

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes December 2010



Meeting Date: December 7, 2010

Meeting Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: Palm Beach Vista Center Room 1E-59
2300 North Jog Road.
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
- Hydrogen Sulfide Suicide Awareness Flyer

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

Action Item #1: State Road (SR) 80 Mile Markers

Resolution: Mile Markers will be installed from SR 15 (MM 0) going from east to west to SR 7 (MM 23). Guy will issue the word order as soon as possible. The Mile Markers will be installed back to back in the center median area.

Action Item #2: Location Reference Markers (LRMs)

Resolution: LRMs will help provide more information to call takers when motorists do not know where they are. The LRMs will look like the I-95 shield with the direction and the 2/10 of a mile number. Funding will begin July 2011. All of I-75 and I-95 in District Four will receive LRMs and they will be placed on the shoulders on the northbound and southbound direction of the roadway.

Agency Updates – TIM Team

No agency updates given.

Construction Update – Peter Dobens, 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 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 Aug. 21, 2008, and is being performed by Posen Construction. Construction is expected to be completed spring 2012.

Restrictions: Two southbound lanes of I-95 will be closed between Indiantown Road and Donald Ross Road Sunday, Dec. 5, through Thursday, Dec. 9, for repaving and restriping operations. The contractor will close the inside lane at 9 p.m. and the center lane at 11 p.m. The center lane will reopen at 5 a.m., and all lanes will reopen by 6 a.m. each morning.

The northbound outside lane of I-95, between Donald Ross Road and Indiantown Road, will be closed, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 5, through Friday morning, Dec. 10, for shoulder construction.

The outside through lane of Donald Ross Road underneath I-95 will be closed 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 5, through Saturday morning, Dec. 11, for bridge foundation work.

One of two left turn lanes, from westbound Donald Ross Road onto southbound I-95, is closed. One of two westbound through lanes on Donald Ross Road, in the vicinity of the I-95 overpass, remains closed for overpass widening.

One of two left turn lanes from the I-95 southbound exit to eastbound Donald Ross Road is closed for construction. The posted speed limit is 25 mph on all the Donald Ross Road entrance and exit ramps.

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes December 2010



A truck restriction is in effect throughout the construction zone. Signs have been posted directing truck operators to use the northbound and southbound center lanes except when entering or exiting the highway.

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. HOV lanes require two or more occupants. The project includes mainline ramp reconstruction and widening 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 Aug. 20, 2008, and is being performed by Community Asphalt Corporation. This project is expected to be completed spring 2012.

Restrictions: The inside and center lanes of PGA Boulevard in each direction underneath I-95 will be closed 11 p.m. to 5 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 7, through Thursday, Dec. 9, for girder placement. Also, there will be intermittent closures of all lanes in each direction for up to 10 minutes. Only one direction will be closed at a time. The girders are for the new southbound I-95 lanes.

The northbound inside of Military Trail is closed underneath I-95 for bridge foundation work. The northbound outside lane will be closed 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, Dec. 6, through Friday, Dec. 10, for bridge construction.

One inside or outside lane of southbound Military Trail will be closed 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, Dec. 6, through Friday, Dec. 10, for bridge foundation work.

ITS Palm Beach Deployment / Construction – Scott Burrie, FDOT

Scott reported that there are two phases, Phase A and Phase B. Phase A consists of fiber, camera, and generator installation up to PGA Blvd. Phase B has been completed up to PGA Blvd. Arterial Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) are not operational.

I-95 southbound lanes just south of Linton Blvd and south of Boynton Beach Blvd will be under construction starting next week. Northbound lanes will immediately follow. Construction consists of milling and resurfacing to fix the raveling of the roadway.

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

Guy reported that the new contract for the Palm Beach Road Ranger Service Patrol will begin February 1, 2011. The new contractor will be Anchor Towing. All brand new trucks will be deployed when the new contract begins.

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

The vendor inspections for 2011 will begin this week. Mike and Chuck will be contacting the RISC vendors to set up appointments. Inspections will include cones this year.

Guy reported that Central Office has approved a RISC program for US 27. One issue brought up by Sgt. John Churchill of PBSO is the activation procedure, PBSO handles most calls and the activation should not be restricted to only FHP.

Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV) Program (Palm Beach Pilot) – Tom Dickson, AECOM

SIRV has had 161 events from July 2010 to November 2010. SIRV has saved 624 minutes for overall incident duration, 1,097 minutes for opening lanes earlier, and 1,318 minutes for agency time which include road rangers, fire rescue, law enforcement, maintenance, etc.

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

Chuck reported to the team that the Treasure Coast Road Ranger program has had 4,013 assists over the last three months. 64% are disabled vehicles, 12% are debris calls, 3% are crashes. 47% of the calls are in Martin County, 34% in St. Lucie County, 14% Indian River County and 5% in Palm Beach County due to beats overlapping.



Chuck also reported that in 2011 the main goal for Treasure Coast outreach is to talk with the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), various fire/law enforcement communication groups about TIM and the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

TIM Team Outreach – Mike McGee, AECOM

Mike announced that he is willing to travel to any agency interested in receiving TIM outreach. Any one interested should contact Mike at (954) 847-2634 or michael.mcgee@smartsunguide.com.

Southeast Florida Regional Transportation Operations Committee (SEFRTOC)/511 – Bob Murphy, AECOM

Bob discussed the Dolphins Bike Challenge that took place on November 20-21. Regional messaging was coordinated. The Toys in the Sun Run took place on Sunday, December 5. One major incident occurred on I-95 and Atlantic Blvd. Both District Four and District Six had regional messaging for the Toys in the Sun Run event.

Toys in the Sun Run – David Needham, AECOM

The event took place on Sunday, December 5. The motorcycle ride started at SW 10th St. on I-95 and went south to 136th Ave on I-595. Premessaging on the DMS took place. There were approximately 30,000 motorcycles. Overall the highway was closed for approximately three hours.

PRESENTATIONS

Hydrogen Sulfide Suicide Awareness – Mike McGee, AECOM

This issue has been a growing trend. An incident occurred October 1, 2010, at the northbound I-95 rest area at Mile Marker 133. A motorist parked at the rest area and committed suicide by mixing chemicals to create deadly hydrogen sulfide gas. The motorist left a sign in the windshield warning responders of the presence of the deadly gas. St. Lucie County Fire District's Special Operations team responded and asked Florida Highway Patrol to evacuate and close the rest area. A HAZMAT team in full protective gear broke out the car windows and opened the doors to ventilate the vehicle. The level of hydrogen sulfide gas was measured at 200 parts per million, which would have been deadly to anyone breathing the gas. The HAZMAT team removed the body and neutralized the vehicle so it could be towed.

This phenomenon of hydrogen sulfide suicide is a world-wide problem. It started in Japan about two years ago and has spread to the United States. As of November 1, 2010, there were a reported 29 chemical suicides in the United States, including six in Florida. The Central Florida Information Exchange put together a PowerPoint presentation for first responders on how to handle these situations. First responders are most vulnerable because they react instinctively to help someone or save someone's life. There is not always going to be a sign warning them of the danger. One of the telltale signs of hydrogen sulfide gas is the "rotten egg" smell. If responders notice this smell, they should immediately retreat and call for HAZMAT.

Hybrid Vehicle Safety – Rick Kearney, Earl Stewart Toyota

Rick Kearney gave a brief overview of the hybrid vehicle system and the safety concerns that fire rescue or law enforcement could potentially come in contact with on a scene involving a hybrid vehicle. Hybrid vehicles have their own generators and are very quiet cars when they are on. There is a lot of torque within the hybrid motors and that can be dangerous if the vehicle is not shut off properly. The vehicle should be approached from the side to avoid any accidents should the vehicle move or take off. The cables for the connection of power for hybrid vehicles are encased in bright orange tubing. Rick handed out more information on hybrid vehicle safety. More safety information for first responders can be found at the following websites: www.emergencytrainingsolutions.com/ETS/hybrid_vehicle_info.htm and www.extrication.com/erg.htm

Post Incident Analysis RISC #7: November 17, 2010 I-95 NB at Midway Rd. Tractor Trailer rollover – Mike McGee, AECOM

On Wednesday, November 17, 2010, at 0718 hours, a two-vehicle crash involving a tractor trailer and a pickup truck was reported to FHP. The pickup truck was traveling northbound in the left lane. The tractor trailer was traveling northbound in the center lane. The pickup truck had a right rear tire blowout. The driver attempted to pull off the roadway onto the median shoulder, but lost control. The pickup truck spun clockwise into the path of the tractor trailer. The front of the pickup collided with the front of the tractor trailer. The pickup truck spun clockwise and came to rest in the right and center lanes. The tractor trailer overturned on its right side and came to rest in the left and center lanes. Both drivers were using



their seat belts. There were no injuries. None of the tractor trailer's cargo (fruit) spilled on the roadway. The first FHP trooper arrived at the scene at 0723. FHP notified the Broward Regional Transportation Management Center at 0725. Based on the circumstances (all three lanes blocked) and the time of day (morning rush-hour), FHP Sgt. Kevin Ale activated RISC at 0726. RISC contractor, Tri-County Towing, was notified at 0730 and was on scene with two recovery wreckers and MOT support vehicle at 0754. Tractor trailer was up righted and cleared from the roadway in 66 minutes. There was a minor oil spill that Tri-County Towing and FDOT Maintenance worked together to clean up. All lanes were open at 0915.

Post Incident Analysis RISC #8: - November 30, 2010 I-95 NB beyond Oakland Park Blvd. Garbage Truck fire – Mike McGee, AECOM

On Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 1535 hours, a heavy truck vehicle fire was reported on Interstate 95, north of Oakland Park Boulevard. The vehicle was a Waste Management straight truck with a refuge body. The driver was unable to drive or steer the vehicle off the roadway. FHP, Road Rangers and Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV) responded and closed all lanes. FHP Lt Robinson arrived on scene and after approximately twenty minutes advised Lake Worth Regional Communications Center (LWRCC) to activate RISC. LWRCC contacted Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) at 1610. RTMC contacted A Superior Towing at 1610; they gave an ETA of thirty minutes. Waste Management made owner's request for J&J Towing. Based on that request, Lt. Robinson canceled RISC. A Superior continued to respond and arrived on scene first at 1645. J&J Towing had not arrived. In the interest of clearing the roadway, Lt. Robinson gave A Superior a Notice to Proceed at 1700. A Superior cleared the vehicle from the roadway in seventeen minutes at 1717. The roadway was opened at 1740 after FDOT maintenance remediated the asphalt.

Training Safety Tip: Tire Safety – Mike McGee

Mike discussed the importance of tire safety for both first responders and motorists. There have been two recent incidents in which people were killed or severely injured while changing flat tires along I-95.

Road Ranger Road Ranger assists for flat tires

- September – 209
- October – 257

Tire Safety Tips

- Constant exposure to debris on shoulders
- Scan shoulder for debris while braking or accelerating
- Maintain correct tire pressure
 - Including spare
- Inspect tires for damage, cuts, gouges, punctures
- Flat repair kit including air source
 - Plug kit
 - Fix a Flat

Open Discussion – All

No items discussed

Action Items:

- None at this time

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes December 2010



Attendees:

Churchill	Sgt. John	Palm Beach County Sheriffs Office
Day	Timothy	Sisters Towing
Dickson	Tom	AECOM, Broward/PB SIRV Program
Dobens	Peter	QCA Inc
Gartner	Captain Terry	FDOT Motor Carrier Compliance Office
Gray	William	Palm Beach County Sheriffs Office
Grossman	Todd	Palm Beach Gardens Police Department
Johnson	Lt. Jeffrey	FHP
Johnston	Hugh	American Compliance Technologies
Lopez	Gloria	Eagle SWS
Main	Jeff	Palm Beach Gardens Police Department
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
Mirones	Alex	Florida's Turnpike
Murphy	Bob	TIM Project Consultant Manager
Ridenour	Gregg	AECOM
Ruslander	Harold	Palm Beach Medical Examiners Office
Thomas	Kenneth	Riviera Beach Police Department
Wetzel	David	City of Delray Beach Fire Rescue
White	Helena	Palm Beach Vista TMC
Young	Kenneth	Broward Regional TMC