



As Thanksgiving passes, so begins the remainder of the Holiday Season, always kicked off by the Jacksonville Light Parade.



NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT 2 ITS ENGINEER

ITS Transpo 2012 ended the month of October and led us into an extremely eventful November. The Conference was very informative and allowed ITS Professionals to see the latest and greatest in technology. One area of growth is the IP devices that are now available on the market. It would be reprehensible if I did not say the technology is pretty intimidating for a simple minded person like me. The vendors talk “gigabits, baud rates, fire walls” but all I get is “gaga, gaga, gaga.” Just kidding when I say this, but there is still a lot for me to learn. I can handle Traffic Management discussions pretty easily but when they start talking about networks and computers I have to take it slow like it’s a Windows 101 class all over again. One positive aspect is that technology keeps getting better, smaller and cheaper with each passing year.

I had the opportunity to attend several technical sessions and was very impressed with some of the projects going on around the State. Each District has a unique blend of projects that will provide valuable information for District Two’s future deployments. For instance, I had the chance to discuss with Wayne about the Tallahassee Public Safety facility that will house multiple agencies. Their concept is similar to our RTMC project but on a much larger scale. The irony is that Wayne guided the design toward some of the things we are doing yet we are transitioning to newer types of technology and operational approaches. Poor Wayne can’t do a 180 at this point because construction has begun however Tallahassee will have a valuable traffic management operation that will serve its purpose for years to come.

I had the good fortune of participating as a speaker at two technical sessions. The first related to “Data and the Cloud.” Boy was the crowd disappointed when I didn’t talk about “gigabits, baud rates or fire walls!” Instead, I

tried to keep it simple for the audience by focusing on the technology currently being used in our TMC and how it benefits our Incident Management programs. I touched on the Activu installation, the BlueToad Deployment, the Bridge Wind sensors and the Smart Phone Application for Road Rangers. All of this technology takes advantage of the latest data collection and network capabilities that can be accomplished at a very reasonable cost. As part of this presentation I provided access to these technologies in one of the booths in the Expo hall. It seems like there was a very good response from several individuals who came by to take a look at the technology. My only goal is for them to take our concept, make it better and then share these improvements with us.

The second technical session I participated in dealt with the Incident Management program. We had speakers from Florida and Georgia at the podium sharing their approach to handling incidents. The ironic thing was that it seemed the Georgia folks were trying to “outdo” the things being done in Florida. It’s all good though since the better their program is the easier it will make my job since District Two abuts a large section of that State. Probably the most exciting thing I learned was that FHP and Georgia Highway Patrol are working on a way to communicate using a bridge between each agency’s radio communication systems. This will be very helpful to our Jacksonville TMC since it is very difficult to share information across the border when there is an incident at the State Line at I-75 and I-95. Currently we have to contact the Atlanta TMC to gather info, thereby making the management of such incidents cumbersome and frustrating for staff.

On November 20th a selection committee composed of DMS and FDOT personnel were given presentations from the four short-listed



NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT 2 ITS ENGINEER CONTINUED

Architects for the RTMC project. I was very impressed with all the Consultants and had a very difficult time trying to score each presentation. Each firm gave us a different approach to the very same project and the strengths of each team were in full display. My hat goes off to the individuals that got these presentations ready since there were several unique concepts I'd never thought of during the planning stages. The promising side of things is that they all felt they could provide a design for construction that would meet the current budget. There will be some nuances that will arise based on the needs of FDOT, FHP, NFTPO and COJ staff however we can make the necessary concessions to insure that this project comes in at the current budget. The most exciting comments involved the schedule. All the competitors felt that getting this project completed by the Fall of 2014 would not be a problem and some felt the schedule could be reduced by a few months. So, guess I'd better start finding boxes for the move!

My wife and I took a "mini-vacation" the second week of November. We went on a cruise aboard the Carnival ship based out of Blount Island. For those of you that have not tried this ship I highly recommend it due to the staff's professionalism and convenience of this location. For example, we left the house at 2 PM and by 3:15 we were on the ship. By 3:30 I was chomping down on some grub and by 5:00 PM it was time for a NAP! It was smooth sailing for the next five days with my only dilemma being "should I eat or should I nap?" The goal for us was to get some rest and recharge the batteries since work over the past few months has been very hectic for the both of us. After day three I kind of got tired of food and began to think about the work that awaited me. By this time, the juices in my brain were flowing and then it hit me, "crap

Thanksgiving is next week!" Go figure, most people are looking forward to a relaxing four day weekend and here I am ready to sprint to the finish line. Guess I'll take it easy on the ITS staff until the week after.

On a final note I'd like to share some sad news regarding an unfortunate accident that involved one of our Road Rangers this month. These guys work in one of the most dangerous industries our Country has to offer and often go unnoticed for the services they provide our community. Each and every day these guys face the risk of distracted, impatient and somewhat rude motorists as they try to do their job. On a number of close calls we've had over the years it was by the luck of God that no Road Ranger has been killed trying to do their job. Several have been hit but nothing as severe as what occurred the other day.

Mr. Larry Dowling was assisting FHP with a car accident that closed one lane of traffic. Everything was proceeding according to plan with MOT placed properly, traffic under control and the damaged vehicles removed from the travel lane. One final task was for Larry to clear some debris in front of his truck and MOT. Unfortunately, an impatient motorist worked his way around traffic while passing the cones and truck, then decided to swerve into the lane where the accident took place. Larry was struck by the vehicle and is currently in the hospital with a crushed foot, bruises and a possible concussion. Please share a prayer on Larry's behalf as he recovers from these serious injuries. In a few weeks we will have another Road Ranger monthly safety meeting and this will be the topic of discussion with the hope that this type of accident can be prevented in the future. It's one of those "lessons learned" that we pray will never happen again.



NORTH FLORIDA TPO

As we progress with the North Florida TPO projects I want to extend my gratitude to Jeff Sheffield and the NFTPO for making it happen in North Florida! We are the envy of other Districts around Florida due to this partnership that blossoms each and every year. During discussions at ITS Transpo 2012 many of the other Districts wanted to mimic what is being done in our area. Apparently, the partnerships and teamwork in the North Florida area are like no other in the State, thereby guiding us to the FHWA's goal of Performance Measurement for our roadway systems. The BlueToad, Bridge Wind sensor, Traffic Signal cabinet upgrades and ITS deployments they have funded are on track and will be fully utilized once the NFTPO financed RTMC is completed in the Fall of 2014. Once this facility is occupied the effort will be focused on improving the performance of the roadway network on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis.

The BlueToad deployment along SR 200 in Nassau County is complete and we are in the process of figuring out the filtering process on the County's server that is preventing data from going out to the TrafficCast database (remember "gigabits, baud rates, firewalls?"). Hopefully the IT gurus at Nassau County can resolve this issue so that we can determine traffic impacts from this bedroom community north of Jacksonville. The next deployment will be SR 21 from Old Jennings Road to 103rd Street in west Jacksonville and then it's on to the Beaches community! We've had a few hiccups along the way but things are being resolved as I type. Beach Boulevard had some damaged fiber that is being repaired by JEA while Atlantic Boulevard is being checked for some network problems. US 17 is being impacted due to the use of multi-mode fiber and we currently have a

solution that should be put in place this coming December. Lastly, the deployment along Philips Highway should be back on-line in December once the ITS contractor completes the NFTPO deployment along this corridor.

The interconnection to the Jacksonville Airport should begin construction in January. This should be one of our quickest projects due to its length and simplicity. Once we have finished this project the TMC will be able to fully manage traffic patterns around the airport. This will be especially helpful during peak holiday travel periods since the area can get quite congested due to the Town Center, the Airport and tourists just passing through Jacksonville.

As for the Bridge Wind sensor deployment I can honestly say it was a success! There will be some tweaking that needs to be done during the first quarter of 2013 but overall it has proven itself to our Incident Management partners. During Tropical Storm Sandy, these devices became a valuable tool for personnel staffed at the EOC as they tried to determine where to spread our scarce resources. In January we hope to examine the readings to determine if some recalibration is necessary. We will also perform repairs on one unit that has been giving us fits on the Hart Bridge. We will also attempt to improve the website so that each individual has a personalized setting based on their needs. After that we should be ready for the 2013 hurricane season.

The Philips Highway deployment is set for testing in the coming weeks. We've run into a few issues due to a resurfacing contractor that refuses to use due care during the excavation process. I am a patient man but blew a fuse on the 19th when they told me "it's not our problem,



NORTH FLORIDA TPO continued

your stuff is in the way!" Let's just say that the meeting I scheduled with them for November 27th will not be a pleasant one for their Project Manager. Guess I'd better dust off the old resume (just in case).

With that bit of blowing off steam I'll call it a day. Again, the North Florida area is becoming the benchmark for the rest of the Districts so a whole-hearted thanks to Jeff and the NFTPO. I can assure you that in the coming two years we should be witnessing the dividends that result from this effort.

Pete Vega
District 2 ITS Engineer



CONSTRUCTION

The contractor for the Phase 7 Project on the I-295 East Beltway, starting at Atlantic Boulevard and going North to the I-95 Interchange, has started installing the CCTV and MVDS poles. Once the poles are installed crews will begin installing conduit to the base of the poles and installing pull boxes. The electrical services are nearing completion and will be ready for inspection within the next few weeks. The contractor expects delivery of the remaining DMS structures by the end of the month and will be installing DMS signs soon after the DMS structures arrive.

The Phase 8 Project, on the I-295 West Beltway from I-10 to the I-95 North Interchange, is progressing well. The contractor installed the communications hub building at the I-295/I-10 Interchange and is completing stand-alone testing on the DMS. Electrical services, pole installations, and cabinet installations have been completed. The contractor is currently working to complete the installation of all CCTVs and MVDS and is installing the fiber optic cable drops from the main fiber optic cable to the device cabinets. Testing and integration of the devices will take place through December and the project should be completed in early 2013. Once completed, the ITS System will be completed around the Western I-295 corridor.

The contract award for the Phase 9 Project, on SR 9A from Atlantic Blvd going south to the southern SR 9A/I-95 Interchange, is currently awaiting a ruling on a protest. Resolution of the protest is anticipated within the next few months.

The Phillips Highway (US 1) Project, on US1 from Greenland Road going north to Wishart Road, is nearing completion. The ADMS are operational and the CCTVs are currently being tested. Project completion is eagerly anticipated as the City of Jacksonville and FDOT will be able to view CCTV images and post ADMS messages to motorists traveling on the US 1 corridor.

The Arterial Dynamic Message Sign (ADMS) Project is installing ADMS on several of the major local roadways around the southern portion of Jacksonville along I-95. The contractor is continuing to directional bore conduit to run power to the sites. ADMS will be installed in key locations, where motorists will be able to obtain information for the key arterial roadways as well as traffic conditions on I-95.



CONSTRUCTION continued

This project is scheduled to be completed by summer of 2013.

A new project to install fiber optic cable along Airport Road from the existing FDOT ITS Network into the Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA) administration building Project has been awarded to American Lighting and Signalization. This project will allow data and CCTV images to be exchanged between FDOT and JAA. Future benefits of this communications link could include advance parking information being provided to motorists travelling to the airport during Holidays and other peak travel periods throughout the year as well as the ability for travelers to view live CCTV images, of the nearby roadways, on TVs in the baggage claim area as they are waiting to get their luggage.

The final Jacksonville area project, which has been awarded, is a project to install additional ITS devices and upgrade older devices within the I-10/I-95 Interchange. This project was recently awarded to Hinson Electric. Execution of the contract is anticipated in early 2013 and project completion is anticipated in about a year.

The Gainesville ITS Project, which was noted in the last edition of the newsletter, is currently in the early stages of the design process. New technologies such as infrared CCTVs and advanced weather stations are being studied to determine their effectiveness for determining and possibly predicting low visibility in the area in and around Payne's Prairie. Updates will be provided for this project in upcoming newsletter editions.

John Kell
District 2 ITS Construction Project Manager

MAINTENANCE

To update one of the items from last month, the Maintenance Group has completed the upgrade of the grounding systems for the devices north of I-10 on I-95. This upgrade will provide additional protection for the devices during thunderstorms and will result in fewer device failures. The Maintenance Group is continuously working to increase the reliability of the system to allow the Traffic Management Center (TMC) to have the best information possible to alert motorists to any potential issues.

Throughout each day the TMC Operators keep a log of any issues they find with the ITS devices. The Operators proactively check each device several times each day to determine if there are any devices they may not be able to use in case of an incident. The Maintenance Group uses these daily checks to determine which devices need their attention. We also track device reliability on a weekly basis to look for devices with consistent issues or possibly areas of the system which may be experiencing some sort of problem. Within the past few months there have continued to be fewer and fewer device failures noted on the daily logs. This is a result of the daily efforts of the ITS Maintenance Contractor's personnel in addition to the Network Manager and TMC Operations staff.

Maintenance personnel have spent much of the month cleaning up the areas around the ITS field device poles and cabinets. The contractor personnel cut the grass and weeds to ensure they won't cause any issues. Because the mowers cannot get very close to the device poles and cabinets, grass and weeds can grow tall and can often find their way into electrical devices such as the transformers, meters or disconnects and can also clog the air vents of the cabinets. Cutting the grass and making sure the weeds don't cause problems is just one of many preventive maintenance tasks the



MAINTENANCE continued

Maintenance Contractor performs on a regular basis.

Consultant personnel have continued to monitor the bridge mounted wind speed sensors to ensure they continue to function properly. This month two of the sensors have malfunctioned. As of now, they have not been able to be fixed due to the need for lane closures at each of the sites. The sensors will continue to be monitored and those which are malfunctioning will be repaired soon after the holiday season so as not to impact holiday traffic.

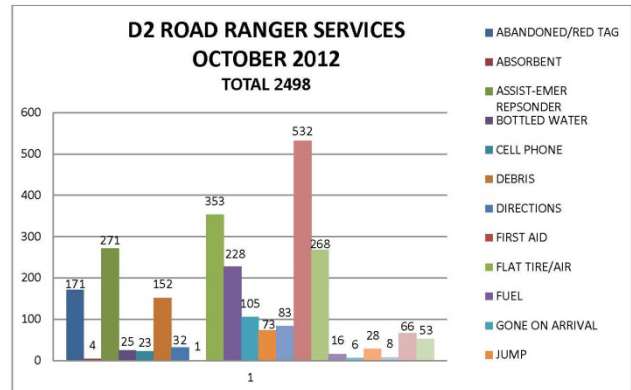
Kevin Jackson
ITS Field Specialist

ROAD RANGER UPDATE

With the holiday season upon us, the Road Ranger Service Patrol remains a valuable tool with our traffic incident management. Since the Thanksgiving season is the most traveled day of the year it is important to have the ability to assist stranded motorists. The Road Ranger Operators are a great asset by swiftly responding and clearing the travel lanes to help prevent secondary crashes. In the month of October 2012 the Road Rangers responded with 2498 assists to motorists.

RISC – Rapid Incident Scene Clearance – Update

Since our last newsletter, we have not had a RISC incident but our RISC Contractors – Southern Wrecker, Walt’s Wrecker, John’s Towing and Recovery, and University Towing – remain ready for call out.



The Department is happy to announce the renewed sponsorship of:

JaxLegal.Com – Hardesty, Tide, Green and Ashton, PA.

Along with the sponsorship of the NFTPO (North Florida Transportation Planning Organization), our Road Ranger Program remains in full service. The Road Ranger Contractors remain open to acquiring other interested supporters for the sponsorship of our Road Ranger Service Patrol so hopefully new sponsors will be announced in the near future.

Donna Danson
District 2 ITS Program Manager



ALACHUA TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE

The Alachua/Bradford Traffic Incident Management Team met on October 10th at the FDOT Operations Office, 5301 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL.

The following agencies were represented: Metric Engineering, FDOT ITS Department, Alachua County Police Department, University Towing, City of Gainesville Traffic Center, FDOT Maintenance, Alachua Forestry Department, FDEP Emergency Response, FDOT Traffic Operations, Gainesville Police Department, Atkins Engineering, and FHP. After incidents occurring the previous two months were debriefed, Craig Carnes presented a review of all the current Team Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and made copies available to Team members.

It was reported there is progress being made on replacing the two bridges in Baker County at CR 229 and CR 217. The next Alachua/Bradford Traffic Incident Management Team Meeting will be on December 12th at 10:00 AM.



FIRST COAST TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE

Due to Thanksgiving holiday conflicts, the First Coast Traffic Incident Management Team canceled its monthly meeting originally scheduled on November 20th. The meeting will be rescheduled to a time more convenient to all Team members.

D2 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.

D2 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 Danson
District 2 ITS Program Manager



NOW AVAILABLE –
TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM
WEBSITE: <http://jax511.com/D2TIMwp/>



PERFORMANCE MEASURES

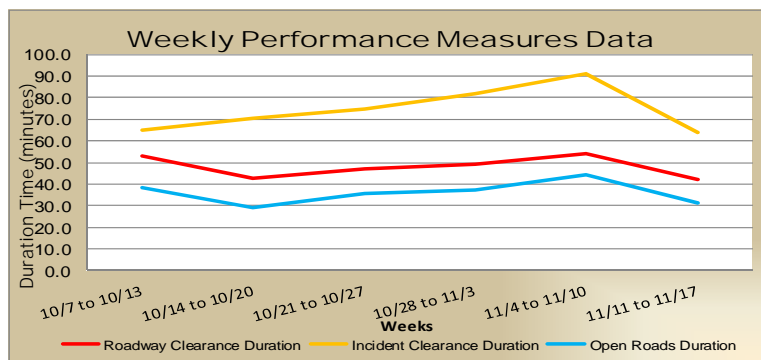
The month of November brought us a busy and rainy morning on the day of our Presidential Election, Tuesday, November 6. A greater increase in Road Ranger assistance compared to other days of the month was noted during the hours of 9 AM to 12 PM. SunGuide reported 94 events for the same day, which is higher than the average of 82 events per day so far for the month. Of Road Ranger assists that day, 25 percent were crashes, whereas the average for the month of November was only about 15 percent. The busiest Road Ranger routes for that day were 207 and 208 which cover the I-295 East Beltway. Such a high occurrence of incidents on these roadways emphasizes the importance of completing Phase 7 and Phase 9 which will deploy ITS equipment along that roadway. TMC operators will be able to use the CCTV cameras to monitor the events Road Rangers respond to on those routes, and be able to dispatch others when the Road Ranger assigned to that route is actively assisting another event.

The overall incident clearance duration for the week of the Election was about 10 minutes longer and 20 more congestion events were reported than the average for the year. I-95, I-75, SR-202 and I-295 East Beltway (SR 9A) had significantly longer incident clearance duration times during that week than the weekly average for the year. Fortunately, the open roads

duration and roadway clearance duration for the same roadways were near the average for the year. So even though the shoulder was blocked for a longer period of time, the travel lanes were flowing freely just as quickly as average. Also, it was noticed that SR-202 reported 8 performance measured events that week, whereas the average for the year is only 2 per week. Performance measured events refer to events with responders that had at least one travel lane blocked. This increase in events may have been due to the increase in traffic from voters headed to the polls on Election Day.

With the Thanksgiving holiday coming up, we should expect to see an increase in congestion events along I-95 as travelers will be coming through the Jacksonville area, the northerners heading south and the southerners heading north. The TMC Operations staff is also gearing up for “Black Friday” when consumers will be out in force looking for great deals at retail stores. Some of the bigger retailers will open their doors to the public as early as 8:00 PM on Thanksgiving Day. “Black Friday” will increase traffic on the roadways near the malls, so if you find yourself in these areas, be ready to face the traffic.

The following graph illustrates the trend in clearance durations over the last few weeks.





OPERATIONS

Holiday season kicked off with the end of daylight savings time ushering in less sunlight, more darkness, and cooler weather. Operators and Supervisors most often come to work at dark and leave at dark, thus making for a seemingly long, dreary work day. But au contraire, we are staying busier than ever tracking down every event possible and constantly QA-ing ourselves as we strive to provide the highest customer service. As the saying goes: Time flies when you're having fun!

Operations has since grown accustomed to the SOP changes set forth back in late September, which increased incident tracking and device monitoring efforts. Subsequently, event detail discrepancies are being caught and fixed sooner than before. District 2 and 3 historically average less than 10% statewide feedback calls every month. Although it is a little soon to tell, one could expect motorist feedback for our areas to decrease even more as a result of improved accuracy (keep up the good work guys!!).

When Operations is not keeping Supervisors busy, our new employer, Metric Engineering, certainly is. Jesse Gilmour and I have been rising to more and more challenges as our immediate bosses, Ryan Crist & Penny Kamish, are being tasked with new and exciting ITS projects & research. Despite the demands that come with greater responsibility, our hard work is very rewarding – especially when we see how far the TMC has come and where it is headed. Case in point: managed lanes are not too far down the road, and neither are autonomous vehicles (think I-Robot), to name a few innovations.

Until we meet the Jetsons, it is *busy-ness* at the TMC as usual. During those hectic moments when you Operators are getting bombarded with

multiple incidents, just think: traffic = the bread and butter of the TMC (hence the name). The Road Rangers thrive on traffic too. In fact, out of the 3,346 incidents occurring in District 2, the Road Rangers assisted with over 1,970 of those incidents and performed over 5,090 activities in October, most of which occurred on route 202 (South Beltway region).

The TMC's mission is to keep Florida moving. We look forward to hearing from you and receiving notification and updates for incidents, especially for those occurring in our “blind” areas. The TMC is available 24x7, 365 days a year and may be reached at (904) 359-6842, and at (904) 360-5465 during the work day. Alternatively, you may leave us feedback about road conditions or 511 issues encountered by calling 511 from your cellular phone, which is relayed to Operators in real time. Remember,

“Know Before You Go! Dial 511”.

Rebecca Bratcher
TMC Supervisor



www.FL511.com



MARKETING

As I sat on the side of Seagate Avenue the other day, rendered immobile by the greasy bicycle chain I held in my hands, I thought, “Now, wouldn’t it be great if we had Road Ranger Service Patrol for stranded cyclists?” Then snapping from my reverie, I jumped to my feet and upended the bike in one swift motion. Somehow, managing to channel my inner twelve year old, I heard my dad give play by play instructions on how to re-thread a bicycle chain. Within minutes I was on my way.

Recently, Road Ranger 204 came to the rescue of a stranded bunch of Duval County students along I-95 just before Heckscher Drive. When their bus broke down, our Ranger Ranger was able to secure the scene until the entire bus load of kids could be safely transferred onto another bus that was waiting in the wings. Every day heroes! We are so grateful to our elite team of Road Rangers. And with the holidays coming up, they’ll be patrolling our area highways, ready to spring into action to help stranded motorists.

With that in mind, we’ve invited our local television stations to come and tour the inside of the Traffic Management Center. During this time every year, we invite local reporters and photographers to get extra footage of our TMC operations center, Road Ranger service patrol vehicles and various law enforcement representatives. It’s nice to see 511 featured in all the local holiday travel packages. Any time we can bring awareness to the program, we feel like we’re doing our part to help motorists stay safe, especially as gas prices drop and more travelers take to the roadways this holiday season.

We were also able to take part in Transpo a few weeks ago down in Bonita Springs. We set up our 511 booth and ran continuous footage of our

SPARR, Bridge Wind Sensor and Bluetooth programs. Please look for pictures at the end of the newsletter along with a shot of our Road Ranger helping the stranded school bus.

And whatever you do this holiday season, make sure your trip begins with a call to 511. You can also log onto www.FL511.com or download our free 511 Traffic App. It’s available for use with iPhone, iPad or iPod devices. Simply go to the iTunes store and search “Florida 511.” As always, we welcome your comments, thoughts and suggestions.

Know before you go and keep moving!

Sherri Byrd
Marketing Manager



Our own Derrick Odom, Traffic Anchor for Action News spent a morning “on location” here at the TMC the day before the big Thanksgiving Travel holiday!



FEATURE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Matt Weisman, Traffic Engineer with the City of Gainesville, daredevil, musician and world traveler.

Talk about your upbringing – where were you born and raised?

I was born in West Palm Beach. In my 6th grade year we moved out to Wellington which is in western Palm Beach County. Growing up in south Florida is a great childhood. I never ran out of things to do and Miami and Ft. Lauderdale were quick drives away. My parents were pretty unlucky that I was always playing music with neighbors, quite loudly I might add. After I moved up to Gainesville to start UF they used to tell me how they couldn't get used to the house being so quiet.

Early Career and/or brief job history:

My first internship was working at the Palm Beach County public television channel, TV 20, in 2002. Ever since I had that job I've been obsessed with electronics. Later I would find out this experience would be invaluable as I designed the City of Gainesville's traffic management center video wall. The following summer I worked at Palm Beach County Traffic Engineering where I officially started my engineering career. I interned with Palm Beach County again in the summer of 2005, and then the City of Gainesville starting in the fall of 2005. I spent the summer of 2006 in Sugar Land, Texas working with Naztec and Trafficware. Finally, one month after my graduation with UF in 2007, I started full time with the City of Gainesville.

Job description - your current role in Transportation.

Because the whole traffic engineering department for the City of Gainesville is just me and Phil Mann, we find ourselves doing everything! My favorites have always been

signal timing and designing the large countywide ITS system. Last year, I was also contractually employed with Trafficware to teach the Synchro three-day training course in several cities.

How long have you been at your current job?

I have now been with the City for five and one-half years.

Do you have any funny stories relating to your career? Such as a foot-in-mouth moment or a bad day at the office story?

For the first two years of my job, I was completing my Masters Degree at UF. On days when I had class for a few hours, I would lax my dress code with the occasional shorts and sandals since I liked to be comfortable sitting in class. Some days I didn't really have time to change and would show up to meetings like this. I would often hear later that people thought I was a reporter for a local newspaper or journalism student rather than the guy in charge of the City's traffic signal timing. Being a city traffic engineer, everyone ALWAYS has their two cents, so I quickly realized that attending meetings incognito would work to my advantage. So outside the engineering industry, the less people who can recognize me, the better! To this day, if I know I won't be leaving my office for anything specific I still prefer my Floridian wardrobe, but I always keep nice business clothes an arm reach away.

What's the best advice anyone's ever given you?

Best advice I've received was related to the PE exam. I was told not to study the material but rather know where to look things up. It made the exam easy with minimal effort!

Favorite vacation spot?

I travel a lot and couldn't possibly pick a favorite, but I never do a Europe trip without a stopover in Iceland.

Continued on following page



FEATURE SPOTLIGHT

Do you have a favorite quote? Something that inspires you?

I love American history. My favorite quote is one of Jefferson's: *I find the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.*

Any job related awards or special recognition you've received?

I received this year's Young Transportation Engineer of the Year award from ITE Florida section. Both our Traffic Management Center and our ATMS have received ITS Florida Outstanding Achievement Awards. Last year, the City presented me with Innovator of the Year award for the completion of our traffic management center. I was also USDOT's Student of the Year in 2010 which was presented to me in Washington DC at the TRB conference.

Describe a 'defining moment' in your career or personal life.

For my personal life, it was graduating from the University of Florida with a Bachelors in 2007 and my Masters in 2009, both in Civil Engineering. As far as my career, my single best day was when I was able to persuade City management away from building a wireless mesh-type network to allowing my division to construct its own fiber network. Having our own fiber network has allowed us to do incredible things with our ATMS. I was only 24 at the time, so I felt extremely respected and supported from everyone above me.

Best job ever / worst job ever... or both?

I've loved all my jobs!

Tell us a little about your family.

My father is a Civil Engineer as well and works in Palm Beach County. My mother is a "domestic engineer" so my house growing up was always clean. My only sister is a firefighter for Palm

Beach County Fire Rescue. There is nothing more important to my family than food. I no longer have any pets due to my long work hours and fondness for travelling.

Do you have any hobbies?

I've always been a musician. I currently play bass in a Metallica tribute band called *Whiplash*. In high school, I played drums in an original thrash band. My favorite music will always be metal. Favorite sport is snow skiing, especially out in Colorado or Utah. I also love to go fast, so I have a "crotch-rocket" motorcycle and sports car.



Matt on one of his favorite "fast" modes of transportation. Word has it, though it's never been seen, is that his other car starts with an M, has a z in it and it's not a Monza or Mazda!

Anything else you'd like to add...

I love working in the traffic engineering industry! I've met many great people and I get a thrill when seeing and learning what other agencies do. Probably the single best thing about my job in Gainesville is the opportunity to train young engineers from the University of Florida who want to become traffic engineers.



PHOTO GALLERY



Road Ranger 204, helping to keep our school children safe.



Transpo 2012 in beautiful Bonita Springs



Next to us was the Metric Engineering booth. Jessica had popcorn and candy, but we had the Prize Wheel!



Matt Weisman, our Featured Spotlight, "rocking out".



ITS Calendar of Upcoming Events

**FIRST COAST TIM TEAM 2013
FDOT URBAN OFFICE TRAINING CENTER –
2198 EDISON AVENUE- JACKSONVILLE
904-360-5400**

- JANUARY 15, 2013
- MARCH 19, 2013
- MAY 21, 2013
- JULY 16, 2013
- SEPTEMBER 17, 2013
- NOVEMBER 19, 2013

**ALACHUA/BRADFORD TIM TEAM 2013
FDOT GAINESVILLE OPERATIONS OFFICE –
5301 N.E. 39TH AVE- GAINESVILLE
352-381-4300**

- FEBRUARY 13, 2013
- APRIL 10, 2013
- JUNE 12, 2013
- AUGUST 14, 2013
- OCTOBER 9, 2013
- DECEMBER 11, 2013



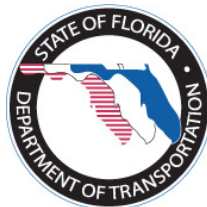
www.fl511.com

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