

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes June 2010



Meeting Date: June 1, 2010

Meeting Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: Palm Beach County Emergency Operations Center
20 South Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

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

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

Emergency Support Function 17 Contact Information - Based on recent events involving animals in traffic crashes, the following information was obtained to disseminate to the TIM team. For Palm Beach County, contact Daisy Harsch, (561) 985-3054.

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 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: 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 through late summer 2010, for overpass widening. The posted speed limit is 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: Northbound and southbound inside lanes on Military Trail underneath the I-95 overpass will be closed beginning, Tuesday, June 1, for bridge median barrier demolition and bridge foundation construction. The lanes will remain closed until late June, 2010. The northbound and southbound center lanes on Military Trail will be closed Tuesday, June 1 through Saturday, June 5 for bridge demolition, barrier wall demolition and bridge foundation construction. The lanes will be closed Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., and on Saturday from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. Two outside southbound lanes on I-95 will be closed nightly, Tuesday, June 1, through Thursday, June 3, to pave the road. The contractor will close one lane at 9 p.m. and close a second lane at 11 p.m. One lane will reopen at 5 a.m. and both will reopen by 6 a.m. each morning.

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. I-95 Kanner Highway / State Road 76, Martin County (exit 101) to Northlake Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens (exit 77). Restriction: One or more southbound lanes on I-95 from Kanner Highway in Martin County to Northlake Boulevard in Palm Beach Gardens will be used for a motorcycle procession Memorial Day, Monday, May 31 beginning at 10 a.m. The Florida Highway Patrol will escort approximately 1,000 motorcyclists, fire trucks and flatbed trucks



Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes June 2010

carrying steel beams forged from the World Trade Center disaster. The beams will become part of a permanent art display at the Palm Beach Gardens Fire Station on Northlake Boulevard. The procession is expected to arrive at Northlake Boulevard at approximately 10:45 a.m. The Palm Beach Gardens Police Department will operate traffic signals on the Northlake Boulevard southbound off-ramp to keep traffic flowing off I-95. Motorists should expect delays on I-95 and Northlake Boulevard.

Road Ranger Update – Mike McGee, AECOM

The Palm Beach Road Ranger contract will be advertised sometime next week.

The Broward Road Ranger contract proposals have been evaluated and scored and Sunshine Towing is the intended contract award. The final award selection will be made by the Executive Committee on June 7th.

The Treasure Coast contract has not been executed as of yet because it is pending addendum items that were added by the legal department. It should be executed by next week and the vendor will have two months of start up time to procure vehicles and hire drivers.

Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) – Mike McGee, AECOM

There have been two additional RISC calls. RISC #4 was a tractor trailer fire that occurred on April 4, 2010 on I-75 southbound at Mile Marker 47 (Alligator Alley) in Broward County and RISC #5 was an overturned tractor trailer that occurred on April 17, 2010 on I-95 southbound before Donald Ross Rd in Palm Beach County. These incidents will be discussed under incident review/lessons learned later in the meeting.

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

Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) have been installed for the last two months. Fiber optic cabling has been tied into the DMS. Testing mode should begin within the next month. Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) is currently not tied into the fiber optic cabling. All should be fully operational by September/October.

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

Mike reported the 2009 results of the FHWA TIM self assessment. The score is 59%, which is down from 2008 score of 72.4%. This is a result of a new scoring method, elimination of questions, and lower scores for individual questions based upon current status some items on the TIM self assessment. Items have been identified by Mike to use as action items to raise the scores for next year's self assessment.

TIM in '10 – Mike McGee, AECOM

Mike reported that 5,358 first responders have been trained or will be trained in the statewide initiative to educate all agencies about opening roadways quicker and safer. Approximately 45 agencies have received the video.

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.

PRESENTATIONS

Palm Beach Transportation Management Center (TMC) Performance Measures – Helena White, Palm Beach Vista TMC

Helena White of the Palm Beach Vista Center gave a presentation on performance measures that the Vista Center uses on a weekly, monthly, and yearly basis. The definition of a performance measure is an action/task that can be observed and measured to determine if the TMC Operator has performed the prescribed tasks to standard. Most TMCs use performance measures to assess how well their incident management systems are functioning.

Reports incorporate TMC detection, Road Ranger statistics, lane / incident clearance statistics, the total number of incidents, and detection sources / statistics.

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes June 2010



TMC detection includes Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), Road Ranger, FHP, Local PD, TMC Notifications, Construction PIO, Emergency Ops Center, FDOT Maintenance, and Road Watcher programs. Percentages of incident detection by Road Rangers are at 33%, FHP at 36%, CCTV at 21%, and by other means 9%.

Road Ranger beat coverage for daytime hours in Palm Beach County starts with beat one at Hillsboro Blvd to Atlantic Ave, beat two at Linton Blvd to 6th Ave, beat three which has a roaming Road Ranger for the South Zone, beat four Lantana to 45th Street, beat five Palm Beach Lakes Blvd to PGA Blvd, beat six Northlake to Indiantown Rd, and beat seven has a roaming Road Ranger for the North Zone.

Road Ranger beat coverage for nighttime and weekend hours are beat one Hillsboro Blvd to Hypoluxo, beat two Gateway Blvd to Palm Beach Lakes Blvd, and beat three Okeechobee to Indiantown Rd.

The total number of incidents for 2009 is 18,884. Traffic incidents with no lane blockage made up 17,722 of the total number of incidents for 2009. Level two and three traffic incidents were at 1,166 of the 17,722 incidents. 976 of the 1,166 incidents had a Road Ranger response.

The average lane blockage clearance time for I-95 incidents in 2009 was 47.07 minutes. The average roadway clearance time for I-95 incidents in 2009 was 69.01 minutes.

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Response Assistance – Chief Paul Blockson & Captain Patrick Wherle, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

Captain Wherle addressed the TIM team with a concern of identifying incidents on State Road 80 west of Kirk Rd. The concern is that a lot of calls come in for incidents that occur on the location mentioned, but there is difficulty finding the incidents. Captain Wherle made a request for a type of mile marker to be installed to easily identify the area when responding to calls. Captain Wherle also obtained contact information for the Palm Beach Vista Center and Florida's Turnpike dispatch centers. Bob Murphy of AECOM suggested that tours be set up for both centers for Palm Beach County Fire Rescue to view the resources available to their agency.

Incident Review/Lessons Learned – Mike McGee, AECOM

RISC #3: March 25, 2010 1:09 p.m. I-595 EB Ramp to I-95 NB

On Thursday, March 25, 2010 1:09 pm, a crash was reported to FHP, involving a rollover tractor trailer. It occurred on the ramp from I595 eastbound to I95 northbound. The crash occurred on the downgrade portion of the ramp. There were minor injuries. The vehicle combination was later identified as a Ford pick up truck towing a travel trailer. The truck/trailer combination came to final rest facing south in the two northbound lanes. The pick up truck remained upright; the travel trailer was lying on its left side. Both ramp lanes were blocked. Fire Rescue was dispatched. FHP activated RISC via the Transportation Management Center. RISC contractor, J&J Towing was notified and responded, arriving in 27 minutes. When given the Notice to Proceed, the travel trailer was up righted, and then separated from the pickup. J&J hooked up to the trailer and backed it downhill to a low boy trailer for loading. RISC was terminated in 66 minutes; lanes remained closed for responder safety. The pick up was towed and remainder of the scene was swept down prior to opening traffic lanes.

RISC #4: April 5, 2010 11:33 a.m. I-75 SB at Mile Marker 47

On Monday, April 5, 2010 11:37 am, a vehicle fire was reported to FHP, involving a tractor trailer. The tractor trailer was transporting bagged and palletized plastic pellets. The tractor trailer driver pulled the vehicle over onto the on-ramp white gore striping for State Road 833 (Government Road) and abandoned the vehicle. There was an explosion at one point that sent burning debris onto the grass shoulder and median that started secondary fires. Northbound and southbound lanes of I-75 were closed due to smoke, fire, and explosion danger. The fire destroyed the trailer structure and burned all but the two front tractor tires. Broward County Fire Rescue responded to extinguish the fire but the nature of the fuel source made it difficult. A front end loader was requested to assist with lifting and moving the load to help firefighters extinguish the blaze. Westway was requested by SIRV to send a front end loader, but not activating RISC. RISC was activated by Troop F at 1:03 pm. Westway wrecker 954 (50 ton), 975 (75 ton rotator), and 955 (MOT support) arrived at 67 minutes. Once fire was out, Westway used the front end loader to pivot the rear of the tractor away from the other trailer debris and rigged it for towing. Only the front tires were intact. The front end loader and skid-steer with a grapple attachment picked up debris and loaded it into dumpsters brought to scene from sub-contractor All Service. Roadway clearance time was 90 minutes. DBI Services remediated the asphalt surface. Inside southbound lane opened at 3:39. Southbound roadway was opened to traffic at 6:26.

Palm Beach County Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes June 2010



RISC #5: April 17, 2010 7:14 a.m. I-95 SB before Donald Ross Rd

On Saturday, April 17, 2010 at 0714 hours, a rollover tractor trailer crash with injuries was reported to FHP. Driver was trapped with head injuries. The tractor trailer had left the roadway onto the west grass shoulder and struck two light poles before rolling over. At final rest, the tractor was on the roadway, the trailer and cargo on the shoulder. Some palletized cargo was ejected onto the shoulder. FHP notified the Palm Beach TMC at 0719. First Troopers arrived at 0736. The carrier CRST requested an owner's request wrecker. James Jr. Towing was contacted and arrived minutes after RISC activation. RISC contractor, Tri-County Towing was notified and responded. Tri-County was escorted through the traffic queue by FHP to the scene and arrived in 44, 54, and 84 minutes, respectively. Vehicle was up righted and cleared from the roadway in 70 minutes. There were no hazardous material issues.

Lt. Jeffrey Johnson of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) stated that they receive a lot of complaints from companies regarding the fees that are being charged for removal of crashed trucks and clean up of debris, spills, etc. Lt. Johnson stated that in one incident an individual was not allowed to pick up his truck until he paid over \$20,000. Mike McGee asked that Lt. Johnson gather all the complaints involving a RISC contractor and submit them to him to bring back to Guy Francese, the RISC Program Manager to bring up at the next Statewide TIM team meeting.

Open Discussion – All

No items discussed.

Action Items:

- Set up tours for Palm Beach County Fire Rescue to visit Palm Beach Vista Center and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise TMC Control Rooms.
- Send a copy of the RISC vendor list to FHP.
- Mile Markers on US 98/SR 80 between Belle Glade & West Palm Beach.

Attendees

Blockson	Chief Paul	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Burrie	Scott	FDOT District Four
Chaisson	Ellen	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Dickson	Tom	Broward SIRV Program
Dobens	Peter	QCA Inc
Gartner	Captain Terry	FDOT MCCO
Glass	Fred	Delray Beach Police Department
Green	Kevin	West Palm Beach Fire Rescue
Johnson	Lt. Jeffrey	FHP
Keister	Ronald	Boynton Beach Fire Rescue
Lamb	S. Brian	West Palm Beach Fire 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
Murphy	Bob	TIM Project Consultant Manager
Needham	David	Broward Operations Supervisor
Riley	John	Boca Raton Traffic Engineering
Scheidt	Mike	Kauff's Towing
Thomas	Kenneth	Riviera Beach Police Department
Washburn	Mike	Florida's Turnpike
Wherle	Captain Pat	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
White	Helena	Palm Beach Vista TMC
Zuccala	Drew	Zuccala's Wrecker Service