

# Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes

## July 2009



**Meeting Date:** July 16, 2009

**Meeting Time:** 1:30 PM

**Location:** FDOT Operations Center  
3601 Oleander Ave.  
Fort Pierce, FL 34981

**Attendees:** Listing Attached

### **Call Meeting to Order**

Chuck McGinness of AECOM called the meeting to order. Introductions immediately followed.

### **Distributed Documents:**

- Agenda
- Previous Treasure Coast Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2009
- *Agencies Try to Keep the Traffic Flowing* article from July 8, 2009 Herald Tribune Newspaper
- *Indian River Gets New Emergency Management Coordinator* article from July 9, 2009
- *Interchange at Becker Road Should be Open by end of July in Port St. Lucie* article from July 9, 2009
- SMART Moves June 2009 18<sup>th</sup> Edition
- State of Florida One Way Evacuation Plan Florida's Turnpike dated July 10, 2009
- Post Incident Analysis Handouts

### **REVIEW ACTION ITEMS/PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

#### FHWA 2009 Self Assessment Scores – Chuck McGinness, AECOM

Chuck explained that the FHWA Self Assessment that was conducted back in January has undergone some changes. The Federal Highway Administration changed the scoring method from numbers to letters. There are categories to show low, medium, or high progress for each question. The old method gave a score of 33.2% while the new scoring gave a 32.8%. Chuck explained that the scoring will allow for improvement as new ITS devices and programs are coming on board.

### **UPDATES**

#### I-95 Construction – Mickey Kelly, FDOT Treasure Coast Operations

Mickey reported that Becker Rd and Gatlin Blvd will be open by the end of the month. I-95 in St. Lucie County will have night time closures and have milling surfacing done. This should be done by January 2010.

ITS update is that the project is ahead of schedule. There are roughly 6 to 7 CCTV's left to install. The fiber in Martin County is ready to start any day.

#### Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Update – Bob Murphy, AECOM

Bob stated that the RISC program activation is pending completion of training for FHP troopers. Possible start date is in July. All vendors have executed contracts and are ready to start the RISC program.

#### Road Ranger Program Update – Bob Murphy, AECOM

The Road Ranger Service Patrol contract will be out for advertisement in August, and an executed contract is possible by January 2010. There will be eight beats and one roaming supervisor. The hours of operation will be Monday – Friday 6am to 10pm. The dispatching procedures for the Treasure Coast Road Rangers are still being discussed.

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### Palm Beach ITMS to Vista Center Transition – Helena White, PB ITMS Operations Supervisor

Helena gave a brief description of the Palm Beach ITMS Center and how Operations is conducted in the center. The Palm Beach ITMS operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. The center dispatches the Palm Beach Road Rangers to incidents along I-95. The center also facilitates traffic management, collects data, DMS activation, interagency coordination information dissemination, and does construction event coordination.

The new location for the Palm Beach ITMS center will be the current Vista SunGuide Center located at 2300 North Jog Rd. West Palm Beach, FL 33411. Anyone interested in a tour of either facility can contact Helena White at [Helena.white@telvent.com](mailto:Helena.white@telvent.com).

### SMART SunGuide Website – Updated TIM Page – Chuck McGinness, AECOM

Chuck informed the TIM team that the TIM page on the SMART SunGuide website has undergone some changes and some additional resource information has been added. Everyone is encouraged to look at the site and provide any feedback necessary. Please visit [www.smartsunguide.com/tim.aspx](http://www.smartsunguide.com/tim.aspx)

### New Statewide 511 System – Bob Murphy, AECOM

Bob explained that the new 511 system is statewide and uses a voice recognition system. All information that is obtained to populate the 511 system comes directly from the Traffic Management Centers (TMC). The TMCs do depend on the agencies that are involved in the incidents to record accurate data. There are a few issues with the system but they are currently being worked on.

### Florida's Turnpike One Way Evacuation – Doug Prager, Florida's Turnpike

Doug Prager explained the history of the one way evacuation plan. Currently there are four possible evacuation routes. Doug gave a detailed presentation on each type of evacuation route. The original plan back in 1994 started in Ft. Pierce and went to Orlando. The new South Florida Plan shows Lantana to Orlando and the Full System plan is from Mile Marker 0 to Mile Marker 270.

### Emergency Management Operations – John King, Indian River County EOC Director

John King from the Indian River County EOC Department gave an overview of what is involved in preparing for an emergency. The county EOC will prepare for emergencies by having shelters open, debris clean up assistance for after hurricanes, notifications for bridge closures. John gave some tips on what to do in case of an emergency. Make sure you have a safe place to be during the emergency and have enough food and water for each person within the household for at least three days.

### TIM Incident Review – Mike Scheidt, Kauff's Towing

On May 23, 2009, Mike explained that he responded to a loaded tractor trailer that rolled over on I-95 NB at Mile Marker 101. The incident overall took approximately 4 ½ hours to clear. Equipment that showed up to the scene was five wreckers, six big trucks, 18 workers, and MOT truck.

On June 5, 2009 at the same location there was another tractor trailer that was loaded that had rolled over. Mike stated that this incident served as a second chance on practicing what could have been done better on the first incident. Mike said that all the same equipment was called to the scene and the scene was treated as a RISC call. This incident took 3 ½ hours to clear, one hour less than the first incident.

Mike Scheidt of Kauff's Towing gave a detailed presentation of RISC. Mike explained the level of expertise needed to do RISC and also explained the level of expertise with regular rotation. With RISC you get it all. Mike explained when a RISC is called for an incident any and all required equipment is brought to the scene on the first call. Mike explained how important it is to know your RISC providers. Mike also stated that the RISC providers should get to know the TMC dispatchers so that the dispatchers can communicate incident information to them. Mike ended by stating, "Incident Management involves everyone."

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### Post Incident Analysis – Helena White, Palm Beach ITMS Center

Helena reviewed incident 608395 that occurred on May 19, 2009 on i-95 SB beyond MM 95. This was a vehicle rollover that was detected by the Palm Beach ITMS center within three minutes of happening. The cause is unknown and the total lane closure time was ten minutes.

### Training Safety Tip – Chuck McGinness, AECOM

Chuck showed pictures of a crash that occurred on Interstate 80 in Virginia. The incident closed the highway down for most of the day and also caused schools in the area to cancel school because the bus system could not get to the kids or the schools. The incident involved 3 tractor trailers and a passenger van. Approximately 40 people were caught in the traffic queue and had to be evacuated due to the hazmat situation from the scene.

Chuck also showed a picture of a bicyclist that was riding on I-95 around Griffin Rd. FHP did stop him and had him removed from the highway.

### Open Discussion – All

Lt. Mike Ewing of Martin County Sheriff's Office inquired about the crossover just north of the new Becker Road interchange being blocked by guardrails. Chuck discussed the median crossover issue that Broward is currently going through. The medians crossovers were blocked by guardrails and did not allow fire rescue or any emergency personnel through to respond to incidents on the opposite sides of the interstate. Chuck inquired about the issue to the Treasure Coast TIM team. Chuck gave his contact information and requested letters to send to FDOT to request a variance from FHWA. Letters can be sent to the FDOT contact for the Safety Department, Gilbert Soles, 3400 West Commercial Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309.

### Action Items:

- Coordinate incident notifications to Vana Kinchen for Indian River and St. Lucie Counties.

### Attendees:

Brian	Bergen	Martin County Sheriffs Office
Michael	Ewing	Martin County Sheriffs Office
James	Foster	Martin County Sheriffs Office
Steve	Gove	FDOT – Motor Carrier Compliance Office
Mike	Graves	St. Lucie County Sheriffs Office
Thomas	Greene	FDOT Treasure Coast Operations
James	Howie	Port St. Lucie Police Department
Richard	Kauff	Kauff's Towing
Mickey	Kelly	FDOT Treasure Coast Operations
Vana	Kinchen	FDOT Treasure Coast Operations
John	King	Indian River County EOC
Chuck	McGinness	AECOM
Nicole	McGlynn	AECOM
Ed	McKissack	Florida's Turnpike
Kurt	Mittwede	St. Lucie County Sheriffs Office
Stan	Moore	Kauff's Towing
Bob	Murphy	AECOM
David	Needham	AECOM
Tim	Pompos	Palm Beach Fire Rescue
Mike	Scheidt	Kauff's Towing
Helena	White	Palm Beach ITMS
Mike	Washburn	Florida's Turnpike