendor.

Guy Francese – There was an article presented on the reduction of truck crashes. This was attributed to a campaign by FDOT and FHP targeting careless commercial truck driving. The campaign was a success and according to statistics there has been a significant drop in truck crashes. During a November 19-20 operation by Motor Carrier Compliance and FHP, there were more than 2500 citations issued. Additionally 315 safety inspections were conducted in 10 counties resulting in 67 vehicles being placed out of service.

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Scott Burrie/FDOT and Dan Barbato/TEG started a discussion on the concrete barrier walls that are used within construction areas. Many drivers are intimidated by the walls and there are many crashes, including single vehicle crashes that occur within those areas. They explained that the barrier walls are placed when the contractor has to excavate an area next to the travel lanes. Many times those barriers are left in place longer than necessary after the grade has been brought up to within 3 inches of the road surface, the criteria for removing them. The contractor has asked for permission, granted by FDOT, to try something different. Instead of barrier walls, they will place barrels (closely spaced) for MOT. It would relieve the driver's anxiety but exposes the work zone to potential vehicle encroachment. There was then discussion on crash reporting analysis by the contractor or FDOT to determine if this is more effective. This may start as soon as February 2009.

Training Safety Tip: Situational Awareness/FDOT Safety Requirements – Mike McGee

There was a Worker Visibility slideshow presented demonstrating the importance of wearing proper safety vests. Responders are urged to not only make sure they are wearing their proper vests, but to also make sure that all visitors and the media are also dressed appropriately to prevent secondary incidents. The Situational Awareness handout will be emailed.

Action Items:

- Send TIM team handout on lightning safety.
- Send TIM team handout on situational awareness.