

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team

TIM Meeting Minutes April 2010



Meeting Date: April 6, 2010

Meeting Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: Boynton Beach Fire Rescue Station #5/Emergency Operations Center
2080 High Ridge Rd. 1st. Floor
Boynton Beach, FL 33467

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
- FHWA 2010 TIM Self Assessment 4.2
- Palm Beach Construction Report

Review Action Items/Previous Meeting Minutes – Mike McGee, AECOM

Ramp ID Signs – Signs for the Indiantown Rd and I-95 flyover have been installed. Pictures of the signs were shown to the TIM team. The original request for the signs came from Palm Beach County Fire Rescue.

Location Reference Markers – Guy is working with FDOT Safety Office for funding and district wide implementation.

Construction Update – Peter Dovens, QCA Inc.

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

Restrictions: There will be intermittent lane closures on Donald Ross Road at the I-95 overpass Sunday, April 4 through Thursday, April 8 from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. for traffic signal arm installation. One inside left turn lane, of two lanes, from westbound Donald Ross Road onto southbound I-95 is closed. One westbound through lane on Donald Ross Road, in the vicinity of the I-95 overpass, will be closed until approximately late summer 2010, for overpass widening, one westbound through lane will remain open. The advisory speed limit is posted at 25 mph on all the Donald Ross Road entrance and exit ramps. 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. 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: Two northbound outside lanes and two southbound inside lanes on I-95 will be closed Sunday, April 4, through Thursday, April 8, to mill, pave and stripe the roadway. The contractor will close one lane in each direction at 9 p.m. and close a second lane at 11 p.m. One lane will reopen at 5 a.m. and all lanes will reopen by 6 a.m. each morning. A new southbound traffic pattern will begin Thursday, April 8, weather permitting. Traffic between Donald Ross Road and PGA Boulevard will shift from the outside lanes to the inside lanes (former median). Under the new traffic pattern, motorists in the southbound inside lane, closest to the median, will enter the existing HOV lane south of PGA Boulevard.

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To remain within the HOV lane, vehicles must have at least two occupants otherwise, they must move into the adjacent lane at the earliest and safest opportunity. Three southbound lanes will be maintained through the construction zone. At the southern end of the traffic shift, I-95 will open into five southbound lanes, including the HOV lane. Motorists are urged to use extreme caution through this area. Motorists should be aware of a stop sign at the northbound I-95 exit ramp onto westbound PGA Boulevard. This lane no longer merges. Advance warning signs are in place approaching the exit ramp and on the ramp to alert motorists.

Road Ranger Update – Guy Francese, FDOT District Four Freeway Operations Manager

The Treasure Coast Road Ranger contract has been awarded. The start date has been delayed until further notice. There was a hearing about a month and a half ago regarding the contract and the final decision. The decision should be released by the end of April. Coverage times and areas for Treasure Coast are Monday through Friday 6am to 10pm with eight patrol beats and a ninth truck patrolling the whole area and the coverage area is Mile Marker 83-156. The projected start date for the contract will be July 2010.

Guy is preparing to advertise the renewal of the Broward and Palm Beach Road Ranger program contracts in August of 2010.

Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) – Guy Francese, FDOT District Four Freeway Operations Manager

Overall there have been four RISC activations for all of District Four. All four RISC activations have been in Broward County. The most recent RISC call was on March 25, 2010.

Statewide TIM Team Teleconference – Guy Francese, FDOT District Four Freeway Operations Manager

The Road Ranger Program survey results have been calculated for each district statewide and the results will be presented at the next meeting.

Drew Zuccala of Zuccala's Wrecker Service stated that there is a Professional Wreckers Association meeting in Orlando, FL on April 17, 2010.

Broward/Miami-Dade Joint TIM Meeting – Guy Francese, FDOT District Four Freeway Operations Manager

This year's Broward/Miami-Dade Joint TIM meeting was held on March 10. There was a lot of representation from each agency at the meeting.

Topics discussed

- RISC activation pamphlet was created to assist troopers determining if a call qualifies as RISC.
- I-595 Express reported an average roadway clearance of 19.4 minutes and an average event clearance of 47.7 minutes.
- A presentation was given on Highway Advisory Radios and Roadway Weather Information Systems in Broward County.
- A new project on US 41 will be starting and lane closures were discussed as US 41 is used as an alternate when I-75 is affected by roadway closures.
- Florida's Turnpike reported that crash percentages from 2007-2009 have decreased by 22% and fatalities decreased by 37%.
- Paul Clark from FDOT Central Office did a presentation on the TIM in '10 initiative and the Road Ranger Survey results.
- TIME 4 Safety Video has been shown to approximately 21,500 incident responders in the state of Florida.
- I-95 Corridor Coalition Quick Clearance workshop was a success and there were about 90 participants.

Treasure Coast TIM Team Update – Chuck McGinness, Treasure Coast TIM Coordinator

The last Treasure Coast TIM meeting was on March 18, 2010 and a presentation on the St. Lucie Power Plant Evacuation Plan was given. ITS devices in the Treasure Coast are ahead of schedule. The Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) will be installed in April and there will be rolling roadblocks. It is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2010.



PRESENTATIONS

Federal Highway Administration 2009 TIM Self Assessment – Mike McGee, AECOM

Mike conducted section 4.2 with the TIM team. All scores have been recorded and will be reported at the next TIM team meeting.

Florida's Turnpike 2010 Storm Evacuation Plan – Doug Prager, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise

Doug presented some prevention plans that include FHP, Toll Suspension, Expanded Road Ranger coverage, Strike Teams, ITS, Wrecker Plan, Fuel Supply, Stranded Motorist Assistance, and Palm Drive Intersection in Florida City.

For a one way evacuation the primary plan is from Lantana (MP 88) to Orlando South (MP 254) and the contingency plan is from Florida City (MP 0) to Orlando South (MP 254). Termination points include southbound traffic being forced off at 265 East-West Expressway. Reversed traffic will terminate at MP 254 Beachline/441/Orange Blossom Trail. Plans for the one way evacuation include approximately 21-61 interchanges, 4-6 Service Plazas, 2-8 Mainline Toll Plazas, 170-270 U-Turn openings, 20,000+ Traffic Control Devices, 400-700 FHP Troops* (two per shift needed), 170-400 FDOT Staff Members, and 290 Dynamic Message Signs (DMS).

Incident Review – Mike McGee, AECOM

Incident #1 US 27 SB at MM 44 February 8, 10:23pm: Mike McGee reviewed a crash that occurred on US 27 that involved a tractor trailer and a truck towing a livestock trailer. The incident happened on February 8, 2010 at 10:23 pm. As a result of the crash, there was a driver fatality and the deaths and injuries of dozens of farm animals. One of the first priorities while FHP dealt with the crash/fatality investigation was the recovery (herding, corralling, and roping) of surviving loose animals that ranged up and down US 27 in the dark. Aside from the fatality, the roadway could not be opened until the animals were captured or additional motorists and animals faced danger. Severely injured animals were left untreated and were not euthanized for approximately five hours. Assistant Chief Leslie Kastner of Southwest Ranches Volunteer Fire Department, also a member of ESF-17 ((954) 831-3911), which is the animal protection services of the State Warning Point, spoke about the need and the authorization for euthanasia in this type of event and for any future events like this one. The recovery of the animal carcasses then became a matter of concern as bio-hazardous waste, because Broward County landfills have regulations for the limited disposal of animal carcasses. The contact for Palm Beach ESF-17 is Daisy Harsch, (561) 233-1260.

Incident #2 I-75 NB at Royal Palm Blvd March 15, 1:26pm: On Monday, March 15, 2010 at 1:26 p.m., a crash involving a rolled over dump truck was reported to BSO communications. BSO Fire Rescue, BSO Hazardous Material Response, and BSO Aviation Units were dispatched. BSO notified FHP at 1:29 p.m. FHP was dispatched. It occurred in the northbound lanes of Interstate 75 at Royal Palm Boulevard. The crash occurred on the east shoulder of the highway, just north of the overpass. The dump truck reportedly had a tire failure which caused the driver to lose control. The dump truck overturned and slid on its left side, across three traffic lanes, and onto the east grassy shoulder. The truck dumped its load of muck and rock onto the right three lanes of I-75. There was an undefined spill of diesel fuel onto the grass shoulder. The fuel drained by gravity downhill and settled in a puddle of water. The driver was trapped in the cab and sustained injuries. BSO Fire Rescue performed extrication. All north lanes were stopped while Aviation was on the ground for twenty minutes. After Aviation lifted off, two northbound lanes were opened to traffic. Sean Loscalzo of A Superior Towing, utilizing SMART SunGuide mobile notification, received information of the crash and began an equipment response. FHP initially requested Class "C" rotation wreckers and A Superior Towing was contacted to respond. A Superior was already enroute when notified and was told to bring a skid-steer loader. FHP Lt. Hingson arrived on scene and activated RISC via the Transportation Management Center. An error in RISC notification protocol occurred at the TMC. A Superior was utilized as the RISC Contractor. On arrival, the skid-steer was immediately utilized to push the dirt off the roadway to the shoulder. The ski-steer then used a sweep attachment to sweep the remaining dirt off the travel lanes and right shoulder. When given the Notice to Proceed, the dump truck was rigged, uprighted, removed from the grass shoulder, and towed to the right shoulder of the road. Hazardous material concerns and contractor issues became an issue on scene. Haz Mat would not be conducted until the following day.

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Post Incident Analysis Review I-95 SB at Indiantown Rd February 26, 8:03pm – Mike McGee, AECOM & Helena White, PB Vista TMC & Luis Ortiz, PB Vista TMC

Mike McGee made a presentation on a traffic fatality crash involving three tractor trailers on southbound I-95 at Indiantown Road. The incident was a secondary crash that resulted from traffic backing up for a tractor trailer jackknife that occurred at southbound I-95 at Donald Ross Road, nineteen minutes earlier. The Palm Beach TMC was not notified for twenty eight minutes after the incident. The Road Ranger assigned to that beat was on the Donald Ross incident and could not respond to the second crash. Because of the impact, diesel fuel tanks were ejected from the wreckage causing a fuel spill. It was shown that the notification and response for hazardous material clean-up took 5:24. The problem was the notification process: Palm Beach EOC contacted Palm Beach FDOT who contacted Posen Construction to verify it was not in the construction area. It was not. FDOT maintenance drove to the scene, assessed the scene, and contacted WRS-Compass. WRS-Compass took 1:18 to call back, 50 minutes to respond, and call a sub-contractor Eagle-SWS. It took almost two hours for them to respond, assess, and call out a crew to perform the clean-up. It then took 2:29 to do the clean-up. This hazardous material incident took almost eight hours to resolve. Discussion was held on finding a way to shorten the assessment process in order to more effectively clear an incident in a shorter period of time. Most TIM members were in agreement that both incidents described above should have been RISC activations with the emphasis on quick clearance.

Action Items:

None at this time

Attendees

Altman	Ray	Boynton Beach Fire Rescue
Bobich	Mark	Boynton Beach Risk Management
Crouch	Adrian	FDOT Palm Beach Maintenance
Day	Tim	Sisters Towing
Dickson	Tom	Broward SIRV Program
Dobens	Peter	QCA Inc
Francese	Guy	FDOT District Four Freeway Operations Project Manager
Frith	Tim	FHP Troop L
Gartner	Captain Terry	FDOT MCCO
Geier	Mike	PBC Emergency Management
Hernandez	Gilberto	Sunshine Towing Palm Beach Road Rangers
Jennings Jr	Jim	Emerald Towing
Johnston	Hugh	American Compliance Technologies
Kastner	Leslie	BC ESF-17 / SW Ranches Vol. FR
Keister	Ronald	Boynton Beach Fire Rescue
Lanier	Lt. GRant	Boynton Beach 911 Manager
Majhess	Joseph	Boca Raton Fire Rescue
McGee	Mike	Broward/Palm Beach TIM Coordinator
McGinness	Chuck	Treasure Coast TIM Coordinator
McGlynn	Nicole	AECOM
McKissack	Ed	Florida's Turnpike
Melvin	Donald	Zuccala's Wrecker Service
Murphy	Bob	TIM Project Consultant Manager
Needham	David	Broward Operations Supervisor
Ortiz	Luis	PB Vista TMC
Pervenecki	David	PBSO
Picciano	Pete	Boynton Beach Police Department
Ruslander	Harold	PB Medical Examiners Office
Scheidt	Mike	Kauff's Towing
Thomas	Kenneth	Riviera Beach Police Department
White	Helena	Palm Beach Vista TMC
Zuccala	Drew	Zuccala's Wrecker Service