

# SMART MOVES

## District Four TIM Team Assists I-75 Managed Lanes Safety Plan

The proposed I-75 Managed Lanes Project will provide "HOT Lanes," similar to the managed lanes now in operation along I-95. The I-75 project differs from I-95 in that the managed lanes portion will be completely separated from the general purpose lanes by a 28-foot grass median in both directions. This creates a new challenge in designing the ingress and egress to the managed lanes to keep access to a minimum without providing a hindrance to emergency response within the managed lanes. As a result, the design team has requested input from the District Four Broward County Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team on how

best to allow emergency response access to the managed lanes. There are multiple jurisdictions along the I-75 corridor therefore the design team will be holding workshops with each individual agency to ensure that each agency has input into the final design.

For updated information regarding the I-75 Managed Lanes Project visit [www.I-75Vision.com](http://www.I-75Vision.com). Additional information regarding the District Four TIM Team is available on [www.SMARTSunGuide.com/TIM.aspx](http://www.SMARTSunGuide.com/TIM.aspx).

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**SMART SunGuide RTMC**  
2300 W. Commercial Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309  
Phone: (954) 847-2785





## Managing the roads during the Toys in the Sun Run and Boat Parade

The SMART SunGuide Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) prepared ahead of time for the impact of the 24th Annual Toys in the Sun Run event held on December 10, and the 39th Winter Boat Parade event held on December 11. Both of these events are well known in the area and nationally to bring in thousands of participants and spectators but also cause traffic delays and congestion. The SMART SunGuide RTMC coordinated with the South East Florida Regional TMC Operations Committee partners,

South Florida SunGuide 511 Traveler Information, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), and Broward Sheriff Office (BSO) to provide accurate real-time information to motorists. Information was also presented by the Broward TIM Team to all participating emergency responder agencies. Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) in the tri-county area were used prior to both events to warn motorists of the upcoming closings on I-95 and I-595. The coordinated effort helped make traffic management for both events a huge success!

## State Farm Insurance Sponsors Palm Beach Road Rangers

Anchor Towing, the Road Ranger contractor for Palm Beach County has executed a contract with State Farm Insurance that will provide sponsorship funding for the Palm Beach County Road Rangers. This State

Farm sponsorship will allow us to deploy an additional Road Ranger Roaming Supervisor to the existing to the Palm Beach fleet.



## SIRV Expands to Palm Beach

Florida Department of Transportation District Four has executed a new Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV) Operations contract that will expand the service to Palm Beach County. Four new SIRV vehicles will be provided in this contract, two in Broward County and two in Palm Beach County.

Under this new contract, the SIRV vehicles received additional safety reflectors and lights. Emergency response vehicles such as fire rescue vehicles and SIRV are at high risk of

being struck while at incidents on the freeway. Because of this, the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) developed standards for “high visibility” striping on fire trucks and other emergency response agencies have adopted this standard for their response vehicles. The SIRV vehicles have now adopted the same high visibility striping for the team’s safety.

For more information on the SIRV program, visit [www.SMARTSunGuide.com/SIRV.aspx](http://www.SMARTSunGuide.com/SIRV.aspx).

# ITS America and ITS Florida Honor District Four at 2011 ITS World Congress



Dong Chen (center) accepted ITS America's Best of ITS Award on behalf of FDOT District Four. Photo courtesy of ITS America.

On October 17, the FDOT District Four ITS team was called to take the stage at the 2011 World Congress. In front of an international audience, ITS America presented the team with a Best of ITS Award in the category of Best New Innovative Products, Services, or Applications. This award, which recognizes innovative projects that provide transportation solutions to users through ITS deployments, including the areas of public safety, security surface transportation efficiency and the reduction of carbon emissions, was given for the Maintenance Inventory Management System (MIMS).

“The award may have been presented to District Four, but it positively reflects on the FDOT as a whole,” said Dong Chen, District Four ITS Program Manager.

MIMS was recognized in 2010 by ITS Florida. This year, however, ITS Florida presented an outstanding achievement awards to the ITS Team for its effort in creating the Transportation Management Academy. This award was also presented at World Congress among peers and friends in the industry.

## Projectors Expand District Four Video Wall

For years, the video wall has been the centerpiece of District Four Transportation Management Center's (TMC) control room. Manufactured by Barco, it is 3 cubes tall by 11 cubes wide and displays a number of cameras from both Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Broward County Transportation Engineering Department.

Now that the Broward TMC has expanded its responsibilities beyond just monitoring Broward County, management started to consider how to better use space on the video wall. As an outcome of brainstorming, the team identified available wall space that could be used to post additional operations data for operators such as speed data, weather conditions and website status. Video walls do not come cheaply, though, and retrofitting the control room for additional Barco cubes was not an option.

The solution? Using off-the-shelf projectors mounted to the ceiling of the control room to project images along the empty wall space. The cost of the projectors was a fraction of the cost compared to traditional video wall. They allow the same level of customization as a video wall, are easy to maintain, and don't take up any additional space in the room.

District Four has a total of ten projectors in operation. Eight are dedicated to displaying speed data for I-95 and I-75, one displays the local weather radar, and one displays the SMART SunGuide website. “RTMC operators, supervisors, managers and even anyone walking by the control room can see, at a glance, the entire speed profile of the full length of I-95 and I-75 within D4. This has become a very valuable and cost effective tool to provide a big picture view of the entire freeway network,” said Daniel Smith, FDOT District Four ITS Operations Manager.