

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team

TIM Meeting Minutes August 2009



Meeting Date: August 4, 2009

Meeting Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

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

Attendees: Listing Attached

Call Meeting to Order

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

Distributed Documents:

- Agenda
- June meeting minutes
- I-95 HOV Expansion Projects Handout
- Post Incident Analysis Review from June
- Night Time Operations
- SMART Moves

Review Action Items/Previous Meeting Minutes – Mike McGee

- Present National Unified Goal – will be discussed later in the meeting.
- Obtain copies of the Emergency Response Guide – was able to only obtain the link https://hazmatonline.phmsa.dot.gov/services/pub_default.aspx
- Mike also has materials on Onstar from the last Palm Beach TIM meeting to hand out to law enforcement and fire rescue at the end of the meeting.

Construction Update – Alicia DeFage & Meredith Cruz

I-95 HOV Expansion, from Donald Ross Road (exit 83) north to S.R. 706/ Indiantown Road (exit 87A/B)

The \$43.5 million, 4.5-mile construction project will expand the existing six-lane interstate to 10 lanes, which includes one general-purpose lane and one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction and additional auxiliary lanes. The project includes widening of the existing bridges over Donald Ross Road and the C-18 Canal; ramp improvements; sound barrier and retaining wall construction; signalization enhancements; new signing, pavement markings, lighting; and landscaping, including irrigation.

Construction began August 21, 2008 and is being performed by Posen Construction. Construction is expected to be completed spring 2012.

Restrictions: There will be a single lane closure to the inside travel lanes of I-95, 9 p.m. until 6 a.m., Sunday, July 26, through Thursday, July 30, to fill the median. There will be intermittent lane closures to the outside travel lane(s) on eastbound and westbound Donald Ross Road, near I-95, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m., Monday, July 27, through Thursday, July 30, for ramp reconstruction. There will be a continuous closure to the outside travel lane of northbound I-95, just north of Donald Ross Road, 6 a.m., Saturday, August 1, until 6 a.m., Monday, August 3, to install sound wall foundations. Motorists should be aware of construction vehicles entering and exiting the roadway by all Donald Ross Road entrance and exit ramps and the median area just north of Donald Ross Road. There is a new ramp configuration at the I-95 northbound exit ramp onto eastbound Donald Ross Road. This ramp is now signalized. One of two left turn lanes on the I-95 southbound exit ramp onto eastbound Donald Ross Road is closed, as well as the inside eastbound lane of Donald Ross Road under the I-95 overpass. The advisory speed limit is posted at 25 mph on all the Donald Ross Road entrance and exit ramps. Please use caution.

I-95 HOV Expansion, from south of PGA Boulevard (exit 79A/B) north to Donald Ross Road (exit 83)

The \$44 million, 4.3-mile construction project will expand the existing six-lane interstate to 10 lanes, which includes one general-purpose lane and one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction and additional auxiliary lanes. The

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project includes mainline ramp reconstruction and the widening of the existing bridges over PGA Boulevard and Military Trail (exit 79C). Additional enhancements include improved drainage; sound barrier and retaining wall construction; new signing, pavement markings, lighting, and landscaping. Construction began August 20, 2008 and is being performed by Community Asphalt Corporation. This project is expected to be completed winter 2011.

Restrictions: There will be intermittent closures to two outside travel lanes on northbound and southbound Military Trail, near the I-95 overpass, around-the-clock, Monday, July 27, through Friday, July 31, for bridge widening. There will be intermittent closures to one inside or outside travel lane of both eastbound and westbound PGA Boulevard, near the I-95 overpass, around-the-clock, a second inside or outside lane will be closed, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday, July 27, through Friday, July 31, for bridge widening. There are now stop signs at the northbound I-95 exit ramp onto westbound PGA Boulevard and at the southbound I-95 exit ramp onto Military Trail. These lanes no longer merge. Please use caution. Early warning signs are in place on the ramps to alert motorists.

U.S. 1/S.R. 5 Drainage Improvement Project

This 0.18-mile drainage improvement project in the City of Palm Beach Gardens began on January 12, 2009. This project includes installing new storm water drainage outside of the roadway; repaving; utility work and the installation of French drainage. This project will be constructed in phases to minimize impacts to the public. Phase Three began on Tuesday, June 2 and consists of three construction segments: 3A, 3B and 3C. This \$2.19 million project is being performed by Ranger Construction Industries and is expected to be complete late October 2009.

Restrictions: U.S. 1 is in the Phase 3B configuration. All directional turn lanes at the intersection of U.S. 1 and PGA Boulevard / S.R. A1A (Jack Nicklaus Drive) and all (two) northbound travel lanes are now open. Southbound U.S. 1 is still restricted to one lane, and is now located on the southbound side of the roadway.

Friday, July 24, 2009

The entrances to Oakbrook Square from U.S. 1 are open; however, motorists cannot exit the driveway and turn left (south) onto U.S. 1. The entrance to Citi Bank off southbound U.S. 1 (Smith Drive) is now open. All businesses along southbound U.S. 1 are open. All southbound travel lanes on U.S. 1, just north of S.R. A1A (Jack Nicklaus Drive) / PGA Boulevard, will be closed from 8 p.m., Sunday, August 2 until 6 a.m., Monday, August 3, for drainage work. Southbound motorists will be detoured westbound along Wheeler Road and / or Holman Road, just north of the Melting Pot Plaza, onto southbound Ellison Wilson Road, eastbound to PGA Boulevard and back onto southbound U.S. 1. Northbound U.S. 1 will be unaffected. There will be no restrictions for motorists at the intersection of U.S. 1 and S.R. A1A (Jack Nicklaus Drive) / PGA Boulevard. Southbound motorists trying to access businesses on the northbound (east) side of U.S. 1 are encouraged to take the approved detour route and travel northbound on U.S. 1. Self Storage, Car Sales of the Palm Beaches / U-haul, Limoncello, Oaktree Plaza, Smith Drive, Universal Pottery and Citi Bank, will be inaccessible during this time. The detour route will be marked with appropriate signage. If the work cannot be completed on this night, the work and closure will be rescheduled for the evening of Monday, August 4.

Phase Three, which includes all project-related work scheduled for the southbound side of the road, is expected to last until fall 2009, weather permitting. Electronic message boards on U.S. 1 and S.R. A1A / PGA Boulevard (Jack Nicklaus Drive) provide motorists with advance warning. Motorists should anticipate delays and use caution.

I-95 Construction – Meredith Cruz

Project 5 (SR 80 to N of PB Lakes): Bridge construction continues at Australian Ave., Congress Ave., and Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.; expected to be completed late July. All five lanes of I-95 are now open from Southern Blvd. to Okeechobee Blvd. Widening continues from Okeechobee Blvd. to north of Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. Overall project completion currently scheduled for October 2009.

Project 9 (Bridge construction just north of PB Lakes, over the box culvert): SB bridge construction continues; contractor expected to shift traffic and begin median work in late July. Overall project completion currently scheduled for October 2009.

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Road Ranger Update – Bob Murphy

Guy updated the TIM team on the new expansion of the Road Ranger Program that will take affect September 1, 2009. The hours will be from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. Guy also stated that the arterial Road Ranger Program will start as of September 1, 2009 and the expansion will be to Broward Blvd, Sunrise Blvd., and Oakland Park Blvd. All three roads will be patrolled from US 1 to US 441. The times for patrol are 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Update after meeting: The arterial Road Ranger Program will not begin on September 1, 2009. Full expansion back to 24/7 coverage is to take place on September 1, 2009.

Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) – Guy Francese

Guy Francese reported that RISC is scheduled for the kick-off of the program on August 3, 2009. He explained that the authorization for triggering RISC activation will be the function of the Florida Highway Patrol. An FHP Lieutenant will have the authority to notify the Broward TMC when RISC is to be activated. The Broward TMC will handle all RISC activations in District Four and will maintain the RISC responder rotation list.

Severe Incident Response Vehicle Update – Guy Francese

Guy reported leftover funding would start a SIRV program in Palm Beach earlier than expected, but the request was turned down by central office.

FHWA TIM Self Assessment – Mike McGee

Mike explained that due to changes that FHWA has made to the scoring method, the Palm Beach TIM team went from 80.5% to 72.4%. The new scoring method involves letters that classify as levels like high, medium, and low. There were six questions removed from the self assessment all together.

Palm Beach SMART SunGuide Transportation Management Center (TMC) – Helena White

The former Palm Beach Interim Traffic Management System (ITMS) Center is now the new Palm Beach SMART SunGuide Transportation Management Center (TMC).

- Operates 24/7/365
- Dispatch Palm Beach Road Rangers
- Facilitate traffic management
 - Data Collection
 - DMS Activation
 - Interagency Coordination
 - Information Dissemination
 - Construction Event Coordination

The new Palm Beach SMART SunGuide TMC is located at 2300 North Jog Rd. West Palm Beach, FL 33411. Helena presented a few photos of what the new TMC looks like. Helena gave a transition summary report. Approximate migration progress is at 43%. Staff/agency partnering familiarization of the new facility has begun.

Southeast Florida Regional Transportation Operations Committee – Bob Murphy

Bob Murphy reported that the I-595 Express LLC Transportation Management Center (TMC) began 24x7 operations on July 31. The center is co-located with the Broward SMART SunGuide TMC in Fort Lauderdale. The new Florida 511 advanced traveler's information service (www.FL511.com) that began in June, will be providing new statistics to the TMCs for usage and performance measures. Non-recurring congestion reports have been the subject of customer feedback and are being addressed in each District depending on camera and sensor resources. FDOT District Six had their first Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) activation on July 1 and reported no unusual problems in road clearance. Florida's Turnpike TMCs (Pompano and Turkey Lake/Orlando) are expected to have the statewide SunGuide TMC software installed by 4Q09. At the last SEFRTOC meeting, Florida's Turnpike operations staff reported on the latest one-way evacuation plans for the mainline from Lantana to north of Orlando.

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Treasure Coast TIM Team Update – Chuck McGinness

There have been two Treasure Coast TIM meetings since coming on board in April 2009. At the May meeting, we heard from John Long of Florida Gas Transmission on the natural gas pipeline rupture along Florida's Turnpike and how emergency crews should respond in such situations.

The Team also heard a report from Melissa Yunas of the Florida Forestry Service on wildfires and the circumstances when firefighters would request a road closure while fighting a fire.

We had about 40 people in attendance for the meeting.

At the July meeting, Doug Prager, emergency operations coordinator for Florida's Turnpike, gave a presentation on the changes in the turnpike's one way evacuation plan.

Also, Mike Scheidt of Kauff's Towing talked about the RISC program and the type of response that law enforcement and fire rescue can expect there as a RISC callout.

Attendance was about 25 people because of the summer and other commitments.

PRESENTATIONS

Jupiter Police Department Mobile Command Center – Chief Frank Kitzerow and Staff

The Jupiter Police Department obtained a new Mobile Command Post for use in emergencies, natural disasters, and other town related activities. Chief Frank Kitzerow personally appeared and gave the TIM Team a briefing on obtaining this state of the art communications platform. Most noteworthy was the Town of Jupiter obtaining it using federal grant money and there was no cost to the citizens of Jupiter. Chief Kitzerow and his staff then conducted a tour inside their mobile command post, out in the parking lot, and answered questions regarding its communications capability.

Martin County Gas Pipe Rupture, May 4, 2009 – John Long, Florida Gas Transmission

John started by describing the type of pipes that Florida Gas Transmission has installed. All along I-95 there are 26" high pressure, steel, thick wall pipes installed. The distribution comes from Texas to Florida. Florida Gas Transmission is responsible for marking their own gas lines; they do not distribute the work to others. Ron Moran, Area Director of Operations, stated that on May 4 on the Florida's Turnpike in Martin County at approximately 5:09am a gas line ruptured and caused an explosion. Ron stated that they are working with two agencies, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Pipeline Hazardous Safety Materials Administration (PHSMA). The pipe that ruptured was one of three 18" pipes that have been installed since 1959. The control center in Texas did not see the pressure drop right away.

An inspection with "smart pig" technology was conducted in 2004 and some minor repairs were made. There was no reason to believe an incident of this magnitude would take place. There is a pipeline integrity program in place and it is being worked on all the time. The work being done is hydrostatic testing and "smart pig" which is a type of gauge sent through a pipeline to inspect for leaks or other problems. The first call came from Martin County Fire Rescue. Lt. Johnson from Florida Highway Patrol stated that 16 miles of the interstate were shut down. All lanes reopened at 11:15am.

I-95 Southbound in Jupiter – High Crash Rate – Mike McGee

Mike McGee discussed an area of I-95 southbound that seems to have a high crash rate, between Indiantown and Donald Ross Road. The shoulder in this area is approximately 40 feet wide, but is sloped. Vehicles that leave the roadway in this area, when drivers counter-steer back toward the road, roll over. Lt. Frith was on vacation this week, but provided some background information that the area has been a factor in crashes since 2004. Half the width of the shoulder had overgrown vegetation in the past making the area for driver recovery narrower, but the vegetation was cleared out in the past. The area to the south had roadway construction. He offered the opinion that vehicles leaving the construction area were accelerating back to the posted speed and beyond, possibly resulting in driver's losing control. Since construction to the south has ended, the amount of crashes has diminished. FHP does enforcement in this area. Dan Barbuto from

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Target Engineering states the high crash rate existed before HOV construction began in the area. Sloping in the area meets design standards now, and in the past. They have no plans for enhanced MOT.

SR 80 Road Closure Analysis – Mike McGee

Mike McGee reported on the results of a Post Incident Analysis meeting that was held directly after the last Palm Beach TIM meeting, at Palm Beach Fire Rescue. He summarized the final report on the Road Closure of SR 80 on the Memorial Day weekend. An underground sewer line failed and raw sewage bubbled up to buckle the road surface. Communications between Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the County Warning Point, Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department, Palm Beach ITMS, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, Florida Department of Transportation, and Bob's Barricade was excellent. The roadway was repaired by the early evening hours, however, the roadway could not be repaved since no asphalt contractors were available or operating their plants over the Memorial Day three-day

weekend. Bob's Barricades was called by Palm Beach County Water Utilities to set up long-term MOT over the weekend. The attempt to repave on Tuesday was then thwarted by severe thunderstorms. The roadway was finally resurfaced and opened to traffic on Wednesday, following the incident.

Post Incident Analysis – Mike Scheidt, Kauff's Towing

Monday, June 22, 2009 at approximately 1:29 a.m. there was an abandoned/disabled vehicle in the right travel lane on I-95 northbound beyond Forest Hill Blvd. A tanker truck lost control trying to swerve to miss the abandoned/disabled vehicle and instead crashed into it and exploded. The tanker was transporting 8,000 gallons of gasoline. Major roadway damaged was caused from the extreme heat of the fire. About 300 ft. of barrier wall and a light pole were affected as well. All repairs were completed in about six hours. Lane closures lasted approximately 11 hours and 45 minutes.

Action Items:

- Letter of Appreciation was sent to Chief Frank Kitzerow and his staff of Jupiter Police Department for taking their time to show the Mobile Command Unit.
- Letter of Appreciation was sent to John Long of Florida Gas Transmission for taking the time to present on the natural gas line rupture that occurred back in May.

Attendees

Arena	Mike	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Barbato	Dan	Target Engineering Group
Bryant	Jason	Palm Beach ITMS
Burrie	Scott	FDOT D4
Cavendish	Scott	The Corradino Group
Cruz	Meredith	The Corradino Group I-95 Mobility 2000
DeFago	Alicia	FDOT - PB PIO
Dickson	Tom	DMJM Harris
Francese	Guy	FDOT - D4
Fucci	Cindy	FHP Troop L
Gartner	Terry	FDOT MCO
Green	Kevin	West Palm Beach Fire Rescue
Irwin	Michael	TBE Group
Jennings Jr.	Jim	Emerald Towing
Keister	Ronald	Boynton Beach Fire Rescue
Kennedy	Patrick	TBE Group
Kitzerow	Frank	Jupiter Police Department
Main	Jeff	PB Gardens Police Department
Maloney	Dave	FDOT D4
McGee	Michael	AECOM
McGinness	Chuck	AECOM
McKissack	Ed	Florida's Turnpike
Miller	Sam	Jupiter Police Department
Murphy	Bob	AECOM
Needham	David	Palm Beach Vista Center

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Pompos	Tim	Palm Beach Fire Rescue
Purser	Robert	FHP-Troop L
Ruslander	Harold	Palm Beach Medical Examiners Office
Turco	Charles	Boynton Beach Police Department
Washburn	Mike	Florida's Turnpike
White	Helena	Palm Beach ITMS
Williamson	Gregg	Riviera Beach Police Department