

**TIM**  
**NEWSLETTER**

Alachua / Bradford County, FL



**First**  
**Quarter**  
**2013**



# TEAM UPDATE

Donna R. Danson – FDOT District 2 ITS Operations Project Manager

Our Alachua – Bradford Traffic Incident Management Team continues to demonstrate our ability to excel in meeting our mission and vision goals. We have proven “not even a herd of bulls can stop us” from opening travel lanes for motorists to achieve our local open roads policy.

Our team members continue to realize just how important communication and teamwork can be. When we began the new year of 2013, little did we know we would be “cattle roping” or “bull fighting” to achieve our goals! (For a demonstration of our team work, go to youtube.com and search for I-75 bull).

Seriously, our team members do “whatever it takes” to clear the interstate. We have had several Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) incidents in the last couple of months which were handled professionally by our team members. Participation in our bi-monthly team meetings accentuates the importance of debriefing incidents and participating in training. Bruce Strickland is heading up a task team to develop a specialized training in incident response for all our members. Our goal is to present this training in May 2013.

We continue to strive toward meeting the goals of our Team Vision Statement.

**Thanks to all members of our Team!**

**NEXT ALACHUA-BRADFORD  
TRAFFIC INCIDENT  
MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING:**

April 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



**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 percent each year through 2015.*



# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Laura Windham – Atkins Public Information

Construction is underway on a 6-mile long biking/walking trail on the south side of Archer Road (State Road 24) between Southwest 91<sup>st</sup> Street in Gainesville and the water tower in Archer.

When completed, the path will be 10 feet wide with a 1-foot unpaved shoulder on each side. A trail head or parking area with five spaces, an informational kiosk and a bench will also be built.

As the trail leaves Archer, it winds in and around majestic oak trees that have formed a canopy over the old railroad bed. On the east end of the trail, it runs between Archer Road and Archer Trail, an area currently and frequently used by walkers and bicyclists now.

This trail is part of the Archer Braid Trail, which is a series of trails starting in Archer and ending at Gale Lemerand Drive and Archer Road in Gainesville.

V.E. Whitehurst & Sons, Inc. of Williston is constructing the trail which is expected to be completed within the next few weeks. The design and construction of the project is being funded with federal dollars at a cost of \$1.1 million.

Lane closures are not expected during construction, but if become necessary, will only be allowed after 8 a.m. on weekdays.

## Traffic Management Center Activities

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

In January and February, Gainesville TMC assisted with traffic control for a University of Florida Police Department funeral escort, a military funeral escort from Jacksonville to Ocala and the Hot Rods for Hero's event.

In addition, the TMC provided arterial management for traffic diversion due to a fatal crash on East University Avenue at Waldo Road, a crash on Williston Road at 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, assistance was provided to Gainesville Police Department after city-wide power outages February 28 and put special plans in for the University of Florida spring break exodus.

### If you have questions:

Traffic Management Center

352-393-7960

Monday through Friday – 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

[www.gac-smartraffic.com](http://www.gac-smartraffic.com)



@gacsmartraffic



Like us on - Gainesville / Alachua County Smartraffic



# TMC UPDATE





The last week of February, when I was writing this article, we were being inundated with rain and some hail. The event was named, “North Florida Flooding 2013,” and while there was no declaration of emergency from the Governor, some panhandle counties did request assistance. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) provided barricades, signs and sandbags to assist in closing roads, bridges and businesses in Holmes, Calhoun and Washington counties. When this rain event finally stopped, there was only minimal flooding and minor damage in our area.

The panhandle also experienced river flooding from this event. The rivers in District Two (Alapaha, Suwannee, Santa Fe, Itchetucknee) will most likely continue to rise due to the excessive amount of rain in southeast Georgia. Since most of our river levels are below average, hopefully they will remain within their banks despite this heavy rainfall.

This time of year is always very busy for the emergency management community. Our days are filled with training, exercises, attending meetings, updating plans and procedures, etc. FDOT District Two covers 18 counties, so there are plenty of opportunities to be involved in exercises and planning of all kinds. Many of the county emergency management programs receive federal money through the Florida Division of Emergency Management. As with all federal money, there are guidelines on how it can be spent. One requirement is the counties must conduct annual exercises.

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have participated in a tornado exercise, a school shooter exercise, a failed communications exercise, several hurricane exercises, a hazardous chemical release exercise and a mass notification exercise. FDOT functions as a support agency during the exercises and during actual events. As a support agency, we often are asked to be a part of the planning committees to assist in the details of these exercises. As you can imagine, these exercises are crucial for the local agencies to see any weak points with their plans and processes before an actual event occurs.

The annual meeting of the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) was held the last week of January in Orlando. FEPA is the premier organization of emergency management professionals in Florida. The annual meeting has plenary sessions, multi-day training courses, a vendor exhibit hall and break-out workshops. FEPA is probably the main avenue for those in the emergency management field to obtain and maintain our certifications.

This year’s keynote speaker was Paul Daley, Emergency Manager of Toms River, New Jersey, where Hurricane Sandy made landfall. He gave an excellent presentation of what actually happened, the problems they encountered with procedures, processes, elected officials, residents not evacuating, issues with FEMA, etc. It was very interesting to hear what happened from someone who was actually working the incident instead of a news reporter giving their opinion of it.

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Division of Emergency Management held Operation Radar II at Camp Blanding the week of February 4. This was the second year this exercise has taken place. The exercise is an opportunity for all federal, state and local government agencies to get together and test their communications equipment. Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) tested to see if it can communicate with sheriffs' departments. The Seminole Indian Tribe tested to see if they can communicate with the State EOC, etc. FDOT District Two radio shop set up a mobile communications trailer and FHP conducted a radio check with FDOT District Two EOC. The test went perfect. One part of the equipment on site allowed all state agencies that had mobile command centers with Wi-Fi internet access. Without our equipment, there would not have been internet connection at all. The trailer also has a remote-controlled camera on top of the antenna. As far as the FDOT checks went, everything went great.

On Thursday of Operation Radar II, Gina Busscher, FDOT District Two Public Information Officer and I attended a workshop on Mass Notification. The workshop was sponsored by Division of Emergency Management and was moderated by Brian Koon, Division Director. It included presentations on human behavior and on several current tools used for mass notification. The intent of the workshop was to begin the process of developing communication strategies for Florida's residents and visitors in the most expedient and efficient manner during crisis times when mass communication is needed. This workshop was just the beginning of the discussion process. There will be many follow-up discussions and meetings to this process. I am not convinced there is a "best" method to mass communicate with everyone, but the development process has just begun. Who knows what technology may appear next year!

FDOT emergency management group met in Tallahassee the week of February 11. This is the first time we have all met in several years. There have been so many employee changes the past few years that many in our group have never met each other. We discussed our goals for this year, the roles and responsibilities of our group, our plans and procedures, the budget, training, Web EOC, the process which we receive and respond to mission requests from the State EOC and dozens of other topics. The week-long meeting ended with a trip to the State EOC to see the changes that have been made to the FDOT area of occupancy, which is Emergency Support Function (ESF) 1 & 3, Transportation and Public Works.

Many more exciting items and events on the calendar for the near future and I'll report on some of those in upcoming newsletters.

**Stay safe!**



## NEARLY 70,000 CRASHES GO FROM BAD TO WORSE

~ The Patrol aims efforts to decrease hit-and-run crashes ~

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Florida has seen an increase of fatal hit-and-run crashes during the last two years. The Florida Highway Patrol is partnering with the Florida Sheriffs Association, the Florida Police of Chiefs Association and the Florida Department of Transportation to combat the problem. The campaign aims to reduce the number of hit-and-run crashes in Florida by educating drivers on their responsibilities if involved in a crash and the consequences they face if they leave a crash scene.

“Hit-and-run crashes are a growing problem in Florida,” said FHP Director, Col. David Brierton. “Florida had nearly 70,000 hit-and-run crashes last year. We hope the education awareness campaign and our partnerships with Florida law enforcement agencies and FDOT will help us meet our mission goals of traffic safety.”

This week, the Patrol is hosting press conferences throughout the state to focus on the victims, Florida law and active cases. For more information about hit-and-run crash facts and tips, visit <http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/HitRun/>.



### What to do after a crash:

- CALL law enforcement.
- REMAIN calm.
- ATTAIN vehicle, witness and driver information.
- SKETCH the scene, showing vehicle crash locations.
- HELP the injured.

### A few hit-and-run facts for Florida:

- Hit-and-run crashes involving fatalities increased from 162 in 2011 to 168 in 2012.
- The number of hit-and-run crashes statewide equaled 69,994 in 2012.
- Three out of every five fatalities in 2012 were pedestrians struck in hit-and-run crashes.

### What does Florida law say?

- The driver must immediately stop and remain at the scene, must exchange information and render reasonable assistance to any injured persons.
- Leaving the scene of a crash involving a death commits a felony of the first degree and carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in a state correctional facility and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.
- Leaving the scene of a crash involving injuries commits a felony of the third degree and carries a maximum penalty of five years in a state correctional facility and/or a fine up to \$5,000.
- Leaving the scene involving property damage commits a misdemeanor of the second degree and carries a maximum penalty of 60 days in a county jail and/or fine of \$500.

Here's what some safety advocates had to say:

“The FPCA Highway Safety Committee along with our member agencies throughout the state fully support the Hit-and-Run Awareness Campaign. The FPCA and its members are committed to supporting and developing strategies that educate the citizens we serve on ways to make the roadways of Florida a safer place for drivers, pedestrians, motorcyclists and bicyclists.”

~ Chief Art Bodenheimer, Lake Alfred Police Department and the Florida Police Chiefs Association's Highway Safety Committee Chair

“We commend FHP on their efforts to reduce hit-and-run crashes. This is a great example of a safety partnership that will continue to drive down fatalities in Florida.”

~ Lora Hollingsworth, Florida Department of Transportation Chief Safety Officer

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](http://www.flhsmv.gov), follow us on Twitter @FDHSMV or find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fdot).





## TEAM MEMBER PROFILE

Chris Dolan



### **Name, job title and work location.**

Chris Dolan, Traffic Operations Supervisor, City of Gainesville

### **Describe your job and how long you've been in your current position.**

I oversee and work with the Signs, Markings and Traffic Signal Crews. We maintain all of the signs and markings, as well as maintain all of the traffic signals, flashing beacons and school beacons in the City of Gainesville, Alachua County and the many smaller communities in Alachua County. I have been working here for nearly nine years.

### **Describe your early career or offer a brief job history.**

I began my career in local government when I was living in Sarasota. I started with the City of Sarasota as a landscaper in 1994 and within a year, was promoted to a truck driver and a member of the asphalt crew. Then, I applied for a job in the electrical shop and I worked in the signal/ streetlight shop for about nine years. This is where I learned about traffic signals and completed my IMSA Certifications. After six years and promoting up to a Signal Tech 2, I applied and was promoted to foreman of the signal shop. After about four years, I was hired by the City of Gainesville and here I am!

### **Describe an "aha" moment in your career or personal life.**

The birth of my two children, 7-year-old Jake and 5-year-old Ana.

### **What was your best and worst job ever?**

Best job was living and working on a resort for a year on Maui Ha.

### **Where were you born/grew up?**

I was born in New York and grew up on Long Island. When I was 12, my father retired from the New York Police Department and we moved to Sarasota.

### **What are your hobbies?**

Watching Gators football, Tampa Bay Bucs, beer drinking, fishing, camping and hunting (not necessarily in that order).

### **What is your favorite vacation spot?**

Still looking...☺