

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team

TIM Meeting Minutes February 2009



Meeting Date: February 3, 2009
Meeting Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Location: Palm Beach County Vista Center
2300 N. Jog Rd. Rm 1e-58
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
- December meeting minutes
- I-95 HOV Expansion Projects Handout
- Post Incident Analysis Handout
- LVRI Handout
- MOT Taper Handout
- MUTCD Ch. 6i

Review Action Items/Previous Meeting Minutes – Mike McGee

Handouts from the last meeting on lightning safety and situational awareness were emailed to TIM team.

Post Incident Analysis (PIA) – Helena White

On Friday, January 30, 2009 a single fatality accident occurred at approximately 2:53 a.m. A tractor trailer traveling southbound on Interstate 95 collided with a second tractor trailer which then collided with a single vehicle south of Indiantown Rd. This accident occurred in a construction zone. The Rooms To Go tandem trailer was hauling furniture at the time of the incident. The second tractor trailer, from Cargo Logistics, was loaded with air freight (car parts) to be shipped overseas. Despite the severity of the incident there was no fuel spilled as a result of the wreck.

The diversion route (which was not mandatory) was coordinated between the Florida Highway Patrol and Jupiter Police Department who provided barricades and cones. Traffic was diverted from I-95 south to Florida's Turnpike or US 1 as alternate routes. The accident scene was able to be viewed by Turnpike motorists. Combined with the diversion traffic from I-95 and rubbernecking, the Turnpike endured a 4 mile delay from approximately MM 118 to MM 114. The total duration of the incident was 7hrs 43mins. The 11 mile congestion queue from this event extended into Martin County up to exit 96 Hobe Sound. There were two minor secondary accidents caused by this incident. T & E Construction was the company contracted to assist with the cleanup efforts.

With no Road Rangers available until 6 a.m. this incident could not be verified for over 3 hours. The camera that this incident was located on was too far to verify lane closures.

Mike Scheidt from Kauff's Towing stated that they treated this incident like a RISC incident and brought out an MOT truck, 2 rotator tow trucks, and a dump truck.

Harold Ruslander from Palm Beach Medical Examiners Office stated that he received the call at 4:20 a.m. and arrived on scene at 4:50 a.m. and at approximately 4:45 a.m. he called out the body removal service and the body removal service was delayed due to Jupiter Police Department not allowing vehicles onto I-95 from the fog that set in shortly before 5 a.m.

Mike McGee showed a few slides of the Low Visibility Risk Index (LVRI) to show the fog and the conditions at the time of the incident. It was determined by FHP that at the time of the crash, 2:53 a.m., fog was not a contributing factor to the cause. LVRI link: http://flame.fl-dof.com/fire_weather/observations/obs_lvri.html

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

Guy stated that the inspections have been conducted on all five vendors that have applied for the RISC contract. Guy would like to schedule a kick off meeting in the next few weeks. Guy spoke with the Statewide Incident Management Coordinator in Tallahassee, Charlie Creel, and he plans to do a training session in Miami-Dade and would like to do one for District Four. The training will include agencies from law enforcement, wreckers, FDOT, etc. Guy has also been in communications with Major Guzman of FHP to conduct the training/kickoff meeting at a troop meeting. Tentatively the training/kickoff meeting will be March 6, 2009. The location will be determined. Guy showed the team sample stickers that are proposed for the certification of the vendors.

Road Ranger Update – Guy Francese

A press release was distributed December 18, 2008 announcing State Farm as the new Road Ranger sponsor. Two additional vehicles were added, two in Broward County and one in Palm Beach County. State Farm's sponsorship includes wrapping all of the Road Ranger vehicles that patrol the interstates in Broward and Palm Beach.

Chief Pompos of Palm Beach Fire Rescue asked about the hours switching for the safety of the motoring public.

Mike Millard suggested designating one person from the TIM team to compile all comments and concerns and sending them to the Legislature.

I-95 Mobility 2000 Construction Update – Meredith Cruz

Closures to set beams:

- Congress Ave. at I-95 (in West Palm Beach) will undergo a full closure, beginning at 9 p.m. Friday night, February 6, ending at 5 a.m. Monday, February 9. Motorists may detour via Okeechobee Blvd. and Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.
- I-95 northbound at Okeechobee Blvd. will undergo a full closure, 9 p.m. until 5 a.m., Sunday night, February 8. Motorists may detour via Okeechobee Blvd.
- I-95 southbound at Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. will undergo a full closure, 9 p.m. until 5 a.m., Monday night, February 9. Motorists may detour via Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

Advanced notice:

- The eastbound Okeechobee Blvd. to I-95 northbound entrance ramp will undergo a full closure for reconstruction beginning at 5 a.m. Monday, February 16, until approximately mid March. Motorists may detour via Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

HOV now open SB from approximately Belvedere Rd. to SR 80; next week, Okeechobee to Belvedere slated to open.

HOV NB anticipated opening end of March 2009

Project completion slated for September 2009

I-95 HOV Expansion Project – Alicia DeFago / Michael Irwin

- Construction on 1.5 miles of Indiantown Road / SR 706 began on Monday, June, 16 2008. This project includes milling and resurfacing of the roadway, rebuilding shoulders, upgrading traffic signs and signals, median improvements and landscaping to include irrigation. This \$2.4 million project is being performed by Hubbard Construction Company. The last contract date was December 26, 2009. **Restriction:** COMPLETE
- 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-lane highway 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 at 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 is being performed by Posen Construction. Construction is expected to be completed spring 2012. **Restriction:** There will

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be a single lane closure to the inside travel lanes of I-95, 9 p.m. until 6 a.m., Sunday, January 18 through Thursday, January 22, to fill the median and prepare for a future traffic shift. Motorists should be aware of construction vehicles entering and exiting the roadway by the northbound Donald Ross Road exit ramp.

There will be a closure of the southbound I-95 Entrance Ramps off S.R. 706/ Indiantown Rd., 10 p.m. until 5 a.m., Tuesday, January 20 through Wednesday, January 21. This is part of the Florida Department of Transportation's Hurricane Restoration project. Please contact Public Information Officer Tish Burgher at (954) 325-8022, with any questions relating to this closure.

- 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-lane highway which includes one general purpose lane and one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction and additional auxiliary lanes. The 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 marking, lighting, and landscaping. Construction began September 14, 2008 and is being performed by Community Asphalt Corporation. This project is expected to be completed winter 2011. **Restriction:** There will be a single lane closure to the eastbound and westbound inside travel lanes of PGA Blvd., in the area of the I-95 overpass, 7 a.m., Monday, January 19 through 6 p.m., Friday, January 23, remove temporary barrier wall. There is now a stop sign at the northbound I-95 exit ramp onto westbound PGA Blvd. This lane no longer merges. 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 will begin on January 5, 2009 (an exact date has not been set). This project includes installing new storm water drainage outside the roadway; repaving, utility work and the installation of french drainage. The work will begin on S.R. A1A/ PGA Boulevard and move to U.S. 1/ S.R. 5. This \$2.19 million project is being performed by Ranger Construction Industries and is expected to be complete late October 2009. **Restriction:** There will be a single lane closure on westbound S.R. A1A/ PGA Blvd. (Jack Nicklaus Dr.), from the Little Lake Worth Canal to U.S. 1, 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday, January 19 through Thursday, January 22, to relocate pedestrian paths.

Stan Balcaitis of HNTB updated the team on the ITS Device Project in Palm Beach County. Phase I of the project is from the Broward County line to PGA Blvd. This will include Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), Closed Circuit Television cameras (CCTV), detectors, and arterial DMS. This phase is expected to be completed in late December of 2009. Phase II of this project is from PGA Blvd. to the Martin County line. This is expected to be completed in 2013.

For arterial DMS, Dan Weisberg stated that Palm Beach County Traffic Engineering Division (PBCTED) is working with ITS Program Manager, Dong Chen, to get software for the DMS and it would be about another year before completion.

Catherine Werner stated that the arterial DMS are all installed at all NB, SB, EB, and WB interchanges.

FHWA TIM Self Assessment – Mike McGee, Bob Murphy, Guy Francese

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires an annual self assessment. There were three categories of questions for the assessment: procedures for major incidents, responder and motorist safety, and response and clearance policies and procedures. Everyone was broken down to three groups and each group completed one section category of the assessment.

Boynton Beach Police Units – Move Over Law – Mike McGee

Recently there was a car crash involving a Boynton Beach Police car that was at a traffic stop on an arterial roadway. Mike explained the Move Over Law. Lt. Purser stated that most of the time it is lack of education. Lt. Purser stated that when he works the road, he hands out pamphlets on the Move Over Law that lets motorists know. More education on this law should be done. There are a lot of tourists that have no idea what the Move Over Law is.

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Statewide TIM Update – Guy Francese

Guy stated that the statewide TIM team meetings have been cancelled due to travel restraints from budget cuts; however, they are conducting quarterly conference calls instead. Guy stated that FDOT has hired FIU to create an MOT training presentation that will be sent to each district to use for training.

Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting – Bob Murphy

Bob updated the group in several items from this meeting. National Unified Goal (NUG) is pushing to enforce policy at a local agency level. There are handbooks for Incident Management on traffic control procedures that are out for use. ITS Florida discussed the Road Ranger cutbacks and how it has affected the hour coverage due to the lack of money.

Training Safety Tip: MOT Tapers – Mike McGee

Mike explained the proper use of cones for a taper at an emergency scene. He showed a map that depicts a crash scene and examples of how to set up cones properly to protect a scene.

Action Items:

- Include LVRI link in the meeting minutes for the TIM team.

Attendees

Arena	Mike	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Baker	Nigel	PBC FR
Balcaitis	Stan	HNTB
Barbato	Dan	Target Engineering Group
Beesley	Ron	PBC FR
Bryant	Jason	Palm Beach ITMS
Burgher	Tish	QCA Inc.
Burrie	Scott	FDOT - D4
Churchill	Sgt. John	Palm Beach County Sheriffs Office
Cruz	Meredith	The Corradino Group I-95 Mobility 2000
DeFago	Alicia	FDOT - PB PIO
Dickson	Tom	DMJM Harris
Feeney	James	Jupiter PD
Francese	Guy	FDOT - D4
Gartner	Terry	FDOT MCCO
Irwin	Mike	TBE Group
Jennings Jr.	Jim	Emerald Towing
Jerauld	Steve	PBC FR
Kennedy	Patrick	TBE Group
Lopez	Gloria	FDOT D4
Maloney	Dave	FDOT D4
McGee	Michael	AECOM
McGlynn	Nicole	AECOM
McKissack	Ed	Florida's Turnpike
Millard	Mike	SmartRoute System
Mindick	Joshua	Boca Raton Police Department
Murphy	Bob	AECOM
Needham	David	Palm Beach Vista Center
O'Neil	Mike	Boca Raton FR
Persaud	David	HNTB
Pompos	Tim	Palm Beach Fire Rescue
Purser	Robert	FHP-Troop L
Ruslander	Harold	Palm Beach Medical Examiners Office
sandanasley	Vinod	Palm Beach MPO
Scheidt	Mike	Kauff's Towing
Toth	Kevin	PB ITMS
Triana	Don	WPB FR
Wells	Mike	PBC FR
Werner	Catherine	Florida's Turnpike
White	Helena	Palm Beach ITMS