

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Miami-Dade Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team - Palmetto Corridor Meeting

Date/Time:	August 29, 2023	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location:	City of Hialeah Police Department's Training Room 810 E 56 Street, Hialeah, Florida, 33010	
Host:	FDOT District Six TMC - Rulx Belizaire	
Attendees		
Name	Agency	
Carlos Dardes	FDOT District Six - TSM&O	
Alex Mirones	SunGuide TMC - FDOT District Six	
Felix Lopez	SunGuide TMC - FDOT District Six	
Rulx Belizaire	SunGuide TMC - FDOT District Six	
Maria Camacho	826/Palmetto Expressway Capacity Project	
Nicholas Arango	Ally Engineering Services	
E. Gutierrez	City of Hialeah Police Department	
Fernando Villa	City of Hialeah Police Department	
Gabriel Gonzalez	City of Hialeah Police Department	
Jose A. Collar	City of Hialeah Police Department	
Luis Alvarez	City of Hialeah Police Department	
Rodolfo Bello	City of Hialeah Police Department	
Yan Perez	City of Hialeah Police Department	
Brandon Del Rosal	Downtown Towing	
Robert Saavedra Jr.	Downtown Towing	
Andres Sanchez	FDOT District Four	
Adrian Olivas	FHP Troop E	
Alberto Gutierrez	FHP Troop E	
Doel Garcia	Louis Berger Services	
Carlos Vasquez	Miami-Dade County Traffic Signals & Signs	
Chris Ison	SMART SunGuide TMC - FDOT District Four	
Maria Alzate	SR 25/US 27 Okeechobee Road Reconstruction Projects	

1. Purpose of Meeting

This meeting serves as a discussion platform for agencies directly impacted by the Florida Department of Transportation District Six's roadways in Miami-Dade County along the western region, which are Palmetto Express, SR 826/Palmetto Expressway, 75 Express, I-75, SR 997/Krome Avenue, and US 27/Okeechobee Road. This provides local fire rescue, law enforcement, asset maintenance, Florida Highway Patrol, and other agencies a forum to coordinate and share information regarding special events, construction projects, activities, initiatives, and issues specific to the area.

2. Discussion Items

Rulx welcomed everyone to the Miami-Dade Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team Palmetto Corridor Meeting. All attendees introduced themselves by providing their name, title, and agency. He thanked everyone for attending and began the meeting.

Florida Department of Transportation Safety Initiatives

Rulx announced that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has identified several safety initiatives intended to improve the visibility and safety of Road Rangers (RR) and Incident Response Vehicle operators (IRV) throughout the state. He added that IRVs, RRs, and their temporary traffic control (TTC) devices are commonly the first line of defense at incident scenes. Rulx continued by detailing District Six TMC's progress in implementing the mandatory safety initiatives.

The first safety initiative entails mounting rear-facing red lights on IRVs and RR trucks. District Six has completed outfitting the IRV fleet and is working on RR trucks. Rulx emphasized that the rear-facing red lights are only intended for incident management, and the vehicles will not have front-facing red lights.

Another safety initiative is Advanced Warning Alerts in which real-time incident information would be disseminated to motorists. An advanced warning alert system has been installed on all IRVs and RR trucks that notify navigation applications when their emergency lights are activated.

Posting safety messages on overhead dynamic message signs (DMS) is another safety initiative, such as "MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES, IT'S THE LAW." The TMC has been posting safety messages with graphics integrated to improve awareness.

Lastly, RR safety training and computer-based incident management training are safety initiatives that will be standardized throughout Florida. The District Six Incident Management Team and the RR contractor were able to provide input and feedback to the training curriculum during a recent Train-the-Trainer session.

Wrong-Way Driving Detection Devices

Rulx provided a progress update on the Wrong-Way Driving Detection Devices (WWDD) throughout Miami-Dade County. There are currently four active sites and 11 sites under construction. There will be a total of 95 WWDDs installed over the next several years. He described the device components, the software, and the procedures taken by TMC operators during a detected incident.

Incident Management Traffic Diversion Routes

The Department has created Incident Management Traffic Diversion Routes for major events that would cause full closures on our highways. The idea is to take advantage of freeway-to-freeway connections to minimize oversaturating the arterial system and to have standard plans, so that all first responders are quickly aware of the planned closure. FDOT has taken the first step in reaching out to FHP Troop E and the Miami Regional Communications Center (MRCC) for their buy-in. However, we would appreciate participation from all our TIM Team partners. Rulx requested feedback from the attendees and advised them to visit SunGuide.info – [TIM Page](#) to review the list of routes.

Incident Management Statistics

Rulx continued with the TMC's incident management statistics for events managed, lane blockage incidents, and the Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) program's activations for the last two fiscal years. He also highlighted that 69 percent of RISC events occurred on the western side of Miami-Dade County (SR 997/Krome Avenue, US 27/Okeechobee Road, 75 Express, I-75, 826 Express, and SR 826), and 34 percent were on Krome Avenue and Okeechobee Road.

Responder Safety

Rulx mentioned the benefits of attending a free Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) SHRP2 Responder Training regarding scene safety, incident management, and responder on-scene communication. Furthermore, FHWA Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) is from November 13 to 17, 2023. It is a nationwide campaign intended to raise awareness and improve responders' safety. Governor Ron DeSantis officially signed a proclamation to commemorate Crash Responder Safety Week's support. Rulx encouraged everyone to participate in this year's Crash Responder Safety Week and visit the [FHWA CRSW toolkit website](#) for ideas.

SR 826/Palmetto Expressway Capacity Improvement Project

Community Outreach Specialist (COS) Maria Camacho provided updates on the SR 826/Palmetto Expressway Capacity Improvement Project. The construction limits are from SR 826 from NW 154 Street to NW 36 Street. The project began in January 2022, with an expected completion in Winter 2024. Some improvements include relocating the southbound 826 Express entrance from NW 154 Street to NW 103 Street, converting one southbound Express Lane into a non-toll lane, and creating an extra non-toll lane on SR 826 southbound at NW 103 Street.

US 25/US 27 Okeechobee Road Reconstruction Projects

Senior Community Outreach Specialist Maria Alzate advised that the projects start on Okeechobee Road from SR 826 to the Miami-Dade/Broward County Line. Maria is the COS for Segment One from the Miami-Dade/Broward County Line to the west of Florida's Turnpike and Segment Two from west of NW 138 Street to east of NW 107 Avenue. She shared the key milestones completed, upcoming major activities/traffic patterns, and progress pictures for the two segments. The estimated completion date for Segment One is Fall 2023, and Segment Two is Winter 2025.

3. Open Discussion

N/A

4. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM.

All presentations will be available on the FDOT District Six Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSM&O) website at <https://sunguide.info/incident-management-service/tim-team/tim-meetings>.