

Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes

September 2008



Meeting Date: September 22, 2008

Meeting Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Treasure Coast Operations Center
3601 Oleander Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

Attendees: Listing Attached

Call Meeting to Order

Mike McGee of DMJM Harris called the meeting to order. Introductions immediately followed.

Distributed Documents:

- Agenda
- Previous Treasure Coast Meeting Minutes
- RISC Vendor Sheets
- LEO Alert brochures
- Collapsible Cones sheet
- SMART Moves
- Lightning Safety sheet

Review Previous Meeting Minutes and Action Items – Mike McGee

At the last meeting, FHP had brought up LVRI (Low Visibility Risk Index) as a system that is used to track different areas that are at risk for low visibility due to smoke and fog. A map of the state of Florida was shown using a key to color code areas that are at low risk to high risk using a number scale from 1-10. The map can be found here: http://flame.fl-dof.com/fire_weather/observations/obs_lvri.html. Guy stated that he would continue to request Fog and Smoke Detection Systems be programmed as new projects for areas that experience frequent road closures during these types of conditions but explained that with current state funding restrictions it's much harder to get new projects into the FDOT Work Program. Guy went on to say that it's easier to add these kinds of systems onto existing projects as was done with a similar Fog and Smoke Detection System that was added to a project to install DMS and CCTV on I-75/Alligator Alley in Broward County.

Reintroduction to the TIM Team – Mike McGee

Mike described what the TIM team is all about and that we are here to service our members with any issues or problems that occur that can be handled at a local level. The TIM team is also a good mechanism to bring issues to the state level as well. Guy mentioned that there used to be a statewide TIM team that met regularly but does not occur at this time.

Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Support Office – Mickey Kelly

Michael Kelly is the Project Manager for Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties. The ITS facility that is currently being constructed is expected to be completed by February 2009. The installation of the ITS devices is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2010. I-95 in Martin County, the fiber and conduit is being installed. This is all being done without having to close roadways or impede traffic.

I-95 Construction Update – Carolyn Gish

Project One: St. Lucie County – Becker Interchange is being reconstructed. The current configuration (2 lanes open in each direction) will remain for the next several months. There may be periodic night time lane closures down to one lane.

Project Two: St. Lucie County – Crosstown Interchange is being reconstructed. The current configuration (2 lanes open in each direction) will remain for the next several months. There may be periodic night time lane closures down to one lane.

Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes

September 2008



Project Three: Martin County – I-95 NB Weigh-in-Motion Station; Design Build – A new NB weigh-in-motion station is being constructed. The NB right lane will be closed 24/7 starting 9/25/08 for a period of six weeks. This is located between the Jupiter and Hobe Sound exits.

Project Four: Martin County – I-95 S of SR 76 (Kanner Hwy.) interchange to Martin/St. Lucie county line; Resurfacing and landscaping is taking place. Night time lane closures will take place for the next few months. The Department is considering some day time closures. If this is approved, it will start in the next few months.

Project Five: Martin, St. Lucie, & Indian River Counties – I-95 ITS from Palm Beach/Martin County line to Indian River/Brevard County line; Installation of underground fiber optic cable. Only minor lane closures required. Most work is well away from traffic. Project personnel are coordinating with project personnel for the NB WIM station (see project three).

Statewide TIM / RISC Updates – Guy Francese

Guy explained that the Statewide TIM team consisted of high level individuals from around the state that met on a monthly basis to discuss statewide issues as well as district specific issues. Guy explained the Open Roads Policy and the origin of that policy and the agreement between FHP to get the roads open in 90 minutes if possible depending on the nature of the incident. The Statewide TIM team also developed documents like *Motor Vehicle Spill Mitigation* as well as various others. Currently, the Statewide TIM team is developing a statewide cross-agency training program. There have been several attempts to schedule a meeting to review the pilot training program. A date is still yet to be determined.

Another statewide issue taking place is switching the Road Rangers to the MA/COM radio system that FHP currently uses. The state has provided each district with radios to distribute to Road Rangers. This will allow Road Rangers to communicate with FHP while working incidents.

Guy updated the team on various TIM efforts that are being looked at statewide. The I-95 Corridor Coalition has a HOGS group, which is Highway Operations Group, which meets to discuss various issues as well as Incident Management and Service Patrols.

The Southern Traffic Incident eXchange Program (STIX), was created to have TMCs from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida communicate when there are incidents that occur on the main interstate routes. STIX was operational in the spring of 2008.

The RISC contract for District 4 is scheduled to be advertised the week September 8, 2008. A handout is available describing how to access the advertisement and download the Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) Package.

The language requiring wrecker operators to “Meet the State of Florida Wrecker Operator Certification Program requirements” has been deleted. Other training requirements remain as in the original Turnpike contract such as completing Intermediate Maintenance of Traffic training within 60 days of contract execution and operators must be trained in heavy duty wrecker operations and recovery practices.

The required initial response equipment and vehicle requirements have been revised to include a 50 ton fixed boom/heavy duty wrecker and a 50 ton rotator/heavy duty wrecker.

Guy stated that FHP will have to do inspections of all agencies that apply. Captain Egeli of FHP stated that FHP currently does not do the inspections. Captain Egeli suggested looking into Motor Carrier Compliance Office (MCCO) for inspections.

I-595 is not included in the District 4 RISC program as this roadway will be managed by a private entity.

Scene Safety: Lightning Safety – Mike McGee

Mike reviewed a safety handout on lightning. This issue was brought up after a Florida Highway Patrol Trooper was struck by lightning last month in Palm Beach County while at the scene of an accident. Mike described some safety precautions that can be taken if lightning is a threat.

Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes

September 2008



- The safest place commonly available during a lightning storm is a large, fully enclosed, substantially constructed building, e.g. your typical house, school, library, or other public building.
- If you cannot flee to a safer location, take action to minimize the threat of being struck. Proceed from higher to lower elevations.
- Avoid wide-open areas, including sports fields, beaches and golf courses. Avoid tall, isolated objects like trees, poles, and light posts.

- Avoid water-related activities such as swimming (including indoor pools), boating and fishing. Do not remain in open vehicles like farm tractors, cable less construction machinery, riding lawnmowers and golf carts (sun roofs offer no protection).
- Do not consider unprotected open structures such as picnic pavilions, rain shelters and bus stops.
- Avoid contact with metal fences, metal bleachers, or other long metal structures.
- And the cardinal rule remains: Do not take shelter under trees to keep dry during thunderstorms.

511 Rolling Roadblocks Notification – Mike McGee

Mike read an email from a motorist who got caught in a rolling roadblock that was not reported to 511 on time. The motorist called 511 before he started his route. When he was on the highway and came to a stop he called 511 again and it appeared to be reported after the start up. Gregg stated that the notification procedures will be included in the meeting minutes (See below). Gregg also mentioned that from the Operations point of view we will work on getting the information to 511.

Rolling Roadblock Requirements as approved by FHWA for the Northern Three Counties I-95 ITS Deployment Project; currently under construction:

Maintenance of Traffic

All work and maintenance activities for the N3C Project requiring MOT shall be in accordance with the MUTCD, the FDOT Plans Preparation Manual, and all FDOT standard MOT index sheets, Series 600.

The **Design-Build Firm** shall submit to the **DEPARTMENT**, for review and approval, “Rolling Road Block” maintenance of traffic plans for all DMS structural support and DMS device installations. The Rolling Road Block MOT plan shall conform to FHWA Work Zone – Best Practices Guidebook for Florida, FDOT Design Standards Index 619, and the FDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, Section 102-7 (latest editions).

The **Design Build Firm** shall ensure that all Rolling Road Block MOT plans depict, at a minimum, the following information:

- Typical Section Sheet(s)
- General Notes and Construction Sequence Sheet(s)
- Typical Detail Sheet(s)
- Traffic Control Plan Sheet(s)
- NO LANE CLOSURES ALLOWED between the hours of 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM EST.
- All lane closures must be coordinated with FDOT D4 PIO, FHP, and the SMART SunGuide TMC within 7 calendar days of **DEPARTMENT** approved lane closure, unless otherwise directed by the **DEPARTMENT**.
- All lanes of traffic must be opened in the event of emergency or as directed by the **DEPARTMENT** or its designee.

Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes

September 2008



New 511 System – Bob Murphy

Florida's new 511 advanced traveler information system (ATIS), expected to be on line in 2009, will utilize data directly from Regional Transportation Management Center around the state – including the Broward TMC for FDOT District IV of the Treasure Coast. The current Florida 511 has five regional sites and statewide coverage. Customized routing and alerts will be available to all users. Marketing efforts have already begun on the Treasure Coast and other parts of the state to publicize the service.

Primary Diversion Route Closures – Captain James Feeney, Jupiter Police Department

Captain Feeney reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of the I-95 gunman incident that occurred Monday, September 17, 2007. Both I-95 and Florida's Turnpike were closed for over 3 hours since the incident took place along the 50-foot shoulder of both major arteries. Motorists used US 1, A1A, Bee Line Highway and Kanner Highway (SR 76) as detour routes. The diverted traffic quickly became gridlocked during the afternoon rush hours and into the evening. The Team discussed possibly having levels to associate diversion routes and what could be done in the future if both highways are blocked simultaneous. Gregg mentioned that District 6 has a large book over 15 years old of a diversion route plan and has never used it.

HATS VIDEO

The *Many Hats of Incident Management* video was played for the TIM team. The presentation by a Virginia State Trooper illustrates the perceptions of the various agencies involved at highway incident scenes. A 10-minute portion of the video is available on *YouTube* at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6ilz3tI5Vw>.

Action Items:

- Provide LVRI link to team in meeting minutes
- Provide RFP Scope language to the team regarding rolling roadblock notifications from the contractors.
- Work on Operations side to get information about rolling roadblocks before they begin to 511.

Attendees:

Bergen	Brian	Martin County Sheriffs Office
Egeli	Ibrahim	FHP - Captain
Francese	Guy	FDOT - D4
Gove	Steve	FDOT MCO
Greene	Thomas	FDOT Maintenance - Treasure Coast
Johnson	Jeffrey	FHP - Treasure Coast
Kelly	Mickey	FDOT TC Operations
Kinchen	Vana	FDOT Treasure Coast
King	John	Indian River County Fire Rescue
Letts	Gregg	DMJM Harris
McGee	Michael	DMJM Harris
McGlynn	Nicole	DMJM Harris
Mittwede	Kurt	Saint Lucie County Sheriffs Office - Sergeant
Murphy	Bob	DMJM Harris
Needham	David	Palm Beach Vista Center
Stewart	James	Indian River County Sheriffs Office
Yaqub	Jami	Target Engineering Group