

# Final Meeting Minutes

## Monroe County Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team Meeting

<b>Date/Time:</b>	July 13, 2022	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	
<b>Location:</b>	Florida Department of Transportation - District Six Marathon Operations Center – Conference Room 3100 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida 33050		
<b>Host:</b>	Florida Department of Transportation - District Six		
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
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Ralph Etienne	Florida's Turnpike	954-818-8268	<a href="mailto:ralph.etienne@dot.state.fl.us">ralph.etienne@dot.state.fl.us</a>
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### 1. Purpose of Meeting

To provide an update to the Monroe County TIM Team including Hurricane Response and Evacuation Coordination. Updates were given by FDOT District Six Transportation Management Center, FDOT District Six Emergency Operations, Asset Maintenance Contractor, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, FDOT District Six Traffic Operations, and the National Weather Service. It also serves as an opportunity to network and share lessons learned to maximize interagency cooperation, coordination, and communication.

All presentations listed below are available on the SunGuide.info website.

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

### 2. TIM Updates

#### 2.1 FDOT District Six TIM Update – Alex Mirones

Alex Mirones welcomed everyone to the Monroe County TIM Team Meeting. Introductions were provided by all attendees.

Alex discussed the TMC's hurricane preparation and the Hurricane Response Action Plan. He explained what the TMC does before, during, and after a storm. Don gave an update on the wireless communication migration from cellular to the state microwave backbone. All current ITS and traffic signal devices are now on the microwave backbone. This was a significant effort as the system is now more reliable and not held to cellular outages.

Alex discussed the Snake Creek Bridge incident from February 17. Alex provided a review of the situation and lessons learned from the After-Action Review meeting. Ferrovial is not responsible for that bridge. Movable bridges in the Monroe County are handled

by Florida Drawbridge Inc. (FDI). Ferrovial handles the fixed bridges in Monroe County. Col. Caputo asked who is locally responsible. Alex said that FDI is the local response for FDOT. Bert said that Ferrovial is willing to assist but FDI is the support. Col. Caputo asked if there is a manual bypass. Bert said there is a manual bypass. Col. Caputo said that this situation happens from time-to-time and it sometimes takes hours to respond and clear the traffic.

Alex discussed the Shark Channel Bridge incident from April 14. A portion of the pedestrian bridge collapsed. TMC made notifications and Ferrovial safed up the area and closed the bridge. Alex said this bridge is owned by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Alex discussed the vehicle fire along the 18-mile stretch on April 26 which resulted in a brush fire. Alex also gave an update on training and special events.

Saud said the Monroe County School Board has a wide load permit for the delivery of portable classrooms. The delivery will occur from July 13 through July 23, 2022. This will be done during the daytime hours of 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

## 2.2 FDOT District Six Emergency Operations – Crystal Schaefer

Crystal gave an overview of the District Six Emergency Operations Center (D6EOC). Crystal does the COOP planning and emergency plan. She discussed coordination with the TMC. Crystal showed the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) tag for reentry. Col. Caputo said they learned a lot after Irma about badges and stickers. Bert asked if they are getting the SERT tags? Crystal said this will be in coordination with Simon Gutierrez and will be event based. Carlos Solis said that reentry needs to address how to handle contractors coming in to make repairs with reentry protocol. Shannon said to let Monroe County Emergency Management know about contractors that are coming in. They can give out placards at the beginning of the event. Col. Caputo said that Shannon has a good concept of the new checkpoint. They learned a lot from the COVID-19 checkpoint.

Crystal discussed how the Snake Creek Bridge lockdown is handled. D6EOC follows the Coast Guard port conditions in making the determination to lock down the bridge.

Crystal showed the District Six twitter as a source of information.

## 2.3 Asset Maintenance – Dean Richardson, Ferrovial Services

Dean discussed their support team and the facilities at Key Largo, Marathon, and Key West. They handle mile markers 126 to 0. Ferrovial works with Saud for permits. They respond to incidents, debris removal, MOT setup, assist RISC, and will assist with Card Sound Road as needed. Dean discussed the challenges they had with communications after Irma. Dean said they resorted to using landlines and, in some cases, passing handwritten messages.

## 2.4 Florida's Turnpike Enterprise – Ralph Etienne

Ralph presented the Turnpike's evacuation plan and the prerequisite conditions. Ralph discussed the pre-storm operations. The decision on toll suspensions will come from the Governor. Ralph reviewed the Turnpike's three separate plans for the southern end, northern end, and Beachline west. He discussed the use of emergency shoulder running. Ralph showed how the Turnpike can support the District's Palm Drive plan.

Col. Caputo said that evacuation plans are very good but there are no reentry plans. Monroe County residents get frustrated with reentry as they sometimes try to return too quickly and then end up waiting a long time. Shannon said that people get angry waiting in line when they come back. Col. Caputo suggested that increased DMS messaging could help give advance warning on when residents can come back. Many residents may evacuate as far north as Orlando. DMS messaging along southbound Turnpike could provide advance notice to returning residents. Crystal suggested that Monroe County develop a reentry plan. FDOT is there to support reentry, not develop the plan. If a reentry plan is developed, FDOT can review.

## 2.5 District Six Traffic Operations – Saud Khan

Saud presented the Palm Drive (SW 344 Street) plan. This plan is used to support the US 1 evacuation route out of the Florida Keys. He discussed the different triggers that would start the plan in motion. He showed the different stages of the plan and impacts the stages have at Palm Drive.

## 2.6 National Weather Service/NOAA – Chris Rothwell

Chris provided an overview of the National Weather Service and NOAA. He summarized how the various storm models work and how the “cone” is formed. He showed the difference between a well-defined storm and one that is difficult to predict. He showed the services that NWS/NOAA provides before, during, and after a storm.

### 3. Open Discussion

Col. Caputo asked Saud to look at the Bridge Run permit. Col. Caputo was concerned with the times requested.

Shannon asked about the structural wind strength for the wireless microwave devices. Don said he would look into it and get the information.

There was a question about wind sensors that had been installed along US 1. Alex said these were sensors that interacted with (GOES) Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite. The sensors were working sometime ago but do not seem to be currently working. Alex will look into it.

Jacki asked about the wireless microwave system. Can the microwave system support communication for emergency situations? Don said he would look into this.

### 4. Meeting Adjourned

The presentations and meeting minutes are available on SunGuide.info (<https://sunguide.info/incident-management-service/tim-team/tim-meetings/>). The next Monroe County TIM Team Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 19, 2022.