

Final Meeting Minutes

Monroe County Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team Meeting

Date/Time:	June 12, 2023	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	
Location:	Florida Department of Transportation - District Six Marathon Operations Center – Conference Room 3100 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida 33050		
Host:	Florida Department of Transportation - District Six		
Attendees	Agency	Phone	Email
Andres Castineiras	FDOT District Six Maintenance	305-842-2381	andres.castineiras@dot.state.fl.us
Carlos Dardes	FDOT District Six TSM&O	305-640-7332	carlos.dardes@dot.state.fl.us
Crystal Schaefer	FDOT District Six EOC	786-295-7047	crystal.schaefer@dot.state.fl.us
Evan Cruz	FDOT District Six Maintenance	305-915-8820	evan.cruz@dot.state.fl.us
Saud Khan	FDOT District Six Traffic Operations	305-781-3360	saud.khan@dot.state.fl.us
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Felix Lopez	SunGuide TMC	305-640-7353	felix.lopez@sunguide.info
Rulx Belizaire	SunGuide TMC	305-733-6060	rulx.belizaire@sunguide.info
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Daniel Salon	Florida's Turnpike	954-934-1608	daniel.salon@dot.state.fl.us
Gregory Cacioppo	Florida's Turnpike	631-767-9511	gregory.cacioppo@dot.state.fl.us
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Michael Miller	H2O Environmental	305-796-5808	mmiller@h2oenvgroup.com
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Cory Schwisow	Monroe County Emergency Management	305-849-9660	schwisow-cory@monroecounty-fl.gov
Shannon Weiner	Monroe County Emergency Management	305-797-1167	weiner-shannon@monroecounty-fl.gov
Jonathan Rizzo	NOAA/NWS	305-240-0248	jonathan.rizzo@noaa.gov
Bert Serrano	Webber Infra	786-843-1532	humberto.serrano@webber.com
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Dean Richardson	RS&H	904-826-7015	dean.richarson@rsandh.com

1. Purpose of Meeting

Provide agency updates from the TIM Team which includes hurricane response, evacuation coordination, special events, and project updates. There will be updates from the FDOT District Six Transportation Management Center, FDOT Traffic Operations Office, FDOT Emergency Operations Center, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, the National Weather Service, and the FDOT Asset Maintenance Contractor in Monroe County. It also serves as an opportunity to network and share lessons learned to improve interagency 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 – Rulx Belizaire

Rulx welcomed everyone to the Monroe County TIM Team Meeting, and introductions were provided by all attendees. Rulx advised of a few staff announcements beginning with Yamilet Diaz as the TSM&O Engineer for Freeways, Ernesto Polo as the TSM&O Engineer for Arterials, and Andres Castineiras as the new Asset Maintenance Program Manager.

Rulx discussed the TMC's hurricane preparation plan known as the Hurricane Response Action Plan (HRAP). He described the actions the TMC does before, during, and after a storm. Before the storm entails contacting essential staff, preparing for Alpha/Bravo shifts, disseminating information through Dynamic Message Signs (DMSs), facilitating northbound evacuation through the Monroe County Traffic Signal System (MCTSS), and implementing signal timing plans to favor northbound traffic if

needed. Actions during the storm consist of maintaining operations, providing hourly updates to FDOT Emergency Management, checking ITS devices and the MCTSS, as well as ensuring continuity of operations by relocating to the Florida's Turnpike TMC in Turkey Lake if the SunGuide TMC building is directly impacted by a hurricane greater than Category 3. After the storm, the TMC focuses on contacting staff, reestablishing power as needed, checking inventory, as well as monitoring the health of traffic signals and ITS devices.

Rulx described the additional equipment available from the District as well as FDOT Central Office that can be deployed if needed for post-storm recovery. District Six has three ITS trailers that are solar powered, have wireless and cellular communication, and are equipped with closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and microwave detectors. These ITS trailers provide data back to the TMC that otherwise would not have been available due to limited camera coverage. FDOT Central Office also has five ITS Trailers with similar devices strategically stored throughout the state. FDOT Central Office also has two air-conditioned Mobile Command Trailers stored in Tallahassee and ready for use.

Rulx provided information on upcoming first responder training.

Shannon Weiner said they have an old copy of the loss of bridge plan and asked about an update. Crystal Schaefer said she would follow up on this.

2.2 Florida's Turnpike Enterprise – Michael Washburn

Mike presented on Florida's Turnpike evacuation plan which included precautions and procedures regarding toll suspension, Road Ranger Safety Patrol, the Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) program, ITS and traffic monitoring, traffic management plans, as well as their Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU) plans. Florida's Turnpike plans also support FDOT District Six's Traffic Management Plan for Palm Drive (SW 344 Street). Mike also discussed the importance of responder safety and provided data for Florida's Turnpike's Road Ranger Assists, RISC, incident management, and the Specialty Towing & Roadside Repair (STARR) program. Mike said they have three ESU plans. He discussed the checking and plan to sweep the shoulders prior to implementing ESU. Bert offered to loan their Gator Getter to the Florida's Turnpike.

Mike asked about the Gator Getter outside the FDOT Marathon Office and if it gets used. Chris Richert confirmed that they do use it. He said they must be careful not to dislodge RPMs.

Shannon asked about the Turnpike's point of contact for reentry for Monroe EOC or the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Mike said the point of contacts would be Debbie Meyer and Doug Prager.

Shannon said they recently released a reentry plan. The reentry checkpoint will be at MM 112, not in Florida City. Card Sound Road would be used for logistics, recovery support vehicles, and state emergency mission vehicles. This reentry setup will be different from what was done after Hurricane Irma.

2.3 District Six Traffic Operations - Saud Khan

Saud presented on the Palm Drive (SW 344 Street) Traffic Management Plan. This plan is used to support the US 1 evacuation route out of the Florida Keys by working with Miami-Dade County Traffic Signals and Signs to modify the signal timing to prioritize the northbound US 1 movement at this intersection. He discussed the different triggers that would start the plan in motion. He showed the different stages of the plan and the impacts the stages have at Palm Drive.

2.4 FDOT District Six Emergency Operations - Crystal Schaefer

Crystal gave an overview of the District Six Emergency Operations Center (D6EOC). She discussed the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief Program funding process and her role. Crystal also detailed the relief support that FDOT provided after Hurricane Ian. This included creating an emergency construction contract to repair the damage to Sanibel Island Bridge which was repaired in three weeks. Crystal shared an FDOT post-Hurricane Ian video featuring FDOT's recovery efforts and other agency personnel.

Dean asked how to make reentry easier. During Hurricane Irma, there were many logistical delays with getting supplies to those supporting the recovery effort. He had to drive up to Florida City to pick up cots and food as the delivery vehicles could not get through the checkpoint. Crystal said there will be logistic issues after a storm, but they are working to make this better.

Mike Miller asked about debris incineration and why this is not allowed by DEP. If incineration is not an option, then it becomes more difficult to haul the debris north to Miami-Dade County. Crystal said she had not heard anything. Shannon has not heard anything either.

2.5 Asset Maintenance Contract (Webber Infra) - Christopher Richert

Chris shared a video that provided an overview of Webber Infra's history, structure, scope of work, and emergency response for severe weather and hurricanes. Mike asked about Webber's limits. Chris said their limits are at the beginning of the stretch (MM 126) to MM 0 in Key West.

2.6 National Weather Service/NOAA - Jonathan Rizzo

Jonathan provided an overview of the National Weather Service (NWS) and NOAA. He provided a summary of last season's storm activity. He discussed the different storm forecast models, their margin of error, and their reliability. Jonathan mentioned the intention of a storm's forecast "cone" and returning focus on the actual storm watches and warnings when indicating an area of impact. A new storm surge warning product is now operational on the website.

He also showed the services that NWS/NOAA provides before, during, and after a storm. Jonathan spoke about the difficulties in predicting storm surges, the misconceptions of a hurricane's storm surge, and the actual severe outcomes. Jonathan also shared a video taken during Hurricane Ian which illustrated the height and destructive force of its storm surge.

3. Open Discussion

Mike asked if District Six incident management vehicles have red lighting. Felix Lopez replied that all Incident Response Vehicles (IRVs) are equipped with rear-facing red lights.

There was discussion about electric vehicles (EVs) and their impacts when left in standing water especially salt water. Mike said that EVs are not just a concern during a storm. Broken-down EVs will be towed to a service plaza. Bert mentioned that Teslas should not be driving through standing water as they are not grounded.

Dean said they had an issue with people parking vehicles on top of bridges to keep the vehicles on higher ground. This made it difficult to navigate across vehicles until the vehicles could be relocated.

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, November 15, 2023.