



Happy
2012
Ahead

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ITS Announcements

First Coast TIM Meeting FDOT District 2 Urban Office 1/17/2012 10am

Please contact the ITS Office at (904) 360-5465 if you would like to participate in the meetings.

Notes from the District 2 ITS Engineer

Two weeks ago I was invited to do an interview in Gainesville with WCJB, an ABC affiliate. The topic was 511 and its benefits for motorists who would be doing some holiday driving. I was slightly concerned because our equipment coverage for that area was scant to none. The Jacksonville TMC monitors this area using the Inrix speed maps provided by Central Office, CAD information from FHP and real-time communication with local TIM partners. We also rely heavily on our Public Information office out of Lake City to provide incident alerts and updates. There have been several discussions with Central Office over the past five years about the opportunity to fund an ITS project in this area; however with the current State budget situation this request had to be tabled until at least 2017.

Prior to my 11:45 AM appointment with the TV station I decided to swing by the Gainesville TMC operated by Phil Mann and Matt Weisman. This was the facility built by the City of Gainesville using local, State and Federal funds. The University of Florida also provided support and funding for the project since the benefits would be great during home football games. Matt was a key player in the design and deployment of this multi-phase project that involved the upgrade of signal systems as well as the installation of CCTV cameras and traffic detection. The final phase of this effort was the creation of a regional TMC that would assist with the management of traffic in Gainesville and surrounding communities like the City of Alachua or High Springs.

The entire effort began with a few visits by Gainesville staff to our Jacksonville TMC a number of years ago. Phil's team took notes, snapped several pictures and bombarded us with a plethora of questions related to the design and construction of the Jax TMC. One of the most influential pieces of information taken from their visit was the need to use the latest technology that would keep maintenance costs to a minimum. At that time, we were the only Department TMC that utilized existing plasma and LCD technology for our video wall. This has led to nearly \$100,000 in savings on maintenance over the past seven years. The Gainesville team took this into consideration during their design and "one-upped" us by having the most dynamic and least expensive walls in the State (if not the country).

Gainesville basically took our ideas and updated them with the latest and greatest in equipment technology. For instance, while we used analog CCTV cameras they decided to go with digital, thus saving them megabytes of bandwidth and tons of cost savings in maintenance. Likewise, they took our idea about the video wall and upped the ante with computerized type monitors that saved on maintenance costs, reduced the amount of equipment needed and expanded the capabilities of the TMC. I can guarantee you that these ideas are being documented by our Jacksonville TMC as we proceed with upgrades and expansion in the near future.

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Notes from the District 2 ITS Engineer cont.

My main reason for writing this article is to show the symbiotic relationship we have with our TIM members in Gainesville. The Gainesville area is a key location for traffic management by our Jacksonville TMC, 24-hours per day and 7-days per week. We are a critical information disseminator for motorists along I-75 within this region and every step taken to gather incident information will be a key to our improvement. One major step taken was the recent acquisition and posting of all the Gainesville arterial cameras on the Department's 511 website. This will provide a visual to daily commuters while giving the Jacksonville TMC important information when detours occur along I-75 in that area. Once the Gators return to their past glory, this capability will be vital in assisting with the management of traffic on game days.

Not to be outdone, our partners in Gainesville are seeking to expand their camera system to the City of Alachua and High Springs. In order to accomplish this task within a limited budget they coordinated with me to use the Department's microwave towers for the installation of long range radios that have high bandwidths. In working out the details they made the offer to install CCTV cameras on their dime along I-75 that would be connected to their network. This very generous offer could possibly provide an opportunity for the Jacksonville TMC to monitor I-75 during major incidents using our Virtual Private Network (VPN) access to their network. They also offered to keep

an eye on this section of roadway during peak hours Monday through Friday, thereby freeing up the Jacksonville TMC operators to focus on their current tasks for a large portion of the day. This was a tremendous opportunity that took me less than five seconds to accept.

Some of the prospects that will arise from this partnership is the possibility of jumping onto the Department's ITS WAN network along I-75 and I-10 to directly connect the Gainesville TMC to the Jacksonville TMC. Using the current VPN is fine; however it limits our capabilities to do much more. Once the WAN connection is made we open up the chance to utilize Center-to-Center communication for operating each others networks during major events or when there is a shortage in manpower at each location. In a sense, this would be the beginning of the regionalization process for the District Two ITS program.

My hat goes off to the team in Gainesville because they had a vision, worked around the obstacles and delivered one of the finest deployments in the State of Florida. These folks are on the cutting edge of traffic technology and will provide the Department with a number of lessons learned that can be used with future ITS deployments. Let's just hope they don't get too far ahead of us in the coming years.

Pete Vega
District 2 ITS Engineer

Maintenance

Traffic Control Devices (TCD), the ITS Maintenance Contractor, has finished the installation of the replacement Microwave Vehicle Detectors (MVDS) on the North End of the ITS System, which is on I-95 from I-10 going north to Pecan Park Road. While changing out the MVDS, TCD also changed out the Local Hub switches, device servers and the Video Encoders for the CCTV cameras. Once the detectors were replaced, Jason Summerfield, the ITS Network Manager, updated the SunGuide® Software and helped TCD work out a few bugs to get the devices reporting properly. With these new devices in place, there has been a dramatic drop in MVDS failures on this portion of the System. TMC and consultant personnel have been monitoring the individual MVDS devices to ensure that they are reporting accurate counts and speeds and thus far the new devices seem to be working very well. By changing out this equipment, we expect to have very few issues with devices on this section of the I-95 roadway corridor for several years.

In addition to replacing MVDS devices, TCD has installed two new devices on the System. The new MVDSs are located at I-95 NB just before the I-295 North End Interchange and on Airport Road Eastbound. The device on I-95 was installed on a sign structure and is actually a replacement of an MVDS that had been removed when the I-95/I-295/SR 9A Interchange Project was in construction. The device on Airport Road

was installed on an existing CCTV pole and will allow the TMC to monitor traffic leaving the Airport and going to I-95 and US 17.



TCD also installed several more wind sensors on bridges around the Jacksonville and St. Augustine areas. The sensors were installed on bridges over the Intracoastal Waterway, including SR 200, Beach Blvd, J Turner Butler Blvd, the Vilano Bridge, SR 312 and SR 206. Due to inclement weather, Atlantic Boulevard and Wonderwood Drive bridges did not

Maintenance

have wind sensors installed but will in the near future. Installations on additional inland bridges will also be completed within the next several months. When the installation of all of the sensors is completed, there will be over 20 wind sensors on key bridges in Jacksonville, Clay County and St. Johns County, which will provide wind speed readings to Law Enforcement and the Traffic Management Center. These wind speed readings will be used to track the progress of high wind on bridges and also to assist Law Enforcement with the determination of wind speeds for closing and opening the bridges during storms/hurricanes.

The configuration of the Road Ranger sponsorship signs was changed this month as well. TCD personnel removed the sign panels

and placed the sponsors name panel under the Road Ranger Service Patrol information panel. This configuration is now consistent with other Road Ranger signs throughout the State. These signs are located at the beginning of each of the Road Ranger Patrol Zones throughout Jacksonville. The Road Ranger sponsorships are being used to help fund the program and hopefully expand the program to additional routes and/or extended service hours. Anyone who may know of a business that may be interested in sponsoring the Road Ranger program can get in touch with Donna Danson for more information. Donna's contact information can be found at the back of this Newsletter.

Kevin Jackson
District 2 ITS Field Specialist



Construction

The Contractor for the Phase VII Project, on SR 9A between the SR 9A/I-95 Northern Interchange and Atlantic Blvd has been working on power services and has started installing MVDS and device cabinets. The Contractor received the cabinets and MVDS units from the Project's Systems Manager last week. The cabinets and MVDSs were tested by the Systems Manager in the presence of FDOT, Contractor and CEI personnel to demonstrate that they were functioning properly. Once the items passed the required testing, they were handed over to the Contractor to be installed in the field. The Contractor is currently behind schedule, but continues to work on the project in hopes of catching up.



The Contractor for the Phase VIII Project, I-295 between I-95 and I-10, has continued with conduit installation and has installed several of the structures for the Dynamic Message Signs (DMS).

The DMSs are expected to be delivered to the project site after the first of the year. The Contractor is also currently working on setting the power service poles and installing the conduit and equipment needed for the power services. Once completed, this project will complete the ITS System on I-295. This project continues to go well and is on schedule for completion within the allowable contract time.



The Phase IX Project plans have been completed. This project will install ITS devices and fiber optic cable along SR 9A from Atlantic Blvd going South to the I-95/I-295/SR 9A Interchange and will complete the ITS System on the I-295/SR 9A loop around Jacksonville. The project will also install Arterial Dynamic Message Signs (ADMS) on many of the arterial roadways prior to their intersection with SR 9A to allow the TMC to alert motorists of congestion and incidents on SR 9A.

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Construction

The project will be let in September of 2012 and Construction will most likely begin late 2012 or early 2013.

Construction on the US 1 Project, which starts at Greenland Road and ends at Wishart Street near downtown, has begun. Following resolution of several utility conflicts, the Contractor has installed several of the Drilled Shaft Foundations for the Arterial Dynamic Message Signs and is also installing conduit and associated items. Completion of this project will allow the City of Jacksonville and FDOT Traffic Management Center personnel to monitor US 1 along the corridor and provide traffic related messages to motorists. Personnel will also have the ability to view traffic congestion in real-time and change the signal timings to pre-programmed alternative timings to help alleviate congestion due to accidents or unexpected traffic congestion. This project is scheduled to be completed by mid April.

Two District Two ITS projects were awarded since the last Newsletter. The College Road ITS Project, which will connect the Clay County Traffic Operations Center to SR 21 (Blanding Boulevard) via fiber optic cable, was awarded to Traffic Control Devices. This project will also include the installation of CCTVs at four intersections along College Road. Construction is expected to begin by Mid March of 2012. The SR 200 CCTV Project in Nassau County, which will install CCTV

cameras on SR 200 from the Intracoastal Waterway Bridge to 8th Street was awarded to American Lighting. This project will install CCTV cameras on an existing fiber optic communications backbone along the corridor. Construction is expected to begin by mid January.

John Kell
District 2 ITS Construction Project Manager



WWW.FL511.COM

North Florida TPO Update

The North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) projects are well under way and have made a usually slow month of December very busy for the ITS staff. The Arterial Dynamic Message sign project recently had 100% plans submitted for review. This project will place TERL approved color dynamic detour signs near I-95 around the Baymeadows Road, Butler Boulevard, University Boulevard and Emerson Street interchanges. The objective is to toggle traffic volumes between I-95 and US 1 when incidents or heavy congestion occur along either roadway. This project is similar to what was done in Minnesota around the Mall of America.

The College Drive (Clay County) and State Road 200 (Nassau County) projects have been awarded with the projected construction dates beginning in the next two months. Each project should take no more than 60 days to complete. The benefit to Clay will be a direct link between their Orange Park signals to the Operations facility off of County Road 220. The benefit to Nassau will be CCTV video from the City of Fernandina to I-95 along the State Road 200 corridor.

Upcoming projects under design include a telecommunications link between the Airport and the TMC as well as interconnection between Jaxport facilities and the ITS network. Once completed the ITS communication network will have the foundation for the development of

multi-modal capabilities that will provide motorists with much needed information for their travel around the Jacksonville roadway network. The Airport project is a simple link between systems that will provide dynamic information between their Operations Center and the Jacksonville TMC.

The Jaxport project is much more challenging in that we are trying to interconnect all port facility information to the TMC. For this project we also hope to include Arterial DMS information for truckers entering and leaving the port. One additional goal is to install Bluetooth technology at the gates, thereby giving us valuable information on the routes taken into and out of the port by these trucks. This data will be very beneficial to Planners as the anticipated growth of the shipping industry impacts our roadway system in the future.

The BlueToad and Wind Sensor projects are well under way. By the first week of January we hope to have Bluetooth installations on Atlantic Boulevard completed. The next roadways on the schedule will be State Road 13 and US 17. As for the Wind Sensor deployment we decided that an MOT plan needed to be developed prior to proceeding any further. Some of the remaining bridges present traffic control challenges that need to be addressed before the first cone is set down. Our goal for this project is to complete all

North Florida TPO Update continued

of the installations by March, thus giving us plenty of time to complete.

Our goal is to have a majority, if not all, of this work completed prior to the summer of 2012. Once this work is finished it will be time to review our progress and benefits of the data being acquired.



Performance Measures

The week of the Thanksgiving holiday reported less than 600 events in SunGuide; however, the number of events per week is usually well over 750. Some of the decrease is due to fewer congestion events since some days that week did not have the regular rush-hour traffic. Also there were fewer disabled vehicle and abandoned vehicle events, likely because the Road Rangers were not patrolling on Thursday of that week. Interestingly though, there were 178 crashes handled in SunGuide the week of the Thanksgiving holiday, which is about 30 percent more crashes than the weekly average for the year. Fortunately, the performance measures show that the crashes were not as severe as usual. According to the performance measures, none of the crashes that week blocked more than two lanes, and about 87 percent were considered to be of “moderate” or “minor” severity. Also, the average incident clearance duration for that week was only about 65 minutes, whereas the average for the year is about 10 minutes longer.

Thinking about traditional consumer behavior the week of the Thanksgiving holiday, one reason for the increase in crashes was likely the increase in visitors. Many drivers may have been unfamiliar with the area, perhaps following directions from a GPS, passengers in the car, or via telephone. These factors are distractions that inhibit someone from driving cautiously. Additionally, much traffic was concentrated near the shopping

Performance Measures continued

malls on Friday of that week. Whether it is at the shopping mall at opening hours or on the freeway at rush hour, concentrated traffic increases the possibility of accidents. Another factor to consider is not only the visiting traffic, but the general change in traffic patterns. That week, public schools in Duval, St Johns, and Nassau counties cancelled sessions Wednesday, November 23 through the end of the week, whereas public schools in Clay County cancelled sessions for the entire week. Additionally, work schedules vary that week so many people were likely taking advantage of the time off and traveling to visit friends and relatives in or out of town at various times throughout the week. Even if the drivers were local, they might have been driving on a new side of town or driving at a different time of day or night than they normally drive. These changes in traffic patterns can cause even local drivers to feel confused on the roadway and even more so for

visiting drivers. This confusion and unfamiliarity fosters reckless maneuvers. For example, merging over three lanes because the driver just realized they have come upon the exit they need to take. Again, fortunately, the severity of the crashes that week was less than usual, but this data reinforces the need to drive cautiously and especially during the week of a holiday.

On another note, the Road Rangers began using the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) radios the first week of December. This should have little effect on the performance measures since it is merely a change in which radio they are using, but the data will be monitored over the next few weeks to ensure the new procedure is improving operations. Below are some statistics for the last few weeks.

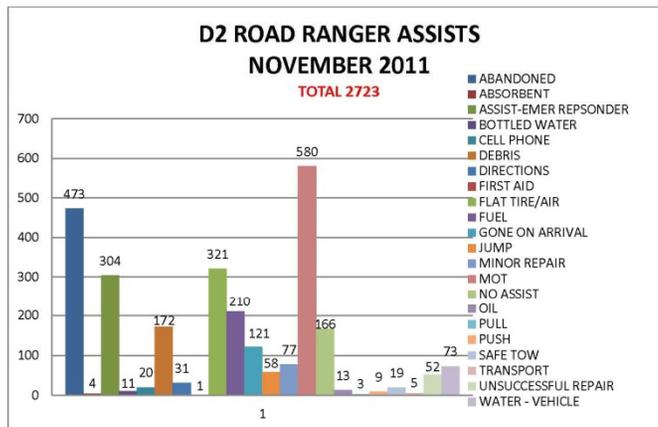
Jill Dawson
Metric Engineering

	Weekly average from October 16 to December 10
# of Events	756.4
# of Events in Performance Measures	37.3
# of Crashes	145.4
Open Roads Duration	40.3
Roadway Clearance Duration	49.1
Incident Clearance Duration	73.6

Road Ranger Update

Our new Road Ranger Sponsors, Jax Legal, Inc., and our Road Ranger Contractor participated in our Media Day for holiday travel on December 22nd. Several interviews were done by our local television stations and radio. Our thanks to the media for helping get the message out that our Road Ranger Service Patrol is a very important factor to our incident management providing a safer travel experience, especially important during the holiday season.

We are in the process of acquiring other interested supporters so hopefully new sponsors will be announced in the near future. As for the performance of our Road Rangers they continue to provide excellent service assisting motorists and incident responders thus helping reach our goals for quick clearance. As you can see from the chart below, the Road Ranger Operators have plenty of opportunities to assist.



RISC – RAPID INCIDENT SCENE CLEARANCE – UPDATE

On November 9, 2011, at 8:31 AM, FHP Sgt. Richard Davis called for our RISC Contract to be utilized. Walt's Wrecker Service responded, meeting the time specified in our RISC Contract.

However, due to factors of this incident, life flight, fuel spill, extensive vehicle damage, etc., it was not possible for the 90 minute clean up goal to be reached so the RISC bonus was not awarded.

Walt's and all incident responders displayed great team work in removing the vehicles involved and opening the travel lanes.



Life Flight at scene of RISC Incident 11/9/2011

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Update

FIRST COAST TIM TEAM UPDATE

First Coast Traffic Incident Management Team met for the final meeting of the year 2011 on November 15th. The following agencies were represented: FDOT ITS, SmartRoutes System, FDOT Central Office Traffic Operations, Nassau County Sheriff's Office, City of Jacksonville Traffic Operations, FDOT Public Information Office, North Florida Sales, FDOT EOC, FDOT Maintenance Office, DBI, FDEP, Transfield, FHP, First Coast Road Rangers, Walt's Wrecker Service, Southern Wrecker Service, Metric, John's Towing Service, JTA, City of Jacksonville Environmental, and Allen's Towing Service.

After agency reports, incidents occurring in October and November were debriefed. Jill Dawson with Metric Engineering presented the Team performance measures and the Team members discussed areas of concern.

The November 9th Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) incident was debriefed and all involved responders participated with input. It was noted Walt's Wrecker Service did an excellent job in clearing the incident even though the RISC guidelines were not obtainable. All responders handled the incident properly and it proved our members truly work as a "Team".

ALACHUA TIM TEAM UPDATE

The Alachua Traffic Management Team met on December 14th at the FDOT Operations Office, 5301 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL. The following agencies were represented: SmartRoutes Systems, University Towing, FDOT Maintenance Office, FDEP, Gainesville Fire Department, Atkins, FDOT ITS, Alachua Sheriff's Office, ACEPD, Metric Engineering, and FDOT Safety Office. After agency reports, the incidents occurring in the previous 2 months were debriefed. Members were advised of a web-based *Responder Safety Training* available at www.I95VIM.com.

Our next meeting will be on February 8, 2012.

The 3rd edition of the *Alachua Traffic Incident Management Team Newsletter* (November-December 2011) is available on our website: jax511.com. This is a great source to stay informed to what is happening in that area of our state. The team members continue to do a great job sharing information about the activities of our team.

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Update cont.

District 2 TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 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.

District 2 TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM VISION:

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

Donna R. Danson
 FDOT District 2
 ITS Operations
 Program Manager



TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT
2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

FIRST COAST

FDOT URBAN OFFICE TRAINING CENTER –
 2198 EDISON AVENUE- JACKSONVILLE
 904-360-5400

- JANUARY 17, 2012
- MARCH 20, 2012
- MAY 15, 2012
- JULY 17, 2012
- SEPTEMBER 18, 2012
- NOVEMBER 13, 2012

ALACHUA

FDOT GAINESVILLE OPERATIONS OFFICE –
 5301 N.E. 39TH AVE- GAINESVILLE
 352-381-4300

- FEBRUARY 8, 2012
- APRIL 11, 2012
- JUNE 13, 2012
- AUGUST 8, 2012
- OCTOBER 10, 2012
- DECEMBER 12, 2012

Marketing

Colder weather has finally arrived in Florida... how do we know? Take a look at all the holiday shoppers wearing flip flops and hoodies. Standard attire for native Floridians like myself. Shopping bags on one arm, a cup of \$4 coffee in the other... it's a good thing the cold weather doesn't stick around for too long, otherwise we'd go broke on coffee... and have to break down and buy *real* shoes. I'm grateful most of our events have been indoors lately, seeing as how most of us don't even own real winter coats.

Both November and December have been good months for our 511 Marketing Team. For starters, we partnered with the folks at the Greater Jacksonville Fair and donated key chains and brochures for their much anticipated Senior Day, an event that attracts well over three hundred active and energetic senior members of our society every November. It's one of the highlights of their month, and now, ours too.

Later that same month, we had the pleasure of visiting the I-95 Florida Welcome Center where we distributed brochures and pens to both residents and tourists alike as they made their way into the Sunshine State. It's always good to see hundreds of smiling faces as they shed their winter coats, trading them instead for the above mentioned flip flops and hoodies, on their way to the nearest beach. Just a few short days after our trip to the Welcome Center, we made our way over to the Suddath Company where we

participated in their annual Employee Benefits Fair, an event we've been attending for the past four years! We talked to well over one hundred employees about the benefits of using 511, and we were happy to promote our latest feature, the downloadable 511 app which is now available for free at the iTunes Store.

And of course, we saved the best for last... in December we hosted a Holiday Media Event at the Department of Transportation's District 2 office in Jacksonville. The event was held on December 22nd and was open to reporters from all area TV stations and local talk radio stations. In addition, we had representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Highway Patrol, Road Rangers and AAA on hand to field questions from the media. A special thanks to Global 5 for coordinating this fantastic holiday media campaign! We're grateful for the partnerships we've established over the past several years, and we're looking forward to adding new ones in 2012.

As always, we welcome your comments, ideas and suggestions.

Sherri Byrd
511 Marketing Manager

WWW.FL511.COM

Operations

Thanksgiving starts off the travel chaos, than there is a small break giving way to the end of the year Holiday Traffic. AAA projects this to be the most traveled Christmas and New Year weekends in over five years. People are taking to the roadways while the airports should see a dip from years past. Over 90 million people will travel more than 50 miles during those weekends clogging our roadways and eating up a significant amount of gasoline, the cost of which is currently an average of \$3.27 in Florida. If you are hitting the roadways below are some tips to help save you time and money!

Before departing for your trip check FL511.com or call 511 to see how road conditions are in your area and throughout your travel route. Being proactive and possibly finding an alternate route before your departure can save you valuable time and headache while on the roadway if a major incident makes this necessary. This also gives you a chance to re-route using Mapquest while in the comfort of your home. Motorists can access 511 on the road while the vehicle is stopped or by having a passenger call to get up to the minute traffic information.

If you have an iPhone, iPad or iTouch FDOT's 511 App will help guide you along your journey. It can be downloaded for free on iTunes. The 511 App uses the device's GPS tracking to provide users with traffic information within a mileage range set

by the user. You can also view traffic cameras associated with crashes that are being displayed to give you a sense of the severity. The 511 App lets the user keep their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road!

Time is money and congestion wastes just that. Stay ahead of the game this Holiday Season by utilizing 511. Populating the 511 system is an exhausting effort. In November the TMC worked over 3,300 events which included more than 700 crashes! To help with incident management the Road Rangers assisted in over 2,000 events and performed 4,500 activities, on scene. Thank you to all of the TIM Members that make this all possible.

Without ITS devices outside of Jacksonville (and parts of Jacksonville) the TMC depends on FDOT and FHP personnel to give us traffic information reports. You can reach our 24/7 line at (904)359-6842 or our work day line at (904)360-5465. You can now also leave feedback on the Next Generation 511 system about road conditions and bugs you may find in the system that is relayed to our operators in real time. Remember the story above and

“Know Before You Go! Dial 511”

Ryan Crist
TMC Lead Supervisor

A DAY IN THE LIFE...
Derrick, TMC Consultant Supervisor

In a previous 'life' I had the good fortune to work for an airline for 5 years. While I didn't take advantage of the travel benefits as much as I would have liked, I took more trips in that five years than I did in the 30 years that proceeded it. All of the trips were memorable for one reason or the other- Vegas for the buffets (and the casinos), London for the history (and the beer) and Rio for the beautiful scenery (including the people!).

One trip that stands out in my mind was a quick trip to Cancun. Being an airline employee I could fly free or almost free by flying standby and on the way to Cancun that was no problem. And once you get there ..WOW...breathtaking! Prettiest blue water I had ever seen and the beaches were pristine with white sand. The hotel room overlooked the water and the hotel bar was literally on the beach! I was in paradise and didn't want to leave.



In three hurried days we were able to cram in a whole lot of site seeing, great food and shopping in the local open air markets. Of course there was just a little partying with the locals and other tourists alike (Senor Frogs anyone?).

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and we packed up early on the fourth morning to head to the airport. Again, being airline employees and flying standby, the sooner you get to the airport the better your chances would be to get on any early flight...or so we thought. We got there in plenty of time to list ourselves on the first flight to Miami so it should, in theory, be a quick day at the airport and we would be in the States shortly. Nice theory!...

We sat back and watched flight after flight after flight leave for Miami without us on it. It seemed like everyone was trying to leave Cancun that day. I don't know why, I wanted to STAY but I had to be back at work 9am the next day.

We jumped from airline to airline, those we had benefits with and those who were just friendly to us, trying to get on a flight. My travel buddy and I were two-thirds of a three man I.T. department and we HAD to get back or face the wrath of our boss who had warned us about traveling together.

A DAY IN THE LIFE... continued
Derrick Odom, TMC Consultant Supervisor

After 14, yes 14, exhausting hours waiting for a flight finally the last one of the day to Miami had space on it.....for one standby! A flip of the coin determined I was getting on the plane (did I say I REALLY wanted to stay) and off to Miami I went.



Of course ,being one of the last flights in meant that all connecting flights to Orlando (our final destination) were already gone! At this point the options are to sleep in the airport and start all over again in the morning or rent a car to get home....Budget Rent a Car here I come! With the aid of Mountain Dew and several Snickers bars the sugar rush kept me awake long enough to get back to Orlando with about three hours to spare before I had to be at work. Not ideal by a long shot, but I would not trade it for anything. The experience of getting to travel around the world was worth a few hours (or days) stuck in the airport.

Derrick Odom
Part time Supervisor/Traffic reporter

Photo Gallery



Our own Craig Carnes happened upon this vehicle on fire on SR 9-A NB just before Hecksher Drive on 12/15/11.



Only moments later, with Jax. Fire and Rescue on scene

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Jason Summerfield, Network Manager
 Derrick Odom, TMC Assistant Supervisor
 Sherri Byrd, 511 Marketing Manager

D2 Day Operators

Jesse Gilmour
 Michael Harper
 Jessica Lakey
 Katie Langella

Fill-In & Feedback

Operators
 Ben Brown
 Jonathan Figueroa
 Joshua Mattie
 James Speed

D2 Night & Weekend Operators

Jason Evans
 David Rolfe
 Tyler Sowers

D3 Day Operators

Ed Capps
 Adrienne Catapano
 Joanna Garcia
 Kelly Millan

511 Probe

Sherri Byrd
 Michelle Warren