

# Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes

May 2008



**Meeting Date:** May 22, 2008

**Meeting Time:** 1:30 PM

**Location:** St. Lucie County Sheriffs Office  
4700 West Midway Road  
Fort Pierce, FL 34981

**Attendees:** Listing Attached

## **Call Meeting to Order**

Bob Murphy of DMJM Harris called the meeting to order. Introductions immediately followed.

## **Distributed Documents:**

- Agenda
- Palm Beach April TIM Team Meeting Minutes
- Statewide RISC Meeting Notes
- Open Roads Policy
- Broward and Palm Beach County TIM Successes
- NTIMC NUG
- Palm Beach TIM Team Roster

## **Overview of Traffic Incident Management –**

Gaetano Francese introduced himself as the Florida Department of Transportation District 4 Program Manager for Traffic Incident Management and Road Ranger Programs. Guy explained the purpose of having the TIM Team by saying we can't build our way out of traffic congestion by continuing to build more traffic lanes. Traffic Incident Management and TIM Teams are cooperative efforts to work toward a unified effort and purpose to clear traffic lanes and get the highways open.

Bob Murphy introduced himself as the Florida Department of Transportation District 4 ITS Operations Manager for Traffic Incident Management. Bob spoke about the value of having the TIM Team representatives from Palm Beach present to share their effort and experience. He further explained that Traffic Incident Management experience for the last 15 years has been in Broward and Palm Beach Counties. Establishing the TIM Team on the Treasure Coast is in direct response to meeting the needs of Martin, Saint, Lucie, and Indian River counties; and the local communities.

Michael McGee introduced himself as the Florida Department of Transportation District 4 Traffic Incident Management Coordinator. Mike explained that his responsibility is to act as a liaison between the Florida Department of Transportation and the government agencies and private contractor companies that will be responding to critical incidents on the interstate highway system. He added that TIM concepts also apply to state, county, and local roadways. The concepts are the same; to clear the roadway of incidents and safely restore the flow of traffic. Mike is always available to answer questions or find answers to your traffic related problems and concerns.

## **Statewide TIM Initiative –**

Patrick Odom, the Florida Department of Transportation Traffic Incident Management Program Manager and Charlie Creel, the FDOT Incident Management Specialist, called in from Tallahassee to welcome the Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team and to extend themselves as a resource and to be available to answer any questions that any agency or company may have regarding Traffic Incident Management.

## **FHWA National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management –**

The National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management simply put is: Responder Safety; Safe, Quick Clearance; and Prompt, Reliable, Interoperable Communications. A hand out was provided with 18 Strategies to meet these objectives. Some examples were given and discussed. There was also discussion of the I-95 Corridor Coalition. With Florida's joining of the Coalition, I-95 from Maine to Florida is now covered by Traffic

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Incident Management. I-95 is a critical commerce corridor along the eastern seaboard and the importance of Traffic Incident Management was discussed including: Quick Clearance, Best Practices, On-Line Training, and TIM Information Exchange Programs

## **Video Presentation: “Doing it The SMART SunGuide Way”**

To give an overview of the programs and services that are provided in Traffic Incident Management, the video was shown. If any agency or company would like a copy to show to other supervisors or managers, this DVD is available or the presentation can be emailed.

## **Florida Open Roads Policy –**

The Florida Open Road Policy is a signed agreement between the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Highway Patrol to respond to incidents and clear them within 90 minutes or less. Barring unusual or severe incidents that by their nature will require extended road closure, road surface repair, and vehicle or cargo recovery, efforts will be made to clear the scene as quickly and as safely as possible.

## **Sample Agenda & Meeting Minutes – Mike McGee**

Mike reviewed the sample agenda with the team. Every meeting there are new attendees and self introductions are conducted at the beginning of each meeting to recognize each agency.

The next item on the agenda is the review of the previous meeting's minutes that are distributed with the email agenda that is sent out before each meeting. The meeting minutes are not reviewed thoroughly in the TIM meeting, however, any issues or questions can be discussed at the end of the meeting.

TIM Issues:

- These items always change based on tasks that have been completed or assigned to the TIM team.
- RISC has been a hot topic on the agenda and has been discussed for the last six months.
- One example of a TIM team task is the Mile Markers that were installed along US 27. That project has since been completed.
- I-95 Construction Update is a topic that is done by the FDOT Public Information Officer (PIO). This is to update the team of the ongoing construction and closures that occur. The information shared is also to talk about any issues that affect the county and that relate to the TIM team.
- Post Incident Analysis (PIA) debriefings are incidents that involved multiple agencies on a scene where something happened negatively or positively. It is a chance to talk about what could have been done better or to commend someone for a job well done. The incidents are ones that took place on the highway system.
- Fire Hydrant Access Plan: Mike is working on closing this task up and explained in brief detail the importance of this task. There was an incident that occurred on I-95 where there was a vehicle on fire and no hook ups for the fire department so they had to shuttle water back and forth to the scene. We as a group have determined where all the fire hydrants are located in conjunction to the highway and will be having signs put on the sound walls showing the location of the nearest fire hydrant to hook up to.
- Proposed meeting dates: All future meeting dates are given out in advance so that coordination of the agency's attendance can be done prior to the meeting. Broward County TIM team meets the first Wednesday of every month starting with January. Palm Beach County meets on the off months of Broward County starting with February.

## **Construction Projects – Alicia DeFago**

Alicia was formerly the Public Information Officer (PIO) for all of Palm Beach County for any project that occurred on a DOT roadway. Alicia is now the PIO for the Northern I-95 Expansion project that will be starting. The Northern I-95 Expansion project will start in northern Palm Beach County and end at Indian Town Rd. This will begin in June of 2008.

Alicia is the disseminator of construction information to multiple agencies and the media. The TIM meetings have helped in streamlining a process to get the information out efficiently and effectively.

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One example is a funeral procession for a Palm Beach County officer. There was a construction project going on at the same time and Alicia worked with Bob and Mike to get information disseminated to the public and agencies to clear the roadways and get the construction crew off the highway so that the funeral procession could proceed without any further delays or issues. There were no secondary incidents and the procession ran safely and smoothly.

Alicia is a direct liaison between the Florida Department of Transportation and the construction contractors that are assigned to each project.

Mike reviewed the two I-95 Corridor Construction projects that are taking place. One is in St. Lucie County starting South of SR 70 and ending South of Indrio Rd. and there will be expansion of 6 lanes to 10 lanes. From SR 70 to South of Indrio Rd. there will be expansion to 8 lanes total. This is scheduled to begin in 2009-2010.

The second project is in St. Lucie County to Indian River County. South of Indrio Rd. to County Road 512 there will be expansion of the interstate and that is expected to start in 2014-2015.

## Post Incident Analysis (PIA) Debriefings – Mike McGee

Mike explained to the TIM team that the PIAs are a way to identify issues of incidents that affected the highway system. Mike researched some of the Treasure Coast newspapers and found incidents that closed or partially closed the interstate down. One incident was a bridge construction crew founds bats living in the structure and could not proceed until the issue was taken care of. Another was an accident where a motorist got out of their vehicle after a wreck and was struck by a car. One incident involved the Turnpike closing down due to Fog and Smoke causing low visibility.

Mike was unable to get any information from the Florida Highway Patrol on incidents that caused major road closures. Mike explained that in Broward and Palm Beach the process is that if something major occurs we get all necessary information together to conduct the PIA at the next TIM meeting for that county.

## Traffic Incident Management in the Treasure Coast – Mike McGee

**Intelligent Transportation System Projects** - This design-build project will continue ITS deployment into the District's three northern counties (St. Lucie, Martin, and Indian River Counties). This project includes deployment of conduit, fiber optical cables, telecommunication network, CCTV, DMS, detector, power supply (power run and UPS), etc. FDOT Technical Review Committee is currently reviewing the three Technical Proposals submitted by the short-listed firms. Approx Completion: December 2011.

Mike showed the team an artists' rendition of the proposed Traffic Management Center that will be constructed for the Treasure Coast.

**Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) – (Richard Kauff – Kauff's Towing)** - Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) is a highly innovative program that helps meet Florida's "Open Road Policy" goal of safely clearing major highway incidents and truck crashes in 90 minutes or less. This is an incentive-based program that requires specialized equipment and trained operators to quickly remove wreckage from the roadway.

Richard has been a part of RISC for a few years and is a proponent to the program. The program has been a success for the towing industry. Recovery efforts have grown from what they used to do before RISC. Incidents would last 12-14 hours where as most incidents that involve RISC, last no longer then 90 minutes unless there are complications.

## Other Issues – Mike McGee

- Mike explained a TIM Resource page that was created to help benefit the members of the TIM team to contact other members and agencies about issues or questions they may have.
- There is a comment card available for everyone to fill out confidentially if there are any questions, comments, or criticisms.
- Mike asked the TIM team if the Treasure Coast TIM team is an appropriate name for the new team. It was unanimously voted that the Treasure Coast TIM team keep the current name.

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- Next proposed TIM team meeting date was suggested to be the third Thursday of every other month opposite the Broward TIM Team meeting months. Next proposed meeting date is July 17, 2008.

## Action Items:

- Research LVRI system that is used for Smoke/Fog detection that projects a timeline of when the roadway needs to be shut down due to visibility.

## Meeting Attendance List

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Amandro	Ann	St. Lucie County Traffic
Beck	Scott	Port St. Lucie Police Department
Brothers	Jan	Tropic Towing
Buchwald	Peter	St. Lucie TPO
Byrd	Bobby	Martin County Engineering Department
Carper	Tony	Indian River County Emergency Management
Christopher	Tom	St. Lucie County Emergency Management
Darley	Keith	Keller's Towing
DeFago	Alicia	D4 PIO
DiFrancesco	Anthony	Tri-County Towing and Recovery
Ewing	Michael	Martin County SO
Foster	James	Martin County SO
Graves	Mike	St. Lucie Sheriffs Office
Greene	Tom	FDOT – Treasure Coast
Guidebeck	Andrew	Tropic Towing
Harmer	Gary	Keller's Towing Martin County
Hingson	Gene	FHP
Jaholkowski	Mike	Mike's Wrecker
Jaholkowski	Maricia	Mike's Wrecker
Jaholkowski	Patty	Mike's Wrecker
Kauff	Richard	Kauff's Towing
Keister	Ron	Boynton Beach Fire Rescue
Kinchen	Vana	FDOT
Maloney	David	FDOT
McKissack	Ed	Florida's Turnpike
Moore	Stan	Kauff's Towing
Needham	David	SMART SunGuide Broward TMC
Parrish	Ron	St. Lucie County Fire Department
Pauley	Don	St. Lucie Road & Bridge
Perkins	Joel	Kauff's Towing
Purser	Rob	FHP
Reeder	Jim	Palm Beach Post
Toth	Kevin	PB ITMS
Weber	Wolfgang	Indian River County SO
Werner	Catherine	Florida's Turnpike
White	Helena	PB ITMS
Whitley	Tom	St. Lucie County Fire Department