

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team

TIM Meeting Minutes June 2009



Meeting Date: June 2, 2009

Meeting Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: Palm Beach County Fire Academy Regional Training Center Rm. 101
405 Pike 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
- April meeting minutes
- I-95 HOV Expansion Projects Handout
- Post Incident Analysis Handout
- Division of Forestry Maps
- News Articles

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

Palm Beach County – Palm Beach County traffic will be affected this week by ongoing construction projects and maintenance work, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) officials report. Weather permitting; closures will be in effect on I-95 and in other areas throughout Palm Beach County for construction activities.

For around-the-clock, real-time, traffic information within the tri-county area (Palm Beach, Broward and Miami Dade counties), travelers should call 511. For I-95 Palm Beach County traffic reports just say "I-95" or "Interstate 95". Information is also available on-line at www.511southflorida.com.

To view real-time video of I-95 in Palm Beach County, visit the FDOT I-95 Interim Traffic Management System (ITMS) website at www.palmbeachcotraffic.org. These free services are provided by FDOT and the SunGuide™ Partners. For updated lane closure information, please refer to www.pbfdot.com.

I-95 Corridor Projects:

I-95 HOV Expansion, North of Southern Boulevard / S.R. 80 to North of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard

The last of eight I-95 Mobility 2000 projects managed by the Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CEI) firm, The Corradino Group, begins just north of Southern Boulevard (S.R.80) and extends north 4.2 miles to just north of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard. The \$76.2 million project, which began January 3, 2005, calls for widening I-95 from six lanes to ten lanes (including HOV lanes); replacing the existing bridge at Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard; replacing Australian Avenue and Congress Avenue existing bridges over I-95, and modification of the mainline ramps. This project also includes drainage improvements, retaining walls, signing and pavement markings, lighting, sound wall, irrigation and communications elements. Hubbard Construction Company was awarded the contract and is expected to complete the project September 2009, with incentives for early completion.

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Restriction: Two lanes of I-95 will be closed in each direction, 9 p.m. until 5 a.m., Sunday night, May 31, until Friday morning, June 5. Intermittent ramp closures at Okeechobee Boulevard and Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard may accommodate closures. One lane of Australian Avenue at I-95 will be closed in each direction, daily, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., and nightly, 9 p.m. until 6 a.m., beginning Monday, June 1, ending Saturday, June 6. One lane of Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard will be closed in each direction daily, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., with two lanes closed, nightly, 9 p.m. until 6 a.m., Monday, June 1, through Friday, June 5. The Congress Avenue overpass has been reduced from two lanes to one lane in each direction until approximately the end of June 2009. Congress Avenue will have a flagger on-site, 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday, June 1, through Saturday, June 6, to assist with intermittent closures as needed.

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 northbound and southbound travel lane of I-95, 9 p.m. until 6 a.m., Sunday, May 31, through Thursday, June 4, for median work.

There will be intermittent lane closure on eastbound Donald Ross Road in the vicinity of I-95, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

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. 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 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 the outside travel lane on Military Trail in both directions, in the vicinity of the I-95 overpass, around-the-clock, Monday, June 1, through Friday, June 5, for bridge widening and pile driving activities.

There will be a closure to the inside travel lane of northbound and southbound I-95, 9 p.m. until 6 a.m., Monday, June 1, through Thursday, June 4, for barrier wall relocation and median work.

There will be a full closure of eastbound PGA Boulevard in the vicinity of I-95, 9 p.m. until 6 a.m., Thursday, June 4 and Friday, June 5, for bridge work. Eastbound traffic will be detoured northbound to Military Trail, eastbound to Kyoto Gardens Drive, southbound onto Alternate A1A and onto eastbound PGA Boulevard. Northbound and southbound I-95 exit ramps onto eastbound PGA Boulevard will be closed. Motorists will be forced to exit onto westbound Military Trail and follow the detour route. Only one westbound travel lane will remain open, in this area. If the work cannot be completed on these nights, the work and closure will be rescheduled for the evening of Monday, June 8.

The Florida Turnpike will also be closing all northbound travel lanes at PGA Boulevard to Ft. Pierce, unrelated to this project. Motorists will be detoured onto PGA Boulevard eastbound toward I-95. Motorists must travel northbound on Military Trail to access the I-95 northbound entrance ramp, which is located on the left hand side. The PGA Boulevard detour route will be located on the right hand side of Military Trail. Electronic message boards will be in place to alert motorists.

There are now stop signs at the northbound I-95 exit ramp onto westbound PGA Blvd 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.

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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.

Palm Beach ITMS to Vista Center Transition – Helena White

Helena started out by stating the breakdown of the PB ITMS facility.

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

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

Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) – Guy Francese

Guy stated that all vendors are inspected and ready to begin the RISC program. Guy stated that the approximate time frame for the start of RISC is around the middle of June. Lt. Frith of Florida Highway Patrol stated that training will be until the middle of June with a July 1, 2009 start date. Once the date has been confirmed everyone will be notified of the start date.

Southeast Florida Regional Transportation Operations Committee – Bob Murphy

511 QA QC - The cumulative accuracy percentage for the current South Florida 511 provider is at 98 % accurate.

Super Bowl XLIV: 02/07/10 - Status quo, Turnpike still waiting to meet with representatives of the Super Bowl Committee in the coming months.

FLATIS - Currently testing is underway for all elements of the Florida Advanced Traveler Information System including:

- SunGuide publishing and unpublishing to the Center 2 Center subsystem providing live data to system
- LogicTree's Interactive Voice Response system
- IBI's web site

District 6 has developed a quality control database to assist in the monitoring of content quality. The go live date will be in mid-June.

Other Items

- Florida's Turnpike One Way Evacuation Plan (OWE): Rep. from Florida's Turnpike Enterprise detailed their OWE including all scenarios that would require it (primarily Hurricanes). After an in-depth examination of the plan, consensus remains that the state may well be better off not employing this as it may cause more problems than it fixes clogging up arterials.
- I-75 Travel Time Messaging D6-D4: Districts 4 and 6 are currently testing the first cross-district travel time messaging (not including Turnpike) on I-75 DMS

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- 595 P3 Project: I 595 Express team is ready and set to takeover the roadway July 31, 2009. District 4 SMART SunGuide TMC is providing initial training and guidance, but I-595 team will be self-sufficient come July 31, 2009.
- Next SEFRTOC Meeting: 6/24/09 – SunGuide TMC District 6

TIM Partner Outreach - Mike McGee

Mike McGee reported that he had the opportunity to meet with the Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue Department on May 29, 2009. Mike put on a PowerPoint demonstration for the training division Chief, of the TIM concepts, description of intelligent transportation systems (ITS), a description of our TIM partnering agencies, the national unified goal (NUG), and described the benefits of the TIM Team meetings. The Town of Palm Beach is the first agency in Palm Beach County to make such a request. Any agencies that would like Mike to put on a presentation for their command staff, and ultimately their incident responders, may contact Mike to schedule an appointment at (954) 847-2634 or michael.mcgee@smartsunguide.com.

Wildfire Season – Scott Peterich, Division of Forestry

Scott stated that the brush fires on Alligator Alley have consumed about 30,000 acres of land. The drought conditions are high this season. There has been little to no rain. Federal lands are handled differently than state lands on fighting fires. On the federal level the “let it burn” policy is what is followed.

Fire Hydrant Study – Nigel McGregor, FDOT D4 Roadway Design

Nigel McGregor of FDOT D4 Traffic Design Department presented two options to the TIM team for markers to be installed for the fire hydrant signs that will be posted along the sound walls of I-95. Nigel stated that the signage for the fire hydrants must comply with Section 4.3 of the Traffic Engineering Manual, Section 700 of the Standards Specs for Road and Bridge Construction, and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

The proposed sign would be 3.5 ft. by 4 ft. in size. Scenario one features the sign installed on the sound wall with five Roadway Pavement Markers (RPM) with two feet spacing on the shoulder perpendicular to the sound wall. Scenario Two depicts eight RPMs placed two feet apart horizontally and vertically in a diamond shape.

The cost for scenario one is 3.5 ft. x 4 ft. sign (14 sq. ft) \$762.17 with five RPMs at \$5 each for a total of \$25. The cost for scenario two is 3.5 ft. x 4 ft. sign (14 sq. ft) \$762.17 with eight RPMs at \$5 each for a total of \$40. The price does not include the cost of labor or maintenance of signs.

National Unified Goal (NUG) – Mike McGee

Mike discussed the importance of the objectives outlined in the NUG.

- Objective 1: Responder Safety
 - Depicts recommended practices for responder safety
 - Move over/slow down laws
 - Driver training and awareness
- Objective 2: Safe, Quick Clearance
 - Multidisciplinary TIM Procedures
 - Response and Clearance Time Goals
 - 24/7 availability
- Objective 3: Prompt, Reliable Incident Communications
 - Multidisciplinary communications practices and procedures
 - Prompt, reliable responder notification
 - Interoperable voice and data networks
 - Broadband emergency communications systems
 - Prompt, reliable traveler information systems
 - Partnerships with news media and information providers

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Diversions Routes – Mike McGee

Mike discussed the incident involving a gunman on I-95 in Jupiter from 2007. This incident caused I-95 and Florida's Turnpike to be closed at the same time and left motorists no alternative route. In May 2009 a similar incident involving a gas line rupture caused I-95 and Florida's Turnpike to be shut down as well with no alternative route for motorists. US 1 was used as an alternate that experienced congestion and was backed up for miles and caused severe delays. Mike suggested gathering statistical data in a spreadsheet to calculate diversion routes. Mike suggested meeting with each law enforcement and fire agency to go over findings and see if any other alternate routes can be coordinated for future closures of both interstates.

Post Incident Analysis – Mike Scheidt, Kauff's Towing

A tractor trailer owned by Alps Transport Corporation travelling northbound on I-95 was allegedly cut off by another vehicle, lost control and rolled over onto the right shoulder just before Woolbright Rd. At the time the tractor trailer was hauling crates of tomatoes. The rollover caused damage to 350 linear feet of guardrail. Type 2 barricades were used to delineate the area damaged as temporary marker. The guardrail was repaired the following day. The event duration was in excess of 8 hours due to multiple temporary full closures of the road to allow the tow trucks to safely enter and exit the highway and utilize the heavy equipment needed to clear the roadway. The clean up efforts included assistance from several law enforcement, FDOT, and towing agencies and a clean up crew from Loxahatchee Prison. The equipment used to clear the roadway included 2 dump trucks, a front end loader and forklift. Even with the extensive impact to the roadway the event only yielded a 4 mile delay from exits 52-56.

Action Items: None at this time

Attendees

Arena	Mike	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Aridias	De La Cruz	PB Road Rangers
Balcaitis	Stan	HNTB
Barbato	Dan	Target Engineering Group
Brimlow	Rodney	BSO
Bryant	Jason	Palm Beach ITMS
Burgher	Tish	QCA Inc.
Calhoun	Tim	PBCFR
Cavendish	Scott	Corradino Group
Cruz	Meredith	The Corradino Group I-95 Mobility 2000
DeFago	Alicia	FDOT - PB PIO
Dickson	Tom	DMJM Harris
Francese	Guy	FDOT - D4
Gartner	Terry	FDOT MCO
Green	Kevin	West Palm Beach Fire Rescue
Jacobson	Richard	Delray Beach Police Department
Jennings Jr.	Jim	Emerald Towing
Keister	ronald	Boynton Beach Fire Rescue
Kennedy	Patrick	TBE Group
Landgraf	Greg	TBE Group
Letts	Gregg	AECOM
McGee	Michael	AECOM
McGlynn	Nicole	AECOM
McKissack	Ed	Florida's Turnpike
Millard	Mike	SmartRoute System
Mindick	Joshua	Boca Raton Police Department
Monteith	Patrick	Boynton Beach Police Department
Murphy	Bob	AECOM
Needham	David	Palm Beach Vista Center
Pompos	Tim	Palm Beach Fire Rescue
Purser	Robert	FHP-Troop L

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Ross	Pat	West Palm Beach Police Department
Ruslander	Harold	Palm Beach Medical Examiners Office
Salzman	Mari	Florida's Turnpike
Sandanasamy	Vinod	Palm Beach MPO
Scheidt	Mike	Kauff's Towing
Scott	Daryl	Boca Raton fire Rescue
Stephenson	Ronnie	Kauff's Towing
Toth	Kevin	PB ITMS
Turco	Charles	Boynton Beach Police Department
Werner	Catherine	Florida's Turnpike
Whitaker	Thomas	Hubbard Construction
White	Helena	Palm Beach ITMS