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Final Meeting Minutes

Monroe County Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team Meeting

Date/Time:	June 27, 2024	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	
Location:	Monroe County Sheriff's Office Aviation Hangar 2 nd Floor Conference Room 10100 Aviation Blvd, Marathon, Florida 33050		
Host:	Florida Department of Transportation - District Six		
Attendees	Agency	Phone	Email
Benjamin Elmore	MCSO	305-432-6363	Belmore@keysso.net
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Barbara Swan	FTE Pompano TMC	313-623-5669	Barbara.swan@aecom.com
Michael Washburn	Florida's Turnpike	954-809-1610	michael.washburn@dot.state.fl.us
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Gregory Cacioppo	Florida's Turnpike	954-934-1544	gregory.cacioppo@dot.state.fl.us
Christopher Richert	Webber	786-883-5207	crichert@webber.com
Lt. Donny Barrios	MCSO	305-340-9720	dbarrios@keysso.net
Daniel Alvarado	AECOM / FDOT D6	305-522-8703	Daniel.alvarado@sunguide.info
David Smith	MCSO	305-781-9884	Desmith@keysso.net
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Nikolas Muriel	AECOM / FDOT D6	305-987-3117	Nikolas.muriel@sunguide.info
Chip Kasper	NOAA / NWS	305-304-6712	kennard.kasper@noaa.gov
William Evans	FDOT / D6	305-470-5406	William.evans@dot.state.fl.us
Hector Rodriguez	HROD CEI / D6 Construction	305-450-9555	hrodriguez@hrodcei.com
Tony Sabbag	HDR – D6 Construction	305-796-8600	asabbag@hdrinc.com
Alejandro Diaz	FDOT / D6	305-796-9770	Alejandro.diaz@dot.state.fl.us
Don Avery	AECOM / FDOT D6	305-640-7351	Donald.avery@sunguide.info
Saud Khan	FDOT District Six	305-781-3360	saud.khan@dot.state.fl.us
Jacki Hart	RSH	954-775-6949	Jacki.Hart@rsandh.com
Carlos Solis	City of Marathon	305-289-5008	solisc@ci.marathon.fl.us
Sabina Henriquez	FDOT District Six	305-640-7346	Sabina.henriquez@dot.state.fl.us
Carlos Dardes	FDOT District Six	305-640-7331	Carlos.dardes@dot.state.fl.us
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Alex Mirones	AECOM / FDOT D6	305-640-7304	Alex.mirones@sunguide.info

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 (TMC), FDOT District Six Construction, FDOT Traffic Operations Office, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, and the National Weather Service 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 TMC – Daniel Alvarado

Alex welcomed everyone to the Monroe County TIM Team Meeting. Introductions were provided by all attendees. Alex introduced Daniel to give the District Six TMC update. Daniel introduced himself as the new Incident Management Coordinator. He was previously a TMC Arterial Operator overseeing traffic signals in Monroe County. Daniel made a few staff announcements beginning with Sergio Bravo as the FDOT TSM&O Engineer- Arterials, Sabina Henriquez as the FDOT Arterial Management Specialist (FMS/AMS Specialist III), Nikolas Muriel as the Incident Management Program Manager, and Major Ellery Collado as the new FHP Troop E Major.

Daniel discussed the TMC's 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, disseminating information through Dynamic Message Signs (DMSs), facilitating northbound evacuation through the Monroe County Traffic Signal System (MCTSS). 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, monitoring MCTSS and ITS device health, checking spare parts inventory, as well as monitoring the health of traffic signals and ITS devices.

Daniel 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 can be deployed at key locations where existing ITS coverage is not available. 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.

Daniel advised that the Keys COAST pilot project has been completed and described the various components.

Daniel provided updates for upcoming special events in Monroe County and how they will impact traffic.

Captain David Smith from MCSO advised that the Governor recently signed into law that July 17 is an additional day for lobster mini season. Carlos Solis said that Labor Day is also a busy time of year.

Daniel also provided information on the upcoming National TIM Responder Training.

Chris Richert discussed the idea of eliminating left turns and setting traffic signals to flash during a hurricane evacuation.

Mike Washburn asked if there was Road Ranger coverage in the Keys. Don said the TMC recently completed a study recommending Road Ranger coverage along the 18-mile stretch. Road Ranger coverage can be provided on an as-needed basis during an evacuation and during post storm return.

2.2 FDOT District Six Construction – Anthony Sabbag

Tony provided updates about the construction projects scheduled to begin in Monroe County. Tony explained the details about the construction project for MM 108 to MM 112 and provided information as to how things will be carried out throughout the project's duration. The northbound direction of the 18-mile stretch must be rebuilt as road conditions have deteriorated over the years. Tony anticipates an early August start for this project. FDOT is evaluating a new maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan for the project. FDOT is doing traffic modeling to evaluate the various options. Tony said they are planning to do a big outreach campaign to educate the community and motorists. Chris said they try to keep up with patching the northbound side. Tony said the project is 450 days, but they added incentives to encourage early completion.

These are the projects that were mentioned:

- The projects on Sugarloaf, Cudjoe, and Ramrod Keys due to low areas and sensitive wetlands set to begin soon (Summer 2024)
- Bridge rehab project for Mile Marker 64 (Ends Sept – Oct 2024)
- The milling and resurfacing project in Key Largo Mile Marker 97 – 100 (Ends Nov – Jan 2025)
- Bahia Honda milling and resurfacing project to strengthen shoulders. (Ends Dec 2024)

2.3 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.

2.4 FDOT 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.

Jacki asked if FDOT ever implemented all stages of the plan. Saud said they have only got to stage 2. Jacki asked when did this plan begin. Saud said the plan started about 10 years ago.

Alex asked about a plan for traffic returning to Keys. Saud said there is nothing new on this topic but there has been lots of coordination.

Tony mentioned that Saud is retiring on October 31 and thanked him for all his years of support.

2.5 National Weather Service/NOAA – Kennard “Chip” Kasper

Chip provided an overview of the National Weather Service (NWS) and NOAA. He provided a summary of last season’s storm activity and then talked about the hurricane season outlook for this year. He discussed the different storm forecast models, their margin of error, and their reliability. Chip 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. He also explained that even during an inactive season, hurricanes can still impact Florida and bring severe storm conditions to the Florida Keys. Chip discussed some of the indirect incidents from improper use of generators and heat exhaustion. He noted that NOAA is now providing storm events briefings by email. Those interested can register on the NOAA website.

Chip discussed all the dangers that come from hurricanes and the importance of having situational awareness during hurricane season.

Alex said he gets INWS alerts for heavy rain events in Miami-Dade County, but it is rare to receive one for Monroe County. Chip said this is typical as Miami-Dade County not only gets more rain but more torrential rain.

Don mentioned that at a recent meeting the Division of Emergency Management there was talk about encouraging people to evacuate tens of miles away rather than hundreds of miles away. This is an attempt to free up critical routes like the Turnpike from unnecessary extra traffic. Chip said that is consistent with mainly trying to get people away from serious storm surge areas.

3. Open Discussion

Greg from Turnpike TMC advised that having Road Ranger trucks with generators to charge electric vehicles (EV) would be a good idea and advised that there is a service patrol fleet in Virginia that is starting to utilize them. He said there currently is no Road Ranger fleet that can provide charge to EVs yet, but they have taken an interest in it and are looking into it. Turnpike advised that during the Statewide TIM meeting, they did showcase a Road Ranger vehicle with a generator to provide charge to EVs.

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 13, 2024.