



Traffic Incident Management

RESPONDER

Volume 2, Issue 4

December 2021



National TIM Responder Training Remains the Standard to Achieve
District Six Hosts Press Conference for Move Over Law





TIM Team & Working Group

MEETINGS & WEBINARS

DATE	DISTRICT/COUNTY	TIME
December 8, 2021	Collier, Lee, Charlotte Counties TIM Team Meeting SWIFT SunGuide Center, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Ft. Myers, FL 33913	9:30 am - 12 pm EST
December 8, 2021	Alachua-Bradford TIM Team Meeting GoTo Meeting	10 am - 12 pm EST
December 14, 2021	Sarasota-Manatee TIM Team Meeting Manatee County Public Safety Center, 2101 47th Terrace East (19th Street Court East) , Bradenton, FL 34203	1:30 pm - 3:30 pm EST
January 11, 2022	Tallahassee TIM Team Meeting Leon County Public Safety Complex, 911 Easterwood Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32311	10am - Noon EST
January 12, 2022	Milton TIM Team Meeting FDOT Milton Operations Center, 6025 Old Bagdad Hwy, Milton, FL 32583	10am - Noon CST
January 13, 2022	Panama City Team Meeting FHP Troop A Headquarters, 6030 Co Rd 2321, Panama City, FL 32404	9am - 11am CST
January 13, 2022	Central Panhandle Meeting Holmes Correctional Institute Training Building, 3142 Thomas Dr, Bonifay, FL 32425	1pm - 3pm CST
January 18, 2022	First Coast TIM Team Meeting GoTo Meeting	10 am - 12 pm EST
February 2, 2022	I-4/Metro Orlando Area TIM Team Meeting TBD	9:30 am - 11 am EST
February 8, 2022	Pinellas County TIM Team Meeting FDOT District 7 Pinellas Maintenance Office, 5211 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater, FL 33670	10 am - 12 pm EST
February 9, 2022	Alachua-Bradford TIM Team Meeting GoTo Meeting	10 am - 12 pm EST
February 10, 2022	I-95 South TIM Team Meeting TBD	9:30 am - 11 am EST
February 16, 2022	Miami-Dade County TIM Team Meeting - 95 Corridor Microsoft Teams meeting	1:30 pm - 3:30 pm EST
February 17, 2022	I-95 North TIM Team Meeting TBD	9:30 am - 11 am EST
February 22, 2022	Hillsborough County TIM Team Meeting FDOT District 7 Tampa Bay SunGuide Center, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa, FL 33612	10 am - 12 pm EST
February 24, 2022	I-75 Area TIM Team Meeting TBD	9:30 am - 11 am EST



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TIM Program Manager Update

Greetings Traffic Incident Management (TIM) professionals. Welcome to the fourth edition of the Florida TIM Responder, Florida's Statewide TIM Program newsletter, for the 2021 calendar year. The newsletter aims to provide you with relevant and timely information that will collectively help us advance the TIM state of practice throughout Florida. It is also expected that the TIM Responder newsletter will increase awareness of TIM and promote its benefits. The newsletter will focus primarily on the current state of the practice, articles from peers and partner first responder agencies, technology updates, national TIM updates, upcoming events, and awards/recognition.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) continues to advance the statewide [TIM Strategic Plan](#) adopted in January 2019. At its core, the Strategic Plan is designed to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, and ensure that stakeholders and TIM Program partners are working toward common goals supporting Florida's Open Roads Policy. In light of the recent Road Ranger struck-by incidents, the FDOT Central Office has been working on developing recommendations to avoid future struck-by incidents. These and several other initiatives continue to move forward.

The following issue of the TIM Responder focuses on some great articles received from the Districts. One highlights the importance of National TIM Responder Training Program, while another talks about the expansion of HAAS Alert Program to mainline Road Rangers on Florida's Turnpike. Some of the other articles in this issue focus on the growing issue of electric vehicle (EV) fires and the press conference for Move Over law. This edition also highlights the performance measures for the first quarter of FY 2021/22 based on TIM training, Road Ranger assists, Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC), and recognizes a few Road Rangers for their continued efforts in keeping Florida's highways safe.

In closing, it warrants emphasizing that a multiagency, multi-disciplined team effort is critical to the success of TIM. As such, we always value your input and would like to extend an open invitation to you to send us TIM Responder newsletter ideas and comments as well as articles and announcements that you'd like to share.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to the TIM Program for the State of Florida throughout the past 21 months. During that time, we have responded to the needs of motorists while addressing concerns and hazards associated with COVID-19. The team has risen to the challenge and continues to provide excellent service. Thank you for your service and know that we are here to support you as our great state emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Happy holidays and please continue to be safe.

Shawn Kinney
Traffic Incident Management

Vision...

To increase the delivery rate of fatality-free and congestion-free transportation systems supporting the FDOT vision and Florida Transportation Plan goals.

Mission...

To identify, prioritize, develop, implement, operate, maintain, and update TSM&O program strategies and measure their effectiveness for improved safety and mobility.



Electric Vehicle Fires

By Tom Arsenault, District One Traffic Incident Management Program Manager

On August 27, 2021, 6:51 PM, District One first responders were called to a car fire at I-75 NB near Mile Marker 226 in Manatee county. Upon the arrival of the North River Fire Department, they noticed that the vehicle involved was an electric vehicle (EV). The Captain on the scene called for a second engine knowing that an EV requires more water than usual car fires. A recent NBC News report indicated that EV battery fires can take upwards of 25,000 gallons of water to be fully extinguished. By comparison, a typical car fire involving an internal combustion engine can be put out with around 300 gallons of water. As an additional hazard, the vehicle was directly under power lines.

As a precaution, the interstate was closed while the fire was attended to. The traffic was diverted at Exit 224 for just over two hours. The fire required a total of 4 fire engines. Just when the vehicle fire was thought to have been extinguished, the EV fire restarted while being placed on the tow truck and more water was applied.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued an 80-page report in January 2021 entitled *Safety Risks to Emergency Responders from Lithium-Ion Battery Fires in Electric Vehicles*. You can find that report here: <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SR2001.pdf>. In a summary, the NTSB proposed including the availability of emergency response guides for EVs in the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) score for any vehicle.

When it comes to emergency response guides, the NTSB suggested each particular EV should include essential information on how to fight a fire concerning the specific battery in the EV, and how to alleviate the risk of high voltage reigniting the fire. The government concluded that first responders witnessed the fire reignite in three out of four instances of EV fires last year. The batteries of the three EVs that caught fire again were involved in serious crashes, prompting the NTSB to push for more research into how batteries react after high-speed crashes.

Finally, the NTSB called on emergency response guides to include information on how to alleviate the risk associated with remaining energy stored in the EV while removing a vehicle from a crash scene, and how to properly store an EV after the crash. There remain risks of a fire breaking out in a battery even after professionals clean up the scene and carry the EV away.

Electric Vehicle Fires, continued from page 4



**Fire Reignites
7:18 PM**



7:31 PM



7:58 PM



Photos courtesy of FDOT

For more information, please contact Tom Arsenault at (239) 225-1915 or by email at Tom.Arsenault@dot.state.fl.us.





District Six Hosts Press Conference for Move Over Law

By Carlos Dardes, FMS/AMS Specialist IV, FDOT

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six hosted a multi-agency press conference in August 2021 to raise public awareness for the Move Over Law and its recent amendment. The Move Over Law was established in 2002 to improve safety for law enforcement, emergency, sanitation, utility, tow, and Road Ranger vehicles. The law was amended in July to include construction and maintenance vehicles as well.

The FDOT partnered with the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Troop E, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, Road Rangers, and other first responders for the event which garnered full coverage by the local media. District Six held this event to shed light on recent traffic violations that jeopardized Road Ranger safety earlier in the year. The idea came as a request from the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) team who wanted to increase upon the District's ongoing public awareness efforts for the law, especially as back-to-school traffic began, and overall traffic started to increase. The Department urged the public to move over or slow down for the identified service vehicles and announced the recent changes. The FDOT was followed by representatives from the FHP, the Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST), and the Road Ranger Service Patrol unit. They reiterated the importance of the law, spoke about their collective actions and experiences, and reminded the public that everyone deserves the opportunity to get home safely. This multi-agency approach served to humanize the law and show the faces behind the first responders who put their lives on the line every day to keep the roadways moving.

The event was covered by a total of five English and Spanish media channels who broadcasted the story on their television and web platforms. The press conference was preceded by a law enforcement detail that was comprised of nine local police agencies. The four-hour operation yielded a total of 7 arrests, 145 citations, 12 written warnings, and distributed 107 traffic safety educational materials. The FDOT also reinforced this effort by displaying Move Over public service announcements on its regional dynamic message signs for one month after the press conference.

The press conference was one of the most successful to date in terms of education and enforcement goals. FDOT and its partners remain committed to raising awareness about all traffic laws to improve roadway safety in the region. For a full recap of the event including videos and photos, please visit the FDOT District Six Safety Resources site, [here](#).

For more information, please contact Carlos Dardes at (305) 640-7331 or by email at Carlos.Dardes@dot.state.fl.us.

National TIM Responder Training Remains the Standard to Achieve

By Grady Carrick, Ph.D., Enforcement Engineering, Inc., FDOT Consultant Support

The National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training Program has become the state of the practice for responders handling traffic incidents. As of October 2021, more than 500,000 law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services (EMS), transportation, and towing professionals have received the training that is offered both in-person and through online opportunities like the National Highway Institute (NHI).

Despite the progress, the stakes remain high for our incident responders. This year in Florida, one law enforcement officer, four tow truck operators, and one Road Ranger Service Patrol operator have lost their lives in struck-by vehicle incidents. Responder safety must be placed on a par with other high-risk activities like emergency vehicle operations, firearms, defensive tactics, bloodborne pathogens, HAZMAT and firefighting. TIM is equally dangerous and deserving of elevated importance among trainers and should be recognized by governing bodies as a vital safety and wellness issue.

The Texas Commission on Fire Protection mandates that all career firefighters receive TIM training under Rule 435.29. Similarly, law enforcement officers in Texas are now required to receive TIM training as part of basic law enforcement training by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE).

In 2017, the Georgia Department of Public Health was approached to require TIM training for EMS and in 2018, the state Office of EMS issued a statewide policy for all EMS providers to fit TIM training into their 2-year training cycle. Since that time, Georgia has exceeded their goals for number of EMS and fire personnel trained.

Several states, like California and Tennessee, have implemented TIM training requirements for rotation/contract wrecker services. Often, these types of mandates can be accomplished with a simple directive from the agency head.

Since 2018, the FDOT Road Ranger Operations procedure (#750-030-015) has required that all Road Ranger Service Patrol Operators complete the 4-Hour Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Incident Responder Training developed through the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2). All Road Ranger contracts now have language that requires SHRP2 TIM training, and the Florida Department of Transportation has collaborated with the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) to develop requirements for all tow truck operators to complete the SHRP2 TIM training. The new requirement will be proposed in their next revision to Rule 15B-9 of the Florida Administrative Code. TIM training has also been required by FHP basic recruits and in-service personnel for several years. Florida continues to work toward the National TIM Responder Training Program goal of 45% of responders trained.

The demands for training time and dollars are great. Discretionary activities typically are pushed aside for worthwhile mandated training. This is why we must strive to emphasize that TIM training is not "discretionary", but an essential part of the life and safety training regimen for law enforcement, fire, EMS, transportation, and towing professionals.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Since the implementation of the program, **13,062** incident responders have received the training in the state of Florida (as of November 08, 2021). That number represents roughly **33%** of the responders in operational roles that are supporting traffic incident response operations. During the first quarter of FY 2021/2022, about **228** responders received the training.

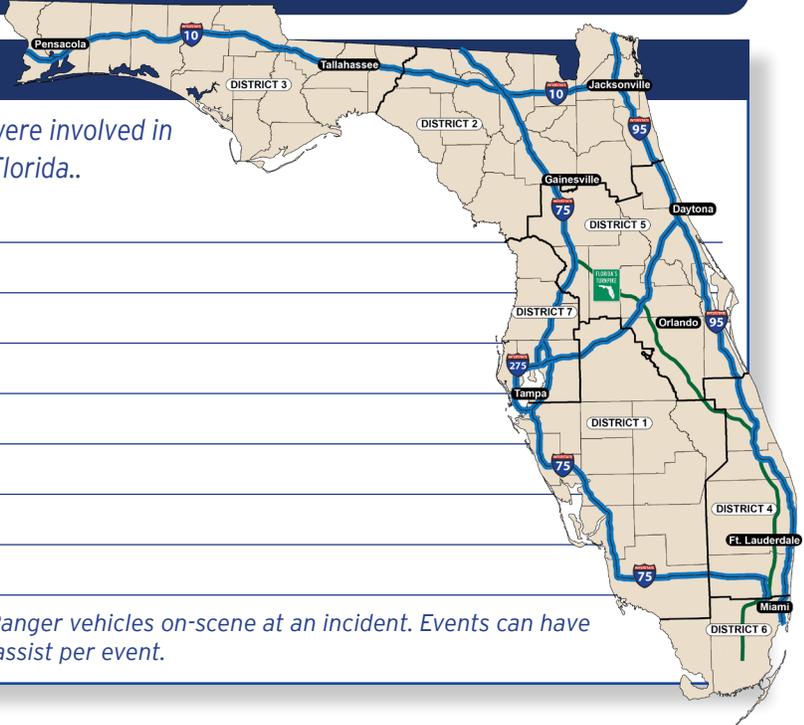
Responders Trained

TIM TRAINING RECEIVED BY:	LEO	FIRE	EMS	TOW	FDOT	OTHER	QTR TOTAL
							
1ST QUARTER	19	105	29	46	12	17	228
2ND QUARTER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3RD QUARTER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4TH QUARTER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FYTD	19	105	29	46	12	17	228

Road Ranger Assists by District

During the first quarter of FY 2021/2022, Road Rangers were involved in **135,749** events providing assistance to the motorists of Florida..

District One	11,004
District Two	12,962
District Three	4,771
District Four	19,829
District Five	21,426
District Six	10,052
District Seven	11,854
Florida's Turnpike	29,670



Note: An event is defined as the arrival of one or more Road Ranger vehicles on-scene at an incident. Events can have multiple assists, and each Road Ranger will have at least one assist per event.

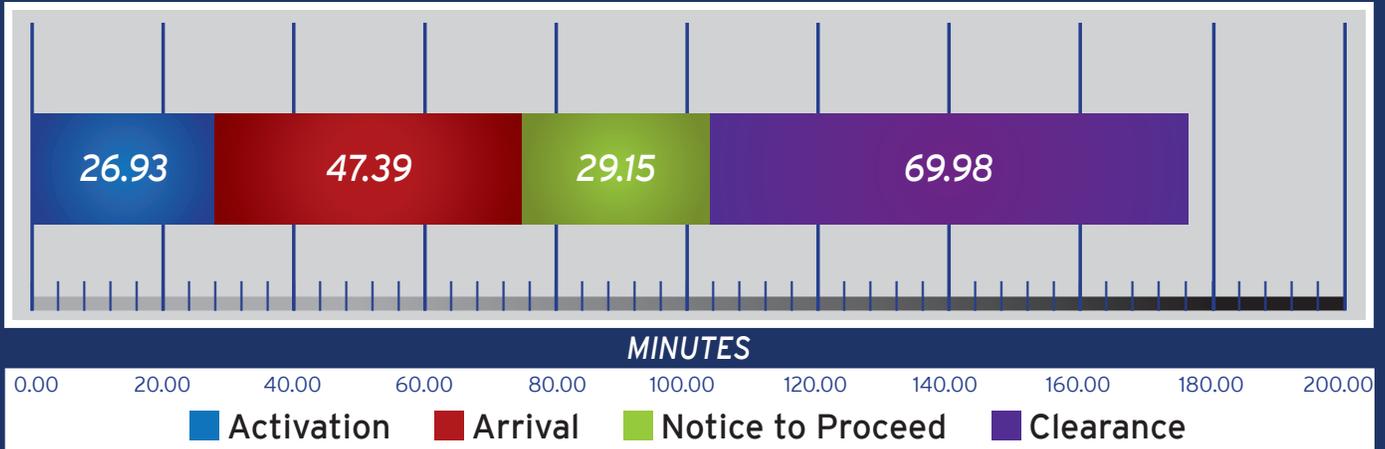
Road Ranger Assist Data

	HIGHEST ACTIVITY TOTALS		LOWEST ACTIVITY TOTALS	
	SOURCE	TOTAL	SOURCE	TOTAL
ASSISTS BY NOTIFIER	ROAD RANGER	74,044	MOTORIST	34
ASSISTS BY EVENT TYPE	DISABLED VEHICLE	75,893	PEDESTRIAN	223
ARRIVALS BY DAY OF WEEK	FRIDAY	2,335	WEDNESDAY	2,049
ARRIVALS BY TIMEFRAME	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	3,207	3:00 am - 6:00 am	603

Rapid Incident Scene Clearance

During the first quarter of FY 2021/2022 (July 2021 to September 2021), seven Districts and FTE activated the RISC Program **128** times with approximately **\$391,400** in bonus-incentive payments made to vendors.

First Quarter Statewide Average RISC Incident Duration



2021 National Responder Safety Update

53 Responders Killed in Struck-By Incidents

Law Enforcement (24)

13 Traffic stops/LE activity

11 Assisting crash scenes

Towing (20)

18 Assisting disabled vehicles

2 Assisting crash scenes

Fire and EMS (7)

1 Assisting debris removal

5 Assisting crash scenes

1 Assisting fire scene

DOT/SSP (2)

2 Assisting crash scenes



Turnpike Road Ranger "Romeo 2" was struck by a passing vehicle while on scene of a crash in the overnight hours of Sunday, July 18 in Miami-Dade County. You can see his arrow board was activated and MOT was in place at the time of the hit.

Florida's Turnpike Expands Motorist Alert Program to Mainline Road Rangers

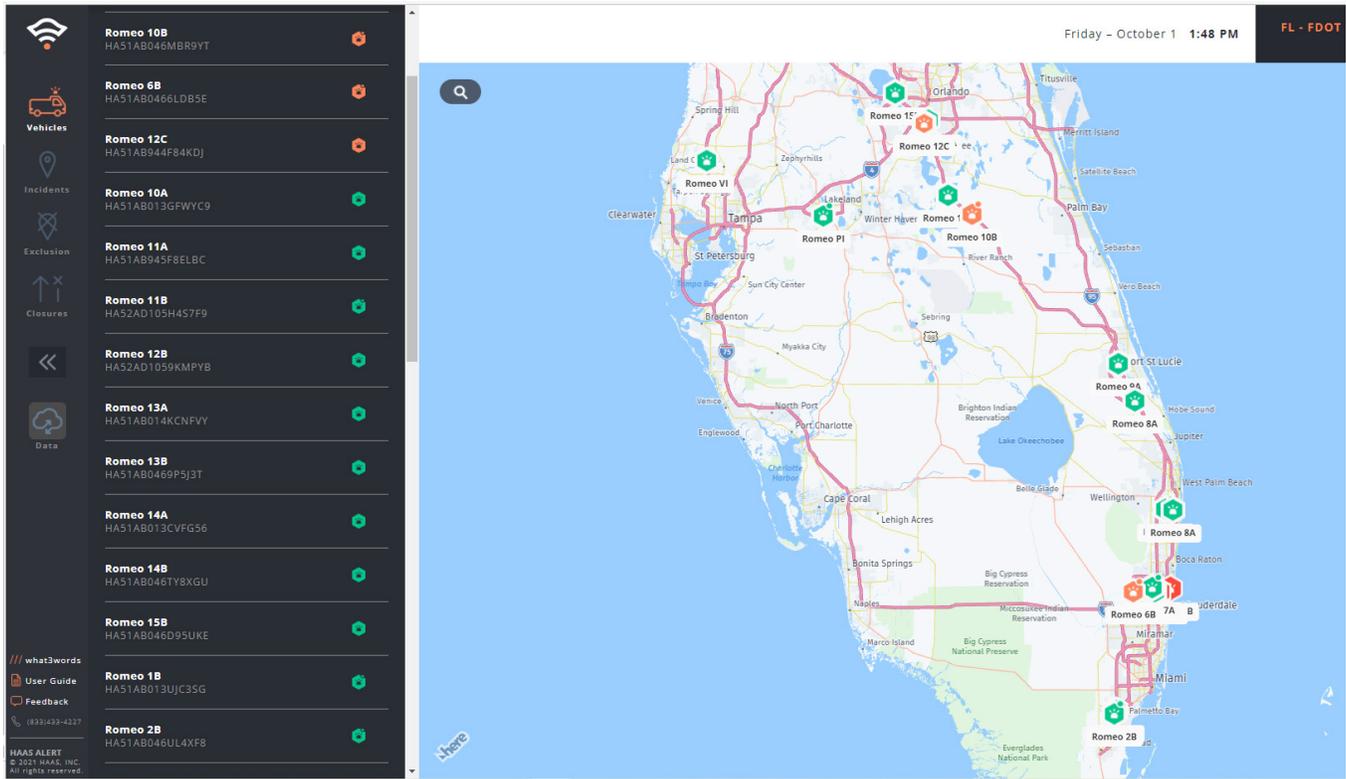
By Mary Lou Veroline, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, TSM&O Technical Writer

New technologies are warning motorists about the presence of incident responders using in-vehicle mapping and navigation systems. Alerting drivers to downstream traffic incidents sooner may increase compliance with state's Move Over laws, allowing for more time to safely change lanes and/or slow down. Several companies (HAAS Alerts, iCone, iLog HELP Alerts, and MakeWay Systems) offer similar approaches to inform drivers that there is something ahead using systems like Waze, Google Maps, Apple Maps, and in-vehicle mapping systems." and move the current paragraph to second.

Incident response vehicles are being struck along the roadside at an alarming rate. In 2020, 23 Turnpike Road Ranger trucks were struck during an assist, and in 2021, there have been another 15 crashes. Unfortunately, that dangerous trend is also being seen throughout the state and across the nation.

Florida's Turnpike initiated a pilot evaluation of the HAAS Alerts system for incident response vehicles in May 2020 with a limited rollout of the transponder technology to three Road Ranger trucks. The HAAS in-vehicle unit triggers an alert to nearby motorists via Waze, Google Maps, and Apple Maps when a Road Ranger activates the truck's strobe light bar, indicating the approach to, or active response at, a motorist assist. The warning allows approaching motorists to take proactive measures, moving over or slowing down, and reduces the knee-jerk maneuvers that often prove unsafe. The transponder also sends a notification to Turnpike TMCs so they are aware of the stop and can actively monitor the scene for enhanced safety.

Florida's Turnpike Expands Motorist Alert Program to Mainline Road Rangers, continued from page 10



During the pilot period, more than 10,000 alerts were generated each month from the vehicles with transponders installed. Perhaps even more satisfying is the fact that none of the trucks in the pilot were involved in a roadside “struck-by” event during the 16-month evaluation.

Based on the success of the pilot, Florida’s Turnpike has now expanded the HAAS product rollout to all of its Mainline Road Rangers, along with select vehicles on other system roadways, bringing the total number of equipped trucks to 33.

The HAAS user dashboard provides the location of Road Ranger trucks, their direction and speed of travel as well as their activity status, roaming or stopped. In the sample dashboard view above, the orange icons indicate that the unit is actively on an assist.

The HAAS product allows for customization of alert content based on the type of fleet and warnings being generated. For FTE Road Rangers, alerts that are pushed out will indicate, “Emergency Vehicle Ahead”, and will be tagged with a safety reminder, “Slow down and move over. It’s the law!”. When the alert process was demonstrated for Road Rangers during a recent training session, the drivers were enthusiastically supportive of the addition, recognizing both the risk their job brings and the advantage that early warning provides.

The Florida’s Turnpike leadership receive a comprehensive report at the end of each month detailing the number of incidents that generated alerts, the total number of drivers reached, the average on-scene time for stops, and the average arrival-to-scene following dispatch. With only a handful of days in September having the full Mainline fleet equipped with transponder units, a total of 21,382 drivers were alerted of a Road Ranger’s presence on the roadside.

After an evaluation period to judge efficacy of the transponders in reducing crashes to Road Ranger trucks, FTE will consider a further expansion to its fleet of maintenance vehicles.

For more information, please contact John Easterling at (954) 934-1620 or by email John.Easterling@dot.state.fl.us.

Road HEROES

District One



On August 19, 2021, at about 2:30 a.m., Road Ranger Yosvanys Garcia was traveling southbound on I-75 near mile marker 101 when he noticed headlights coming up the exit ramp driving the wrong way towards him from Collier Blvd. He was able to intercept and stop the wrong-way driver by pulling up in front of it. The driver of the vehicle exited his Nissan Altima, put his hands up, and stated to Yosvanys to 'go ahead and take me to jail'. Yosvanys was in contact with dispatch and was able to communicate tag information from the vehicle while trying to defuse the situation with the motorist. When the driver became aggressive and hostile, Yosvanys retreated to the safety of his truck. The driver then started walking around the truck and pounding on the windows. He eventually returned to his vehicle and turned around and went back down the ramp in the correct direction.

Law enforcement was notified but could not locate the vehicle.

This is an example of being in the right place at the right time. If it was not for Road Ranger Garcia being in that location, this could have been a very tragic ending. Thank you to Road Ranger Garcia and all the District One Road Rangers.

Road Ranger in the Social Media #AssistPatrol





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