

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Semi-Annual Miami-Dade/Broward Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team Meeting

Date/Time:	October 2, 2024		10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location:	Florida Department of Transportation District Six Auditorium 1000 NW 111 Avenue, Miami, Florida, 33172		
Hosts:	Don Avery and Nikolas Muriel		
Attendees:	First Name	Last Name	Agency
	Don	Avery	AECOM/District Six
	Nikolas	Muriel	AECOM/District Six
	Jose	Sanchez	AECOM/District Six
	Omar	Gomez	AECOM/District Six
	Greg	Kirkpatrick	AECOM/District Six
	Pedro	Ruiz	Auto Base
	Tom	Manghan	Auto Base
	Ignacio	Vila	Auto Base
	Steve	Corbin	Auto Base
	Juan	Gonzalez	Auto Base
	Chris	Ison	AECOM/District Four
	Igi	Vila	AECOM/District Four
	Barbara	Swan	AECOM/Turnpike
	Greg	Cacioppo	AECOM/Turnpike
	Carlos	Artola	Temptrol
	Carlos	Dardes	FDOT District Six
	Javier	Rodriguez	FDOT District Six
	Jennifer	Dardes	GMX
	Luis	Enrich	POMT
	Alexander	Rivera	POMT
	Jose	Diaz	POMT
	Yenny	Diaz	POMT
	Antonio	Pollock	POMT
	Daniel	Salon	Turnpike
	Rachel	Shulman	SIRT
	Rachel	Shulman	Kauff's Towing
	Alexis	Margaret	Sunshine Towing
	Hugh	Stetter	I-595 Transportation
	Damian	Jordana	Hialeah PD
	Gonzalo	Pena	FHP
	Oscar	Gonzalez	MRG
	Brandon	Del Rosal	Downtown Towing
	Jorge	Delgado	Downtown Towing
	Rene	Perez	Downtown Towing
Andres	Sanchez	FDOT District Four	
Leo	Stucti	I-595 Transportation	
Owen	Ebner	Cliff Berry Inc.	
Natacha	Placide	AECOM	
Hector	Gonzalez	American Towing	
Terry	Cure	Quest	
Ramon	Cacy	Excalibur	

1. Purpose of Meeting

This meeting serves as a platform for our TIM partners to highlight and discuss ongoing initiatives, activities, or events affecting the surface transportation system in southeast Florida. It also provides an opportunity to coordinate and share information regarding department-related projects and Incident Management.

2. TIM Agency Updates

2.1 - FDOT District Six TIM Update

Don Avery welcomed everyone to the meeting and had attendees introduce themselves. He introduced Nikolas Muriel as the new Incident Management Program Manager and Jose Sanchez as the new Road Ranger Contract Manager. Don announced that Alex Mirones, TMC Manager, will be moving to South Carolina and Greg Kirkpatrick will be the new TMC Manager.

Nikolas gave an update on the District Six Miami-Dade TIM Team. He mentioned that Leland DeBooy, Sunshine Towing Road Ranger Supervisor, has retired after 25 years of service. Mr. DeBooy has mentored many Road Rangers and was recently inducted into the ITS Florida Honor Roll. To increase the safety of Road Ranger Service Patrols and Incident Response Vehicles, sequential flares were discussed. A quick demonstration of the sequential flares operation was provided. Nikolas showed an example of the rear-red lights on the Road Ranger trucks and mentioned their benefits. This was part of a Statewide Safety Initiative. He reviewed the results of a new Road Ranger beat along the I-195 and I-395, showing the benefits and times of coverage. This beat began in February 2023 and has assisted in providing motorist assistance along I-195 and I-395.

Nikolas provided an update on the planned activities for the 2024 Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) scheduled for November 18 through 22, 2024. Outreach will include a five-day social media campaign with videos, related articles on SunGuide.info, and CRSW handouts for Road Rangers. Nikolas said that an interview with one of our Road Rangers was done by Quest, including a Road Ranger ride-along. This was done as part of a coordinated effort from FDOT Central Office. The interviews and ride-alongs were conducted to help promote safety for our Incident Responders and share Road Ranger experiences with the public.

Nikolas discussed the National TIM Responder Training Program for District Six, showing the benefits of the program and the upcoming training sessions. He discussed how District Six supports special events at the Hard Rock Stadium. Transportation Management Center (TMC) staff are on site at the stadiums control center working alongside FHP, Florida's Turnpike, and other agencies. TMC staff provide access to District Six traffic cameras and give 15-minute travel time updates. Some of the recent events include Copa America 2024, University of Miami football games, Miami Dolphins football games, Miami Grand Prix, and concerts. One upcoming significant concert is the Taylor Swift Eras Tour, which is scheduled for three days, from October 18 through 20, 2024.

Nikolas shared the current and upcoming Wrong Way Detection System (WWDS) deployment for District Six. District Six is currently constructing Phase 2 and designing Phase 3. A total of 95 detection systems will be installed along off-ramps throughout Miami-Dade County. The benefits of WWDS include quick detection of wrong-way drivers, notification to the motoring public using dynamic message signs (DMS), and notification to Road Rangers and FHP. Nikolas shared some images how the WWDS captures images of vehicles entering the wrong way.

Nikolas provided an update on the Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) program for District Six. A comparison of fiscal years was shown from 2018/2019 to the current fiscal year 2024/2025. Nikolas detailed two recent significant RISC events. The first event in July 2024 involved a flatbed trailer along I-75 southbound at Miami Gardens Drive. This crash resulted in a vehicle fire, fatality, and potential bridge damage. The second event in September 2024 involved a fuel tanker that rolled over and spilled fuel on the roadway along I-95 southbound before NW 103 Street. The event prolonged the road closure due to the fuel spill and additional resources had to be contacted to assist with the spill. Cliff Berry responded and assisted. As a result of this incident, Cliff Berry is providing training for those interested on fuel tanker recovery.

2.2 - FDOT District Four TIM Update

District Four TIM Coordinator Chris Ison gave an update on the District Four TIM Team. Chris mentioned a pilot program that allows Road Ranger vehicles to charge electric vehicles. Equipped Road Ranger vehicles will have generators

capable of giving enough charge to get the motorist to the next interchange. They are currently testing it along Alligator Alley. Gregory Cacioppo asked how many assists they have had. Chris said not that many so far. Don Avery asked if District Four partners with the Miccosukee Service Plaza. Chris responded that they do not necessarily partner with the service plaza but the plaza does have charging stations and could be used as a potential destination. Regardless, they will charge the vehicles longer on Alligator Alley so they can reach the next exit.

Severe Incident Response Vehicle Operator Igi Vila provided a training presentation regarding electric vehicles. Igi explained that the battery pack is where fire occurs, and incident responders should stay away when approaching vehicles when inflamed. Do not roll the vehicle when towing electric vehicles; it can start the battery. Do not use chains or hooks, as they can start the battery; instead, use straps.

Chris shared an update on their RISC Program with data from 2024 and historical comparison from 2020. He provided user delay cost information for a tractor trailer RISC event. This demonstrated the cost impact of a RISC event on the motoring public. Chris emphasized the program's benefits, showing how cost efficient it can be to clear an event using the RISC program compared to user delay costs.

Chris provided an update on their ramp signaling system. They have 12 active with 19 more planned starting from Congress Avenue in Palm Beach County to Hallandale Beach Boulevard in Broward County. Chris gave an update on the District Four TSM&O website which now includes a TIM webpage.

2.3 - Florida's Turnpike Enterprise

Turnpike TMC Manager, Barbara Swan, provided an update on the Turnpike TIM Team. Barbara explained their RISC data for the year. Turnpike staff attended a seminar showing the benefits of the RISC Program, demonstrating how an incident can be cleared quickly utilizing the RISC Program.

Traffic Operations Contract Specialist, Gregory Cacioppo, introduced a training system using virtual reality technology. He discussed how this is being used for TMC training including incident management. This technology can be used for After-Action Review (AAR) meetings. Greg detailed how the virtual reality technology can recreate an event and how it can be customized to create all types of scenarios.

Barbara discussed how the Turnpike supports special events held at the Hard Rock Stadium. They are planning to have staff at the stadium for 18 events during the fall and winter. The Turnpike is planning to participate in FDOT's Construction Career Day on October 22 and 23, 2024 at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie. They will be supporting CRSW. This year's theme for CRSW is "Responders Ahead! Reduce Your Speed As You Proceed!".

2.4 - PortMiami Tunnel

PortMiami Tunnel Operations Manager, Luis Enrich, provided statistical data on tunnel traffic volume by event types and vehicle types. He provided an incident summary comparing 2023 to 2024. Antonio Pullock shared multiple videos of incidents inside the tunnel limits that their CCTV cameras captured. Antonio mentioned that their wrong way driver events are lower compared to last year.

Don Avery asked since disabled vehicles are their most common event type, what types of disabled vehicle events are they encountering? Luis said many are for mechanical issues and fuel but they also see drivers that stop before entering the tunnel so they do not lose cellular signal.

Barbara Swan asked why the number of wrong-way drivers has decreased. Luis responded they added more signage at both entrances and exits. Gregory Cacioppo asked if they have advance detectors. Antonio said they do have detectors.

3. Construction Updates

3.1 - I-395/SR 836/I-95 Design Build Project

Senior Community Outreach Specialist Oscar Gonzalez presented construction update about project schedule and cost. He discussed ongoing and upcoming construction activities and project highlights. He provided an update on the arches which are highlight feature of the signature bridge. They are about 90% complete with the demolition of the old I-395. The project is estimated to be completed by late 2027.

Don asked about ITS camera coverage for the double decker section along SR 826. Oscar said he would have to check on that but that condition should be covered in the plans.

4. Open Discussion

Don Avery thanked everyone for attending the Miami-Dade/Broward Joint TIM Meeting. He announced that the sequential flares are available for display if anyone is interested.

5. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned upon a successful FDOT District Six fire drill. All presentations will be available on the SunGuide.info website (sunguide.info).