



TIM NEWSLETTER

ALACHUA COUNTY, FL

MAY/JUNE 2012

6th EDITION





TEAM UPDATE

Our Alachua Traffic Incident Team members are staying busy literally “putting fires out”. Fog and smoke are still demanding much attention from the team in addition to other incidents. Several incidents causing road closures on Interstate 75 (I-75) have been handled with the expertise our team has developed and have been addressed in the most efficient manner.

One of these incidents demanded the use of our Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) contractor, University Towing. Team member Rick Moore and his team cleared the incident within the guidelines of the RISC contract so the Local Open Roads goal was met.

Members of our team participated in the Advanced Traffic Incident Management Workshop provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on May 15 and 16. Paul Jodoin with FHWA led the 2-day training.

Even though we are dealing with wildfires and numerous crashes, the Alachua TIM team members stay focused on our quick clearance goals and work as a team. A special thanks to all our team members and I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on June 13.

A special thank you to all team members!

2012 ALACHUA TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETINGS

FDOT GAINESVILLE OPERATIONS OFFICE:
5301 N.E. 39TH AVENUE, GAINESVILLE, FL

JUNE 13
AUGUST 8
OCTOBER 10
DECEMBER 12

MISSION:

The Florida Department of Transportation District Two’s Traffic Incident Management Teams through partnering efforts strive to continuously reduce incident scene clearance times to deter congestion and improve safety. The Teams’ objective is to exceed the Open Roads Policy thus ensuring mobility, economic prosperity, and quality of life.

VISION:

Through cooperation, communication and training the Teams intend to reduce incident scene clearance times by 10% each year through 2015.





MAINTENANCE UPDATE

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) continues to evolve and improve efficiency. Last year, some organizational changes were initiated in the administration and production sides of the house. This year, the focus will be on operations, so if you haven't heard yet, I wanted to let you know what the impacts will be on Gainesville Maintenance.

There has been a policy change regarding the amount of work we will do with FDOT employees and what work will be contracted out to asset maintenance contractors, other commercial contractors and our Department of Corrections (DOC) inmate crews.

We are currently performing about 20 percent of the work with FDOT employees, but we are moving to contract out common functions and concentrate our efforts on the 10 percent of the work that would be difficult to predict or write a contract to adequately perform that function. The remaining 90 percent of the work will be contracted. Specifically what does this mean for Gainesville Maintenance?

Our biggest change and the one that will directly impact our working relationship with most of you is we will be contracting the maintenance and emergency response work on Interstate 75 to an asset maintenance contractor. This will be a single contract, probably administered out of Lake City. We will be heavily involved in developing our requirements before the contract is awarded and performing quality assurance (inspecting) the work afterward.

The planned contract start date is July 1, 2013. This contract is essentially the same thing FDOT District Five is doing for I-75 in Marion County and what Jacksonville Maintenance is doing for their portions of I-10 and I-95.

What that means for you is after June 30, 2013, the on-call people responding to an emergency will be wearing a contractor's uniform instead of a FDOT uniform. There shouldn't be any decrease in the level of service and a contractor may even be able to obtain needed resources, such as portable changeable message signs, more quickly.

Other changes will include contracting out the maintenance and emergency response work in Bradford County to an asset maintenance contractor. There will also be some reductions in our overhead and we will not be filling some of our current vacancies. The bottom line is we will decrease our 68 current positions to 56 positions by June 30, 2016. This will bring about some organizational and contracting changes, but all these changes should be transparent to you as the customer.

The individuals responding may be wearing a different uniform, but the capabilities and quality of service should be the same. We expect to make these reductions strictly through attrition. Although some FDOT employees will need to change positions and job duties, we expect to have comparable positions for all of our current employees within the new organization. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.





CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

If you break it down, it's really just some dirt, a little concrete and some asphalt with some paint and reflectors, but the two extra lanes recently added to the northbound Interstate 75 exit ramp onto Newberry Road in Gainesville is a great thing to the folks who travel that road.

The project to add these additional lanes to the exit ramp began in March 2011 and with the exception of a few punch-list items, the work is completed. The new ramp now provides four lanes – two eastbound and two westbound – for traffic exiting I-75 onto Newberry Road.

This interchange, as anyone who has traveled it knows, is always extremely busy and it becomes especially packed when there is a special event in Gainesville. University of Florida home football games, college graduations and the holiday shopping season all bring extra traffic to town.

The ramp - with its two new lanes - was opened and tested the weekend of spring graduation. While the additional lanes are working to get vehicles off of the interstate and onto Newberry Road more quickly and efficiently, traffic operations specialists with the FDOT and the City of Gainesville are monitoring the area to determine if the two left lanes coming from the ramp should be adjusted to move traffic to the middle and outside lanes of Newberry Road. Currently, those vehicles are directed to the inside and middle lane which is a bit tricky if you don't want to turn left again onto Tower Road.

The three remaining ramps at the interchange were also resurfaced during the \$2.2 million project. The FDOT hired D.A.B. Constructors, Inc. of Inglis to complete the work and they finished early – just in time for the upcoming football season.

Laurie Windham
Atkins, Public Information



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Traffic Management Center is a jointly funded project by: City of Gainesville; Alachua County; University of Florida; and, Florida Department of Transportation. It is operated by the City of Gainesville.



During the last week of April and the first weekend in May, the Traffic Management Center (TMC) monitored and managed traffic conditions around the University of Florida and the Interstate 75 interchanges. This was the final week of exams followed by graduation. The mass exodus of students leaving Gainesville and the influx of parents and family coming to town for graduation created congestion around campus and I-75.


The TMC staff is also working with FDOT – D2 Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) office on ITS deployment for I-75 in Alachua County. These projects were recently partially funded via a legislative appropriation and a result of the traffic crashes that occurred on Paynes Prairie on January 29. Staff continues to design and implement innovative methods for achieving surveillance and monitoring as both short-term and long-term equipment is deployed. Both staffs are also working together on a long-term solution that can be implemented relatively quickly to connect the City of Gainesville – Traffic Management Center and the Florida Department of Transportation – District 2 Traffic Management Center in Jacksonville.


If you have questions: Traffic Management Center

PHONE: (352) 393 - 7960

WEBSITE: www.gac-smartraffic.com

HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

 @gacsmartraffic

 Gainesville / Alachua County Smartraffic



LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Julie L. Jones
Executive Director

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Rick Scott
Governor

Pam Bondi
Attorney General

Jeff Atwater
Chief Financial Officer

Adam Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 18, 2012

CONTACT: CAPT. NANCY RASMUSSEN
FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL
(850) 617-2301

YOUR LIFE CAN BE SAVED WITH JUST A CLICK

~ Troopers to join nationwide effort ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Motorists beware: *Click it or Ticket* is here. The Florida Highway Patrol will join local and national law enforcement officers and highway safety advocates across the country for the national *Click It or Ticket* safety belt enforcement campaign that kicks off May 21 and ends June 3. During the mobilization, officers will help save lives by cracking down on those who do not buckle up.

“While Florida reached a record high last year for safety belt use, we still see many drivers and passengers who fail to buckle up. All too often it ends in tragedy,” said FHP Director, Col. David Brierton. “One of our goals is to save lives through education and enforcement campaigns such as *Click it or Ticket*.”

Safety belt use saves thousands of lives across America each year and FHP is helping to spread the word in Florida. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics show that in 2010 alone, safety belts saved an estimated 12,546 lives nationwide. For more on *Click It or Ticket*, please visit NHTSA’s website at www.nhtsa.gov/PEAK. For additional details and statistics on the Sunshine State’s 2011 safety belt usage, to include county statistics, visit the Florida Department of Transportation’s website at www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/.

Florida law requires all drivers and occupants in the front seat of a vehicle to fasten their safety belts. Occupants under the age of 18, regardless of where they sit in a vehicle, also must buckle up. Motorist cited for failure to buckle up face a non-moving violation.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov or follow us on Twitter at [@FDHSMV](https://twitter.com/FDHSMV).

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TEAM MEMBER PROFILE



Name, job title and work location.

Bruce W. Strickland,
Field Maintenance Manager
Gainesville Operations (FDOT)

Describe your job and how long you've been in your current position. I have worked with the department overall for 39 years and approximately 10 years in my current position.

Describe your early career or offer a brief job history. I started in 1973 with the Office of Materials and Research in the Pavement Performance Section. I traveled statewide, and sometimes out of state, performing various tests ranging from various load bearing tests on asphalt to sub-grade embankment and base materials to skid test and rideability surveys.

Please share any job-related funny stories. The roasting of retiree and fellow worker, Nat Davis, by doing a female impersonation act with two other employees (who shall remain anonymous to protect their families). We performed Gretchen Wilson's "Red Neck Woman". Our group was known as Burnadette and the Torch Wenches.

Describe an "aha" moment in your career or personal life. When the doctor said it is twins, not triplets as we first thought. Plop, Plop, Fizz Fizz, oh what a relief it is!

What was your best and worst job ever? I like my current job. The worst job was inspecting the rest areas when they were known as "hooker heaven."

Describe any special accomplishments at work. Receiving the Davis Productivity Award for being part of a team that helped developed new equipment. The new equipment improved herbicide application that cut our costs and increased our productivity. Also, my retirement in a little more than two years.

Where were you born/grew up? I was born and raised in Gainesville.

Tell us about your family. I am a father to three girls total, one set of twins. Currently single and happy as I can be.

What are your hobbies? Hunting and fishing

What is your favorite vacation spot? My hunting camp.

What's the best advice you're ever received and who was it from. The advice was from a friend of the family who once told me "Never to think, if I can make this much money, I will be alright" In another words, don't limit yourself.

What is your favorite or most inspiring quote and who said it. "What could possibly go wrong? Go wrong? Go wrong?" My uncle.

