

# Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes

January 2010



**Meeting Date:** January 21, 2010

**Meeting Time:** 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**Location:** Indian River State College Public Safety Complex  
4600 Kirby Loop Rd.  
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 – November 19, 2009
- Division of Forestry Wildfires Handout
- Road Ranger Survey
- I-95 Corridor Coalition Quick Clearance Workshop
- FDOT Construction Report
- St. Lucie West overpass – *article*
- Post Incident Analysis Timeline and Chronology reports
- The Benefits of TIM Committees
- I-95 Widening in Indian River, South Brevard, pushed to 2020 - *article*

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

### FDOT Maintenance Notifications

This item has been discussed briefly at previous TIM meetings. The contact numbers for FDOT Maintenance to ensure they receive notifications of incidents are (772) 465-7396 from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., (772) 519-1063 for the on call supervisor, and (772) 519-1048 for Tom Greene, FDOT Maintenance Manager.

### RISC Public/Private Tows

It was discussed that a private tow can be requested on scene of RISC calls. FHP allows for up to 20 minutes for a private wrecker to arrive, after the RISC vendor takes over.

### TIM Team Notification of Turnpike Fort Pierce Closure

Three TIM team advisories have been sent out since the last meeting regarding northbound closures on Florida's Turnpike for utility work. Another closure from Stuart to Jupiter is scheduled on Monday, January 25, from 12 a.m. to 4 a.m. Anyone not receiving the alerts was asked to contact Nicole McGlynn or Chuck McGinness to be added to the email list.

## **UPDATES**

### ITS Project Update – Mickey Kelly, FDOT Treasure Coast Operations

The ITS project is about 20% ahead of schedule. The fiber has been completed through Indian River County and that will tie in Highway Advisory Radios (HAR), 100 speed detectors, 12 Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), and 60 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras. In March, construction will begin on DMS signs. There will be rolling roadblocks taking place for the DMS installation as well as proper notifications that will be made on the rolling roadblocks. The target end date for this project is January 2011 and the equipment installation should be completed by the end of summer 2010.

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

An article on future widening and resurfacing projects on I-95 was included in the handouts. Members were encouraged to read it.

# Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes

January 2010



## St. Lucie County

**Project Limits:** I-95 between the Martin County line and S.R. 70/Okeechobee Road.

**Description:** I-95 is being repaved in this 15-mile-long section along with interchange ramps at the Gatlin Boulevard, St. Lucie West Boulevard, Midway Road and S.R. 70 interchanges.

**Traffic Impact:** I-95 will have one lane closed in each direction periodically for two miles at a time between S.R. 70 and Becker Road weekdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and overnight from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday night, Jan. 17, through Thursday night, Jan. 21. The I-95 southbound exit to Gatlin Boulevard, the Gatlin entrance to I-95 southbound, the I-95 northbound exit to S.R. 70 and the S.R. 70 eastbound entrance to I-95 northbound will be closed 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday night, Jan. 17. The I-95 southbound exit to Gatlin and the Gatlin entrance to I-95 northbound will be closed 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday night, Jan. 18. The I-95 northbound exit to Midway Road and the Midway entrance to I-95 southbound will be closed 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Tuesday night, Jan. 19. The Midway entrance to I-95 northbound will be closed from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Wednesday night, Jan. 20. At the St. Lucie West Boulevard Interchange, I-95 has one lane closed 24 hours a day and two lanes closed from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. through Tuesday night. The interchange bridge over I-95 is closed to all traffic in both directions 24 hours a day until Wednesday.

**Cost / Completion:** The construction contract is \$7.1 million. The construction management contract is \$1.3 million. Completion will be in early February.

## Indian River County

**Project Limits:** S.R. 60 between 66<sup>th</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Vero Beach. (Average Daily Traffic – 26,500)

**Description:** S.R. 60 will be widened from four lanes to a six-lane divided highway. Other improvements in this two-mile-long construction zone will include adding bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the road, new street lights, and new traffic signals at three signalized intersections, landscaping and replacing most of the R-3 Canal with an underground pipe.

**Traffic Impact:** S.R. 60 will have one eastbound lane closed between 66<sup>th</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenues 24 hours a day Tuesday, Jan. 19, through Friday, Jan. 22.

**Cost / Completion:** The construction contract is \$18.5 million. The construction management contract is \$3 million. Completion is expected by summer 2011.

**Project Limits:** S.R. 60 between 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and I-95 west of Vero Beach. (Average Daily Traffic – 26,500)

**Traffic Impact:** S.R. 60 will have one lane closed in each direction weekdays, except Jan. 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Description:** This 1.5-mile-long section of S.R. 60 will be widened from four to six lanes. Other work will include new drainage, street lights and traffic signals.

**Cost / Completion:** The construction contract is \$7.3 million. The construction management contract is \$1.5 million. Completion will be mid-2011.

## Martin County

**Project Limits:** I-95 southbound weigh-in-motion station south of S.R. 714 (Exit 110).

**Description:** Preliminary work is underway to build a weigh-in-motion station to determine the weight of truckloads and to inspect trucks traveling on southbound I-95.

**Traffic Impact:** I-95 in this area has all lanes open through Jan. 23.

**Cost / Completion:** The construction contract is \$14.1 million. The construction management contract is \$1.5 million. Completion is spring 2011.

## Road Ranger Program Update – Guy Francese, FDOT District Four Freeway Operations Manager

The Treasure Coast Road Ranger contract has been awarded. The start date has been delayed until further notice.

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

There have been no RISC activations since September 2009. Annual RISC inspections have been completed for 2010. Palm Beach County passed an ordinance that requires all towing agency personnel to pass a drivers license check and a criminal background check and wear a county issued ID badge at all times.

# Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes

## January 2010



### Wildfire Conditions – Melissa Yunas, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Division of Forestry

Melissa presented the conditions of the wildfire season. There have been a few fires since the start of the season. It has been relatively dry from all the cold weather. In January, a lot of rain has accumulated and that has kept the deep layers of the soil moist which helps in keeping the number of fires low. Areas of concern are along I-95. Some causes of grass fires are FPL easements, tall vegetation, and sparks from trains on the tracks, ATVs, golf carts, and hot engines from patrol cars when police pull motorists over. March through June is severe for wildfires.

### International Association of Fire Chiefs: Benefits of TIM Committees – Chuck McGinness, AECOM

Chuck gave a brief description on the importance of TIM teams and presented a handout on the benefits of having a TIM team.

### I-95 Corridor Coalition Quick Clearance Workshop – Chuck McGinness, AECOM

There will be a Quick Clearance Responder Workshop hosted by I-95 Corridor Coalition. It will be February 23, 2010 at the SMART SunGuide Broward Regional Transportation Management Center located at 2300 West Commercial Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL. It is a free workshop and lunch will be provided.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### Post Incident Analysis Debriefing – Chuck McGinness, AECOM, Lt. Cribbs, FHP, Lt. Coker, FHP

#### **PIA Review #1**

On Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at approximately 10:21 p.m., a 2009 Nissan Murano SUV was traveling north on I-95 when the driver for unknown reasons stopped in the center lane just south of State Road 70 and turned on the hazard lights. The driver got out of the vehicle and was getting back inside just as it was struck from the rear by a tractor trailer. The SUV driver was ejected and ended up on the east grass shoulder, where he died. An 8-month-old infant also was ejected and ended up on the east paved shoulder. The infant was critically injured, as were two other passengers in the back seat. FHP Lt. Chris Cribbs presented a slide show with photographs of the crash scene. Lt. Cribbs said the driver of the tractor trailer claimed he did not see the stopped vehicle until just before he struck it. Lt. Cribbs explained that the northbound lanes were completely closed for about 4.5 hours for the fatality investigation and hazmat cleanup. The hazmat contractor arrived on scene in a timely manner and did not delay the cleanup. Lt. Cribbs said there was not a significant backup because of the low volume of traffic at night. Motorists were routed off I-95 at the SR 70 exit and allowed to re-enter I-95 on the northbound entrance ramp at SR 70.

#### **PIA Review #2**

On Friday, January 8, 2010, at approximately 3 a.m., the driver of a tractor trailer carrying old tires to a recycling facility stopped under the northbound Interstate 95 overpass at St. Lucie West Boulevard to check on a flat tire. The defective tire sparked a fire that spread to the cargo area. The driver attempted to extinguish the fire, but was not successful so he disconnected the cab from the trailer. The fire intensified, with flames damaging the bridge beams and deck. Five trucks and 15 fire fighters from St. Lucie Fire Control District responded and had the fire under control in about 20 to 30 minutes. Chunks of concrete were falling off the bridge near the fire fighters. Florida Highway Patrol, St. Lucie Sheriff's Office and Port St. Lucie Police all responded to the incident for traffic control. The St. Lucie Sheriff's Office brought out its "Batmobile," which carries cones and two portable message signs. All three northbound lanes and the St. Lucie West Boulevard overpass were shut down. Traffic was detoured off I-95 at the St. Lucie West Boulevard exit and allowed to re-enter I-95 at the northbound entrance ramp. There was never more than a half-mile backup throughout the duration of the incident. FDOT Maintenance crews also responded to help establish long-term MOT. Kauff's responded as a rotation tow and pulled the damaged trailer out from under the bridge and removed it from the scene. FDOT bridge inspectors arrived from Fort Lauderdale around 8:40 a.m. to assess the damage. The inside northbound lane was re-opened at 9:48 a.m.

FDOT Structures Engineer John Danielsen arrived around 10 a.m. after first stopping at his Fort Lauderdale office to review bridge plans. Danielsen reviewed the inspectors' findings and found that it was safe to reopen the other two lanes on northbound I-95. All northbound lanes were opened at 12:21 p.m. The St. Lucie West Boulevard bridge remained closed for repairs. An emergency contract was awarded on January 8 to contractor Cone & Graham and the repairs were completed on January 17.

# Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting Minutes

## January 2010



FHP Lt. Harry Coker presented a slide show with additional photos and details of the incident. Team members discussed two issues. The FHP call history record of the incident shows messages were left with the FDOT Maintenance on-call supervisor (772-519-1063) at 3:26 a.m. and at 5:01 a.m. FDOT Maintenance Supervisor Tom Greene said the on-call supervisor never received these messages. On Feb. 5, Greene said he received a copy of the detailed billing for the on-call supervisor's phone. Greene said there was no record of any calls on Jan. 8, 2010, between 3:12 a.m. when the on-call supervisor was notified of an unrelated incident (sign damage at MP 118) and 5:06 a.m., when FHP notified Greene of the truck fire. On Jan. 22, Lt. Coker said the notification policy for FDOT traffic control assistance was updated to avoid similar problems in the future. All FHP supervisors in the Fort Pierce District were given the contact information for the FDOT on-call supervisor and for Tom Greene. If they leave a message with the on-call supervisor and do not receive a response in a reasonable time, they are to contact Tom Greene. The second issue involved the delay in posting information about the I-95 closure on 511 and the SMART SunGuide website. The first alert did not go out until 6:25 a.m. Lt. Coker said Judith Saikley, duty officer supervisor at the FHP Lake Worth Regional Communications Center, sent an email to all dispatchers asking them to call the Palm Beach SMART SunGuide TMC on all major incidents that are blocking the roadway or creating a diversion of traffic in the Troop L – Fort Pierce District.

### Training Safety Tip – Chuck McGinness

- TIME 4 Safety video module 3: Lights, Safety Vests, and Cones, was shown to the TC TIM team.

### Open Discussion – All

- No items were discussed.

### Indian River State College Tour – Stephen Huntsberger

- Stephen Huntsberger gave a tour of the Public Safety Complex and of the college's training facilities.

### Action Items

- None at this time.

### Attendees:

Amandro	Ann	St. Lucie County Traffic Engineering Division
Coker	Lt. Harry	FHP – Treasure Coast
Cribbs	Lt. Chris	FHP – Treasure Coast
Duran	Carlos	St. Lucie County Fire District
Francese	Guy	FDOT District Four TIM Project Manager
Gove	Lt. Steve	FDOT - MCCO
Greene	Thomas	FDOT District Four – Treasure Coast Operations
Jackson	Russell	Port St. Lucie PD
Jones	Frederick	FHP – Treasure Coast
Kelly	Mickey	FDOT District Four – Treasure Coast Operations
Maloney	Dave	FDOT District Four Environmental
Marino	Richie	SCC R&B
McGee	Michael	Broward / Palm Beach TIM Coordinator
McGinness	Chuck	Treasure Coast TIM Coordinator
McGlynn	Nicole	TIM Administrative Assistant
McKissack	Ed	Florida's Turnpike
Mirones	Alex	SMART SunGuide Broward Regional Transportation Management Center
Mittwede	Kurt	St. Lucie County Sheriffs Office
Moore	Stan	Kauff's Towing
Murphy	Bob	Project Consultant Manager
Ricks	William	Tow Masters
Slay	Captain Bud	Okeechobee County Sheriffs Office
Stewart	Sgt. James	Indian River County Sheriffs Office
Weber	Wolfgang	Indian River County Sheriffs Office
White	Helena	Palm Beach SunGuide Vista Center
Yunas	Melissa	Florida Division of Forestry – St. Lucie County