



MIAMI-DADE TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (TIM) TEAM
Joint Miami-Dade / Broward County TIM Team Meeting Minutes
July 2008



MEETING DATE: Tuesday, July 15, 2008
MEETING TIME: 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM
MEETING LOCATION: Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six Auditorium
MEMBERS PRESENT: See Attached List

MEETING ACTION ITEMS

1. Distribute the Ten Cones of Highway Safety video to Broward County Sheriff's Office and Kauff's Transportation Systems – Girish Thallapragada
2. Provide information on work zone traffic cones requirements to Davie Fire Rescue – Michael McGee & Girish Thallapragada

PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

1. Distribute revised March 2008 TIM Team meeting minutes – Task Completed
2. Post revised March 2008 TIM Team meeting minutes on the SunGuide website – Task Completed
3. Forward the 2008 TIM Program Self Assessment final score to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – Task Completed
4. Develop and implement formalized Road Ranger training program – Joseph Snyder & Jimi Mitchell
5. Approach FDOT District Six Safety Office to discuss public awareness campaigning for the "Move Over" law – Javier Rodriguez
6. Approach local universities and colleges to increase 511 public awareness – On-going

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Girish Kumar of the FDOT District 6 SunGuide Transportation Management Center (TMC) called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Self-introductions for all attendees followed. Mr. Girish Thallapragada of HNTB Corporation distributed the handouts for the meeting including the July 2008 Joint TIM meeting agenda, sign-in sheet, and the May 2008 Miami-Dade TIM Team meeting minutes. Mr. Michael McGee of FDOT District 4 Broward TIM team distributed the May 2008 Broward TIM Team meeting minutes, and a handout on Traffic Homicide and Crime Scene Procedures.

Mr. Kumar reported that Mr. Javier Rodriguez of FDOT District 6 ITS was unable to attend the meeting because of a conflict with a 95 Express Project meeting. Mr. Kumar asked the attendees if there were any comments on the meeting minutes from the May 20, 2008 Miami-Dade TIM Team meeting. No comments were offered. It was decided to accept comments until July 18, 2008. No comments have been received and the May 20, 2008 TIM Team meeting minutes have been deemed final. Mr. Kumar requested the attendees to contact Mr. McGee for any comments regarding the May 2008 Broward TIM Team meeting minutes.

SUNGUIDE DISTRICT 6 TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT CENTER (TMC) REPORT

Mr. Joseph Snyder of the FDOT District 6 SunGuide TMC reported some of the significant achievements of the TMC in the months of May and June 2008. He reported that the TMC began posting travel times on the dynamic message signs along I-75, I-195 and SR 826 (from I-75 to Golden Glades Interchange). Mr. Snyder mentioned that the TMC implemented the new SunGuideSM software version 3.1 with express lane modules for the 95 Express Project. He reported that the TMC established a direct connection for sharing the CCTV camera video feeds with Florida International University (FIU) ITS center. He mentioned that the SunGuide TMC provided tours during the 2008 Freeway Toll Operations Conference.

Mr. Snyder presented the TMC operations summary for the months of May and June 2008. The statistics showed the total number of events for each month, total number of lane blockage events, average lane blockage duration,



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total number of Road Ranger responses, total number of Road Ranger activities, and the total number of Road Ranger involved accidents. Mr. Snyder presented statistics on the Road Ranger duties performed to illustrate the benefits of the program. He mentioned that the TMC has continued to exceed the target performance measures for the DMS efficiency, TMC operator error rate and Road Ranger dispatch time, event confirmation, DMS time to post, and other agencies notification time. Mr. Snyder reported that the DMS messages for construction related events have increased due to the 95 Express Project construction work.

SOUTH EAST FLORIDA REGIONAL TMC OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (SEFRTOC) REPORT

Mr. Snyder provided an update from the SEFRTOC meetings. He reported that SEFRTOC finalized the Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG). He mentioned SEFRTOC discussed Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Alert Plan to assist deploying messages requested by law enforcement agencies on FDOT owned dynamic message signs. Also discussed were DMS travel time postings and Road Ranger program updates. Mr. Snyder provided the FDOT District 6 DMS usage statistics for events on FDOT District 4, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), and Miami-Dade Expressway (MDX) Authority roadways.

MIAMI-DADE EXPRESSWAY (MDX) AUTHORITY TMC REPORT

Mr. Jerry Cosme of MDX TMC reported some of the significant achievements and statistics from the MDX TMC operations. He mentioned that MDX is currently implementing SunGuide 3.1.1 software onto the MDX servers. He stated MDX is continuing to provide uninterrupted Road Ranger service to motorists traveling on MDX expressways. Mr. Cosme presented the MDX TMC operations summary for the months of April, May and June 2008. The statistics showed the total number of events for each month, total number of lane blockage events, average lane blockage duration, total number of Road Ranger responses, total number of Road Ranger activities, and the percentage of CCTV detection along SR 836. Mr. Cosme mentioned that MDX is currently in the process of implementing an Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) on SR 112, SR 924, SR 874 and SR 878 that will help improve incident management.

511 SERVICE STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Mike Millard reported that the 511 service had 139,818 calls in June 2008 and is the lowest monthly call volume within the last five years. Mr. Millard stated that the reason for these low call volumes might be due to lesser traffic on the roads and increase use of public transit. Some companies are adopting a 4 day work week to help employees with the higher gas prices. Mr. Millard reported that there are more than 4000 users currently signed up for the 511 email alerts of which 82 new users signed up to the list in June. Mr. Millard mentioned that the 511 monthly status reports are being distributed and anyone interested in being added to this email distribution, please contact Mr. Mike Millard at mmillard@smartroute.com.

Mr. Kumar asked if the decrease in traffic is a statewide trend or is it confined only in South Florida region. Mr. Millard replied that more investigation needs to be done at the State level to determine if this trend is same in other parts of the State.

SEVERE INCIDENT RESPONSE VEHICLE (SIRV) REPORT

Mr. Tom Dickson of FDOT District 4 gave a brief introduction of the SIRV Program since its inception in 2005. He mentioned that SIRV program started initially as a pilot program and is now adopted by FDOT District 4 as a permanent tool for assistance in Incident Management. Mr. Dickson reported that the SIRV program covers the I-95, I-595, and I-75 within the Broward region and recently extended its services to Alligator Alley. He mentioned that two SIRV trucks operate from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

Mr. Guy Francese of FDOT District 4 reported that FDOT District 4 Road Rangers have started to patrol the I-75 Alligator Alley west to mile marker 32 to assist stranded motorists.

TREASURE COAST TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. McGee provided a brief report on the Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management activities. He mentioned that the northern three counties of Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River had come together to discuss issues related to Traffic Incident Management. He mentioned this was a positive step towards the formation of a TIM team



which would assist in improving the interagency coordination between all the associated Incident Response partners in the region.

FIRE HYDRANT LOCATION ACCESS ON I-95

Mr. McGee provided a brief report on the necessity of fire hydrant location access along on I-95. He mentioned that the goal is to provide a fire hydrant access within 1000 feet from the I-95 centerline. One of the challenges faced by firefighters when responding to events on I-95 is locating and accessing hydrants beyond the noise walls. The locations of all the fire hydrants behind the noise walls will be mapped with respect to mile markers and then provided to the Fire Rescue.

Mr. Francese mentioned that signs will be installed at the noise wall holes where there is a fire hydrant on the other side to expedite hydrant locating for firefighters. Chief Jim Ferranti of Davie Fire Rescue mentioned that they are in the process of designing a dry line water pipe for providing water access along I-595 for the I-595 reconstruction project.

TRAFFIC HOMICIDE INCIDENT PROCEDURES

Mr. McGee presented the fundamental procedures that all Incident Responders should follow when an incident becomes a crime scene. A crime scene is established when a crash or other event is investigated to determine if any criminal violations have occurred. Mr. McGee mentioned that the incident responders should communicate with law enforcement officers before proceeding into a crime scene area since this may cause loss or altering of evidence.

ROAD RANGER PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Snyder provided an update on FDOT District 6 Road Ranger Program. He reported that the recent budget cuts have caused a reduction in the Road Ranger staff. He mentioned that there will be no nighttime coverage on SR 826 and only dispatch on I-75. He also reported that the Road Ranger Program has stopped providing free gas to stranded passengers. Mr. Snyder stated that FDOT District 6 is in the process of renegotiating existing Road Ranger Contracts.

Mr. Francese provided an update on FDOT District 4 Road Ranger Program. He reported that the budget cuts caused no reduction in the number of Road Rangers but caused a reduction in the Road Ranger hours of operation. The Road Rangers will be operating from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday to Friday and no nighttime or weekend operations. He mentioned that the existing FDOT District 4 Road Ranger contracts are still active and will continue using them.

Both FDOT District 6 and FDOT District 4 are in discussions with FDOT Central Office in Tallahassee regarding sponsorships on Road Ranger Trucks.

Ms. Catherine Werner of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) mentioned that the FTE Road Rangers new working hours will be from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon on Saturday and Sunday. She stated that the Road Rangers will continue to provide gas and other amenities.

95 EXPRESS & I-595 MANAGED LANES UPDATE

Mr. Snyder provided a brief update on the 95 Express project. He reported that the delineators have been installed and the some of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) / Toll equipment is currently being installed. He mentioned that the Incident Management Plan is currently being developed.

Mr. McGee provided a brief update on I-595 Managed Lanes project. He mentioned that there has been good communication between the design build team, and local Davie Fire Rescue and law enforcement agencies. He mentioned that Griffin Road might be used as a major alternative to I-595 during the construction period.

INCIDENT RESPONDER SAFETY

Mr. Girish Thallapragada showed a 20 minute video titled "Ten Cones of Highway Safety" on incident responder safety to attendees. The video presented some of the safety measures that the Fire Rescue follow while



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responding to an incident. Mr. Kumar mentioned that these safety measures should be followed by all incident responders. Mr. Kumar mentioned that this video can be shown to the Road Rangers, law enforcement personnel and other response personnel involved in clearing incidents, as part of their yearly training.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Kumar announced that the Transpo2008 conference is being held on September 22 - 25, 2008 in Orlando, Florida. He mentioned that the conference will include sessions related to Incident Management and Emergency Management. He mentioned that the registration can be done online at www.itstranspo.org.

Mr. Snyder mentioned that FDOT District 6 is planning to send email notifications for incident management, AMBER alerts, and LEO alerts. Anyone interested in being added to this email distribution, please contact Mr. Joseph Snyder at Joe.Snyder@sunguide.org.

MEETING CLOSE

The next Miami-Dade TIM meeting is on September 16, 2008 at 1:30 PM at the FDOT District Six Auditorium. The next Broward TIM meeting is on September 03, 2008. Mr. Kumar then brought the meeting to a close.