

SMART MOVES

FDOT District Four ITS Quarterly Newsletter

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District Four Deployment Updates

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program currently has deployment projects in all of the five counties covered in District Four.

In Broward County, construction activities for a design/build project to provide an ITS power distribution system within the county have been completed. This project simplified the power distribution system in Broward County as well as reduced the amount of Florida Power & Light service points – thus reduced maintenance costs. Generators were deployed to serve as backup power

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during any power outage.

The Alligator Alley (I-75) ITS Safety (AAITSS) Design/Build Project was awarded to the InfraSource/PBS&J team. This project aims to improve safety on the Alligator Alley segment of the I-75 corridor, specifically to keep drivers alert and driving within the speed limit. Deployment will include installation of Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), environmental sensors, closed-circuit televisions (CCTV) cameras, and vehicle detectors. The design/build team has completed 100% design plans. Construction activities are underway.

The Palm Beach County Phase A ITS deployment is currently in testing. This design/build project includes deploying multiple DMS (both arterial and highway), Road Weather Information System (RWIS), Highway Advisory Roadway System (HARS), CCTV cameras, vehicle detectors and communications infrastructure to gather highway conditions and provide information to the motoring public about road conditions (i.e. weather, congestion, incidents, and travel times). Phase B is scheduled to start construction in 2012. The deployment will start at PGA Boulevard and go north to the county line.

In the northern three counties of District Four (Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River) was recently completed on time and on budget. The project included deploying highway DMS, RWIS, HARS, CCTV cameras, vehicle detectors, and communications infrastructure to gather highway conditions and provide information to the motoring public about road

conditions. This contractor is currently providing the Department with one year of maintenance.

Upon completion of these projects, 100% of FDOT District Four's freeway lane miles will be served by a fully integrated, state-of-the-art Intelligent Transportation System.



ITS field cabinet, transformer & disconnect

TIM Coordinator Recognized for Service

Mike McGee, District Four's Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team Coordinator for Broward and Palm Beach Counties, was recognized by the Traffic Safety Committee of the Palm Beaches with a Distinguished Service Award for Special Traffic Safety Initiatives. He received the award at the 25th Annual Traffic Safety Awards Luncheon on June 2, 2011. Mike provides training for law enforcement officers and other emergency responders on ways to clear crashes on major roadways faster and safer. His goal is to make sure at the end of the day everyone who had a hand in working an accident goes home safe and sound.



L to R - Chief Deputy Michael Gauger, PBSO, Mike McGee, Palm Beach TIM Team Coordinator, Capt. Earl Brown, Florida Highway Patrol

Emergency Operations Center Coordination with Broward Regional Transportation Management Center

The 2011 hurricane season will be the first with a fully-operational Intelligent Transportation System on Interstate 95 in the Treasure Coast.

So how will the Broward Regional Transportation Management Center be able help the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties in the event of a major storm?

Dee McTague, RTMC Operations Manager, and Chuck McGinness, Treasure Coast Traffic Incident Management Coordinator, met on May 26 with local emergency planners to discuss how the agencies can work together.

Operators in the RTMC will be able to post basic information on the 12 Dynamic Message Signs along I-95 in the Treasure Coast about shelters, curfews and other storm-related issues. The messages can direct motorists to call FL511 or listen to the Highway Advisory Radio for more detailed information. Alerts can be tailored to meet specific county-by-county needs.

During the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes, the most frequent call to the St. Lucie EOC came from people who evacuated and wanted to know “what are the roads like,” according to Tom Daly, St. Lucie’s Emergency Management Coordinator.

The RTMC will be able to provide this assistance. Plans are to staff the RTMC during hurricanes and resume operations as soon as the storm passes. One of the operators’ first tasks will be to use the closed-circuit television cameras to scan the highways for any debris that is blocking safe travel. In addition, the Road Rangers will be prepared to return to duty to assist evacuees trying to make their way home.

Dale Justice, Indian River’s Emergency Management Coordinator, said another concern of evacuees is the availability of pet-friendly shelters. Many people will not abandon their dogs and cats in emergencies and will be looking for shelters that accept pets. Justice said the new Intelligent Transportation System will be a tremendous help if this type of information can be posted on the Dynamic Message Signs.

The most important element for local emergency managers is to stay in constant communication with the RTMC before and after a storm to share information as conditions change.

McTague said the RTMC had a cooperative working relationship with the Broward and Palm Beach EOCs during past hurricanes and is looking forward to a similar partnership with the Treasure Coast EOCs.





SIRV Palm Beach County Pilot Project

In June 2010, Gaetano Francese, Freeway Operations Manager for FDOT District Four, coordinated a plan to promote a Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV) Pilot Project in Palm Beach County. The plan was to provide SIRV coverage on the busiest areas of I-95 during the morning and evening rush hours and was based on the Palm Beach SunGuide crash statistics.

The Pilot Project covered I-95 from the Broward County line North to Southern Blvd. and included Southern Blvd. from Dixie Highway West to Military Trail. It operated Monday through Friday having one truck assigned during the morning rush hours (6 a.m. to 9 a.m.) and one truck during the afternoon rush hours (4 p.m. to 7 p.m.). The truck was stationed at Boynton Beach Fire Station #5, which is located just west of I-95 on Gateway Blvd. A memorandum of understanding was entered into with Boynton Beach Fire Rescue, which allowed parking for the SIRV truck and desk space for the SIRV Operators. Mr. Francese approved the project to begin July 6, 2010 and conclude January 28, 2011. Prior to the start of the project and during the first several weeks of the

project the SIRV Manager made presentations to a majority of the Law Enforcement and Fire Rescue agencies having responsibility within the project boundaries.

The primary responsibility of the SIRV Palm Beach County Pilot Project was to respond to lane blocking events within the boundaries of the project. While on scene, SIRV staff coordinated FDOT resources, improved on-scene safety and worked with other responding agencies to open lanes safely and quickly.

During the course of the Pilot Project, SIRV responded to 120 incidents and was directly responsible for reducing the incident duration of 39 incidents for a total of 945 minutes (over 15 hrs). In addition, SIRV helped relieve congestion by reducing the number of lanes closed during incidents saving another 1,839 minutes (over 30 hours) in individual lane closure time.

The reduced incident durations and individual lane

closure reductions are based on the time SIRV staff provided a service or equipment, thus saving the time it would have taken to dispatch additional resources. On-scene SIRV activities that reduced incident durations include:

- Spill mitigation
- Debris clean up
- Directing Road Rangers
- Coordinating MOT to open lanes quicker
- Roadway repair
- Negotiation with other responders to open lanes
- Bio Hazard mitigation
- Explaining “Move It” law to crash victims to expedite opening lanes

Another quantifiable benefit the pilot project yielded is “freeing up” of other agencies responders. The presence of SIRV personnel reduced the need to keep other agency resources on scenes saved the following cumulative staff minutes:

• Road Rangers	973
• Wrecker companies	390
• Fire rescue	349
• Environmental	270
• Law Enforcement	140
• Maintenance	103
• Total	2,225

For more information about the SIRV program, visit www.SMARTSunGuide.com/SIRV.aspx.

District Four Earns Davis Productivity Awards

Since 1989, the Davis Productivity Award program has publicly recognized and rewarded state employees and work units whose work significantly and measurably increases productivity and

promotes innovation to improve the delivery of state services and save money for Florida taxpayers and businesses. This year, Davis Productivity Awards were given to the following teams in the ITS program.

ITS Maintenance PC Tablet Team - Saved Time in Field with Tablet PCs	\$664,000
ITS Deployment Team - Saved Costs by Eliminating Unnecessary Power	\$612,000
ITS Maintenance Software Team - Developed Time Saving Maintenance Inventory Software	\$472,000
Dong Chen Individual Recognition	\$3.2 million
ITS Cost Savings Team - Completed Deployment at Reduced Cost	\$700,000
ITS Furniture Recycling Team - Recycled Furniture to Save Expenses	\$16,738
ITS Power Upgrade Team - Reduced Project Scope to Save Costs	\$1.1 million
ITS Device Recycling Team - Saved Costs by Recycling ITS Devices	\$925,000
ITS Office Lease Cost Reduction Team - Saved Costs by Early Termination of Office Lease	\$220,551
ITS Outreach Team - Saved Money by Coordinating Free Advertising Space	\$36,885
ITS National Weather Service Training Team	\$7,974

District Four Expecting a New Variable Speed Limit System

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four has initiated a project to deploy a Variable Speed Limit System (VSLS) along SR-25/US-27/Okeechobee Road near the South Broward High School in Broward County. The purpose of this system is to inform motorists of adjustments to the existing SR-25/US-27 speed limits on school days, during which time the school's Flashing School Beacons (FSB) will be in operation, and also for periods of school activities (e.g. sporting events) associated with West Broward High School. At other times, the VSLS will display the normal speed limit of 65 MPH.

Presently, West Broward High School uses FSBs along SR-25/US-27 to alert motorists of the 15 MPH school zone speed. Approaching the school crossing, fixed signs display speed limits of 55

MPH then 50 MPH reduced from the normal 65 MPH in effect along SR-25/US-27. These lower speed limits are in effect at all times, even though the FSB hours are typically on less two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon and only on school days.



Example of an upcoming variable speed limit sign.

By using ITS technology, an active “smart” system can provide the flexibility to control speeds as the situation dictates, thereby optimizing traffic flow rather than imposing the same fixed speed for all conditions.

This system will include closed-circuit television cameras (to monitor the VSLS devices and traffic flow for the purposes of verifying proper VSLS operation) and related communications equipment. The VSLS will be operated from the FDOT District Four SMART SunGuide Transportation Management Center in Fort Lauderdale.