

Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes

May 2009



Meeting Date: May 21, 2009

Meeting Time: 1:30 PM

Location: St. Lucie County Sheriffs Office
4700 Midway Rd.
Fort Pierce, FL 34981

Attendees: Listing Attached

Call Meeting to Order

Guy Francese of AECOM called the meeting to order. Introductions immediately followed.

Distributed Documents:

- Agenda
- Previous Treasure Coast Meeting Minutes
- FDOT Construction Report
- News Article on Gas Line Rupture

REVIEW ACTION ITEMS/PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

New Treasure Coast TIM Coordinator – Guy Francese

A new position was created with the new TIM contract that started April 1, 2009. It is the Treasure Coast TIM Coordinator. Chuck McGinness will be filling the new position. Chuck gave a background on his previous career and TIM meeting attendance.

FHWA Self Assessment Scoring – Mike McGee

Mike reported that the Treasure Coast TIM team score for the FHWA Self Assessment 2008 was 33.2%. Guy briefly discussed the new scoring system that has been put in place. Changes will be made for the next self assessment.

PRESENTATIONS

New Traffic Incident Management Contract – Guy Francese

On April 1st, 2009, a new TIM contract started and was awarded to AECOM, the same company that has been running the contract for several years. A new project manager is on board, Gregg Letts of AECOM.

Wildfire and Drought Hazards – Melissa Yunas, Division of Forestry

Melissa discussed the jurisdictional issues when it comes to fighting fires on the city, county, state, federal, and tribal levels. She also stated that the Division of Forestry has no jurisdiction over closing the highways. She also discussed fire fighting techniques that are used and the responsibilities of the Division of Forestry.

Mike also commented about TIM factors including diversion routes, communication to agencies and motorists, and PIO's. She stated that the information is disseminated as soon as possible to various agencies.

Martin County Gas Pipe Rupture – John Long, Florida Gas Transmission

John started by describing the type of pipes that Florida Gas Transmission has installed. All along I-95 there are 26" high pressure, steel, thick wall pipes installed. The distribution comes from Texas to Florida. Florida Gas Transmission is responsible for marking their own gas lines; they do not distribute the work to others. Ron Moran, Area Director of Operations, stated that on May 4 on the Florida's Turnpike in Martin County at approximately 5:09am a gas line ruptured and caused an explosion. Ron stated that they are working with two agencies, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Pipeline Hazardous Safety Materials Administration (PHSMA). The pipe that ruptured was one of three 18" pipes that have been installed since 1959. The control center in Texas did not see the pressure drop right away.

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An inspection with "smart pig" technology was conducted in 2004 and some minor repairs were made. There was no reason to believe an incident of this magnitude would take place. There is a pipeline integrity program in place and it is being worked on all the time. The work being done is hydrostatic testing and "smart pig" which is a type of gauge sent through a pipeline to inspect for leaks or other problems. The first call came from Martin County Fire Rescue. Lt. Johnson from Florida Highway Patrol stated that 16 miles of the interstate were shut down. All lanes reopened at 11:15am.

Mike presented information regarding diversion routes from incidents in the past. One incident involving a gunman on I-95 closed both I-95 and Florida's Turnpike back in 2007. Mike explained the route that was used for the gunman incident caused gridlock and traffic back up for hours. Mike stated that he would like to conduct a study to determine where diversion routes exist and what routes can be used for diversion routes. This information would also be used to disseminate information to the PSAPs to alert motorists.

FDOT D4 ITS Strategic Plan – Dr. Robert Edelstein, AECOM

Dr. Edelstein is the Vice President and National ITS Director for AECOM and is in charge of updating the FDOT D4 ITS Strategic Plan. Dr. Edelstein is here to get input from the TIM teams for what they see happening in the future for ITS. Dr. Edelstein stated that the plan will be updated to reflect where District IV wants to be in the year 2015. For the Treasure Coast most of the ITS will be completed. Looking at maintenance improvements, have started creating the Maintenance Information Management System (MIMS). TIM ideas were developing MOUs and getting them executed, working to organize the arterial roadways, ramp identification numbers and location reference markers.

UPDATES

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

Mickey reported that all ITS is on schedule so far. Currently there are 23 CCTV poles installed. Over the summer the foundations for the dynamic message signs (DMS) will be installed. Completion date is the end of 2010.

Traffic Incident Management Support Office (TIMSO) Update – Mickey Kelley, FDOT Treasure Coast Operations

The monitors have been hung up in the Traffic Incident Management Support Office (TIMSO) and that building is complete.

Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) Update – Guy Francese, FDOT D4 Freeway Operations Manager

Guy stated that the RISC program activation is pending completion of training for FHP troopers. Possible start date is around June 15, 2009. All vendors have executed contracts and are ready to start the RISC program.

Road Ranger Program Update – Guy Francese, FDOT D4 Freeway Operations Manager

The money for the Road Ranger program for the Treasure Coast has been reestablished. The contract will be out for bids around July 1, 2009 and the program will start around September 1, 2009. There will be nine Road Rangers and nine beats starting at the Broward/PB County line to the PB County/Brevard County line. The shift times will be 6:00am to 10:00pm.

Primary Seatbelt Law – Sgt. Kurt Mittwede, St. Lucie's Sheriffs Office

Sgt. Mittwede discussed the new primary enforcement seatbelt law that takes effect June 30. He also gave a rundown of the activities planned for the Click It or Ticket campaign over Memorial Day weekend.

Due to time constraints, the rest of the agenda has been deferred to the next meeting.

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Attendees:

Edelstein	Bob	AECOM
Fatima	Neelam	St. Lucie TPO
Francese	Guy	FDOT D4
Greene	Thomas	FDOT Treasure Coast Operations
Gregory	Amanda	Martin County Sheriffs Office
Hall	Dave	Florida Gas Transmission
Houle	Paul	Florida Gas Transmission
Johnson	Jeffrey	Florida Highway Patrol
Kauff	Richard	Kauff's Towing
Kelly	Mickey	FDOT Treasure Coast Operations
Kinchen	Vana	FDOT Treasure Coast Operations
Letts	Gregg	AECOM
Long	John	Florida Gas Transmission
Maclees	Russell	Florida Gas Transmission
McGee	Michael	AECOM
McGinness	Chuck	AECOM
Mittwede	Kurt	St. Lucie County Sheriffs Office
Moran	Ron	Florida Gas Transmission
Morris	Andrew	Florida Highway Patrol
Powley	Benjamin	Florida Division of Forestry
Scheidt	Mike	Kauff's Towing
Stewart	James	Indian River Sheriffs Office
Varga	Wayne	Florida's Turnpike
Washburn	Mike	Florida's Turnpike
Weber	Wolfgang	Indian River Sheriffs Office
Yingling	Forrest	Martin County Sheriffs Office
Yunas	Melissa	Florida Division of Forestry