

MEETING MINUTES

Palmetto Corridor Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team Coordination Meeting

Date/Time:	August 19, 2020 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM	
Location:	Florida Department of Transportation – District Six Virtual Meeting	
Host:	Donald Avery, Alex Mirones, and Rulx Belizaire	
Attendees:	Name	Agency
	Carlos Dardes	FDOT District Six
	Alex Mirones	SunGuide TMC – District Six
	Rulx Belizaire	SunGuide TMC – District Six
	Donald Avery	SunGuide TMC – District Six
	Felix Lopez	SunGuide TMC – District Six
	Tejas Sale	SunGuide TMC – District Six
	Ralph Etienne	Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
	Michael Washburn	Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
	Jim Hilbert	Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
	Yasir Mercado	Construction Community Outreach Specialist - Turnpike
	Joudy Mendez	FDOT District Four
	Timothy Stanberry	SMART SunGuide TMC – District Four
	Giridhar Jeedigunta	SMART SunGuide TMC – District Four
	Shayla Khalilahmadi	SMART SunGuide TMC – District Four
	Dee McTague	SMART SunGuide TMC – District Four
	Liana Blackwood	SMART SunGuide TMC – District Four
	Commander Rudy Bello	City of Hialeah PD
	Shaun Blue	FDOT District Six Maintenance
	Alexis Margaret	Sunshine Towing
	Maggie Ramos	Sunshine Towing
	Arlhey Carmenate	DBI Services
	Chad Tavares	FDOT North Dade Maintenance Area Manager
	Captain Richard Benton	FHP Troop E
	Enmanuel Espinal	FDOT District 6 Construction Manager
	Jason Richard	Battalion Chief, Miami-Dade Fire

1. Purpose of Meeting

The Palmetto Corridor TIM meeting serves as an opportunity for agencies directly impacted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six's roadways in western Miami-Dade County. Roadways include 826 Express, SR 826/Palmetto Expressway, 75 Express, I-75 as well as Okeechobee Road and Krome Avenue. This provides local fire rescue, law enforcement, asset maintenance, Florida Highway Patrol, and other agencies an open forum to share and discuss information regarding special events, construction projects, activities, initiatives, and issues specific to the area.

2. Discussion Items

TMC Manager, Alex Mirones, started the presentation. The presentation is available at:
<https://sunguide.info/incident-management-service/tim-team/tim-meetings/>

Alex welcomed everyone to the first Miami-Dade Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team Palmetto Corridor meeting. Alex explained the importance of incident management responders and their contribution to the Miami-Dade TIM Team. Alex stated the purpose of the meeting is to address incident management, agency initiatives, construction activities, and concerns specific to the western region of Miami-Dade County. FDOT District Six has TIM Teams in Monroe and Miami-Dade Counties. The District recognized that there is an increased amount of significant activities and traffic issues throughout the District. Rather than having one annual meeting for each county, the District plans to have multiple

regional meetings that will discuss specific issues in that region. Multiple meetings have started in Monroe County. The first meeting for the eastern region of Miami-Dade County (the 95 Corridor) was held earlier this year.

The western portion of Miami-Dade County (the Palmetto Corridor) differs from the eastern region in many ways. While providing incident management along freeways and express lanes, there is a rural component serving Okeechobee Road and Krome Avenue. As the Palmetto Corridor TIM Team moves forward, future meetings will be driven by concerns of the team members.

Incident Management Coordinator, Rulx Belizaire, provided a summary of events along the Palmetto Corridor. He also discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic has effect the Transportation Management Center (TMC) and its incident management program.

Don Avery discussed the changes in volume trends along SR 826 during the pandemic.

Don summarized Palmetto Express, the recent ongoing northbound improvement project, and future projects.

Rulx presented information on the Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) program and provided some examples of RISC events.

Rulx provided an overview of the Road Ranger and Incident Response Vehicle programs.

Rulx discussed the TIM Team webpage located at www.sunguide.info

<https://sunguide.info/incident-management-service/tim-team>

The TIM Team webpage is where members can find information about construction projects, request training, read TIM Quarterly Newsletter, TIM meetings, a “contact us” page.

Rulx demonstrated the interactive Traffic Incident Management Dashboard.

Rulx demonstrated the Responder’s Site. The Responder’s Site allows users to see up to four traffic cameras. The Site also provides a summary of active traffic events. Future enhancements include a map user interface and access to nearest camera from the event list. Those interested can request access from the sunguide.info TIM page.

3. Open Discussion

There was a question regarding the effect of the reduced traffic volumes on the express lanes. Don said that the pandemic lowered traffic volumes throughout the District. As a result, there was less volume on the express lanes and overall speeds increased. The recent changes to Palmetto Express have so far been positive. There was an initial increase in northbound traffic taking Palmetto Express to 75 Express but this may have been motorists learning the new traffic pattern and that the egress to SR 826 at the I-75 interchange was removed.

4. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM