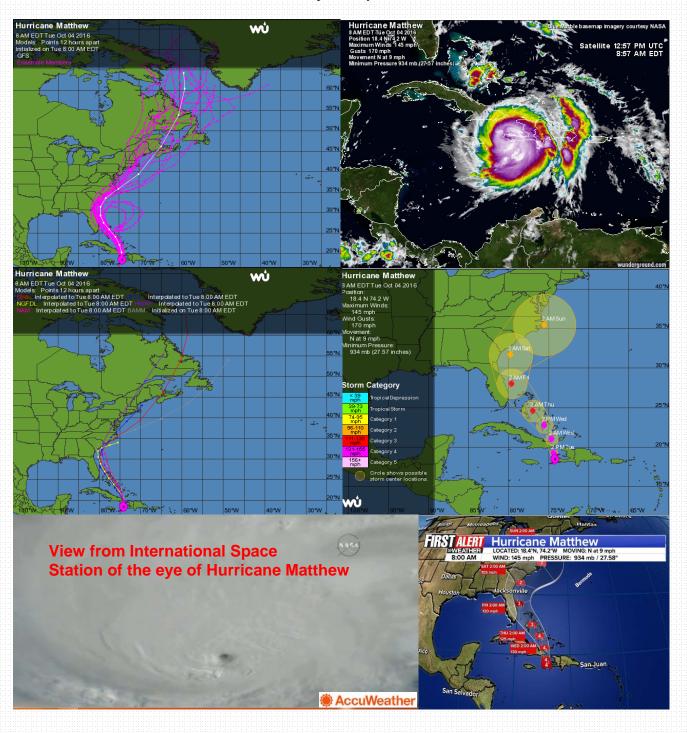


# **Hurricane Matthew**

HERE WE GO AGAIN! Know that the NEFL RTMC is ready, from Jacksonville to St. Johns County to Nassau County & all points in between!





#### <u>NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT</u> <u>TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM</u> <u>MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS (TSM&O)</u> <u>PROGRAM MANAGER</u>

This month's newsletter will be a mixture of topics based on a whirlwind of activities within the TSM&O program. First and foremost, I was notified the RTMC will be receiving LEED Silver certification based on reaching the minimum 50 To be honest, there was point threshold. concern that we wouldn't even come close based on the challenges of meeting some I guess the LED lighting, requirements. redundant boiler and ICF walls must have put us over the top. It seems weird that we are almost reaching the end of our one-year warranty for certain components within the building. Feels like I just moved into this office and still have a number of items to unpack and arrange.

The absence of Josh has really taken a toll on our group as we try to readjust to the things he used to handle. The reality is that it will probably take about six months to fill the position, hence I decided to lean on our TSM&O consultant, HNTB, for support in taking over some of his Mrs. Jennifer Kennedy will now fill duties. Josh's role with day-to-day activities involving daily operations. Some of her tasks will include dealing with roadway construction needs, responding to ITS inquiries and reviewing the multitude of documents we receive each day. Jennifer has adjusted very well to the demands of the job but I am hoping we do not overwhelm her at some point due to the dynamic nature of our environment.

The double whammy of losing Sam Middleton to our Materials Office could not have come at a worse time. You see, September is usually the month we wrap up activities involved with the Traffic Signal agreements that District Two has with local agencies. This involves tons of phone calls, dispute resolution and paperwork, all of which are my least favorite things to deal with at work. Likewise, Sam was our contact person for traffic signal issues outside the Northeast Florida region. I never realized how high a demand it was for his time until my phone kept ringing off the hook and e-mails came pouring in each day.

The biggest challenge has been to acclimate myself with the small towns and cities within the District that I've never been to in the past. I actually had to use Google Earth to find some of these jurisdictions just to get an idea on what the problem would be for them.

To soften the blow we also relied on HNTB support to handle some of Sam's duties until this position can be filled in about six months. Mr. Justin Hayes recently joined the TSM&O program as the "fill-in" and will assist in dealing with the day-to-day tasks that kept Sam so busy.

The first thing on Justin's list was to get a grasp of the traffic signal equipment in the warehouse since pretty soon we will need to restock the inventory. Likewise, he's already begun to assist me in addressing local agency needs that seemed to pop up every day. I spent the day with Justin a few weeks ago and feel very confident that he can fill the void until a replacement is found for Sam.

The biggest impact to my time during the month of September was Hurricane Hermine and all the tasks involved when dealing with such a storm. I had to put my assignments on hold so that we could coordinate RTMC operations and ITS maintenance response efforts that would normally be handled by Josh. DISTRICT TWO ITS NEWSLETTER

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#### <u>NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT</u> <u>TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM</u> <u>MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS (TSM&O)</u> <u>PROGRAM MANAGER continued</u>

TOOT

Likewise, Sam normally handled the emergency contracts for traffic signal repairs but with him being gone I had to get involved in coordinating any requests from local agencies. Although I lost about three days to this effort it was refreshing to do something different from my daily routine. It's been quite a while since a hurricane has even come close to District Two so it was good to dust off the cobwebs while getting into the emergency response mode. Fortunately for everyone in Florida this storm wasn't so bad.

Hermine's Following departure our team regrouped for a debrief meeting to go over "the good, the bad and the ugly" of our response plan for this storm. Overall, I'd give everyone an "A" for the way they handled themselves. Keep in mind that Matt's only been in his position for sixmonths and Dee Dee just over two, so everything we were doing seemed foreign to them. Luckily, we could rely on Penny, Ryan and the rest of the very experienced RTMC operations staff to pick up the load. Both Matt and Dee Dee put in long hours during this event but held their own while dealing with the dynamic nature of our emergency response plan.

Now that things have settled down ("Yeah Right!") October looks to be another very busy month based on what's listed in my calendar. Statewide Express Lanes, TSM&O, TIM and ISO 9000 meetings are on the horizon during the month. Let's just hope Hurricane Matthew plays nice with Florida so that I do not lose the opportunity to catch up.

### Pete Vega, District 2 TSM&O Manager

#### <u>NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT 2 ITS</u> <u>ENGINEER</u>

Now that Josh has left the Department there was a void that needed to be filled with his section of the newsletter. For the next few months, beginning with the October issue, Ms. Dee Dee Johnson will share her perspective on the happenings within the RTMC.

Be kind to her since I realized when I broke the news she'd become a nervous wreck about the assignment. The reality, though, is that she appears to have a knack for this type of work so I am confident she will excel with her first article! (Talk about putting the pressure on!)

### NORTH FLORIDA TPO

There was also a bit of bad news on the North Florida TPO end when we learned that Mike Munson of DRMP had accepted a job offer with another firm. DRMP is the NFTPO System Manager, a contract that I manage to address the engineering needs for the region. Mike was our point of contact and conduit for getting most of this work done. He was heavily involved in the analysis of the Bluetooth data, assisted with preliminary designs for local agencies and kept up with the ever changing world of the region's fiber communication infrastructure.

That being said, Mr. Nick Devito will step back into his old position to assist us until a replacement can be found. Over the past several years, Nick was a catalyst for getting this region to where it is at this point in time and he has a great understanding of the area's needs. I will mostly have Nick focus



# NORTH FLORIDA TPO continued

on upcoming design projects and the fiber infrastructure until the replacement arrives. It's become a reality that in the ITS industry there is not enough talent to go around so I anticipate DRMP will be challenged with finding someone pretty quickly. My hope is that we can hold our heads above water until the proper candidate fills the void.

As for the overall NFTPO program there are nothing but positives along the way. The RTMC continues to be a benchmark for other Transportation Agencies around the country and their support for the ITS program is receiving accolades on a daily basis. In short, we have a lot to be proud of but a long way to go to deliver the product we envisioned. Keep your fingers crossed that we can keep the remaining staff on board so that we can achieve our goals in the near future.

### Pete Vega, District 2 TSM&O Manager

#### **MAINTENANCE**

Aside from their normal maintenance activities, Traffic Control Devices (TCD) has been performing a significant amount of preventive maintenance throughout the system. Personnel have been testing the ITS site grounding and making any needed repairs to bring it up to standard. This is very important as it reduces the damage caused by nearby lightning strikes. Crews have also been testing the fiber optic backbone along I-10 and making repairs to any damaged fibers that are found. As indicated in last month's article, they are continuing to trim trees which have grown to the point they are blocking a portion of the view of nearby CCTV cameras. FDOT personnel and TCD crews prepared days in advance and were on standby and prepared to act when Hurricane Hermine was approaching our area. The wind sensors (such as the one shown below) were noted by many people within the EOC and law enforcement communities as being a great asset during Hurricane Hermine and Tropical Storm Julia. The majority of the sensors were operational during both of these storms, but TCD has had to make some intermittent repairs this month. Additionally, TCD had to repair damage to ITS devices and infrastructure caused by the storms.

FDOT personnel provided contract oversight, attended various meetings, processed invoices, procured items for ITS Maintenance and the NFRTMC, managed inventory and performed other responsibilities. They have also been working closely with ongoing Construction Contracts to avoid any downtime to the communications network or ITS devices. As described above, they also spent several days preparing for Hurricane Hermine and were at the office ready to deploy assets as the storm was passing through the area.



Continued on following page



#### MAINTENANCE continued

Additional work this month included the following:

#### TCD (Contractor)

- Maintenance of ADMS signs throughout the City of Jacksonville
- Rebuilding a power service at I-95 and Dunn Avenue that was knocked down by a car that was involved in an accident.
- Working with Metric Engineering to test MVDS units throughout the system to ensure they are calibrated and working properly.

#### Metric (Consultant)

- Testing MVDS units throughout the system to ensure they are calibrated and working properly.
- Assisted with both FDOT and ITS Maintenance inventory.
- Assisted with warranty issues for flashing beacon signs in the Gainesville area.
- Troubleshot and repaired a communications outage on the City of Gainesville's signal network which was causing the RTMC to not be able to communicate with I-75 ITS devices.

### Matt Harbert ITS Maintenance Manager

#### **CONSTRUCTION**

The contractor has been working on electrical power services and electrical runs to several of the ITS device sites as well as fiber splicing. They have also been performing stand-alone device testing at the sites that already have power established. Over the next several months, the contractor will continue installing power services, completing work at individual device sites and then testing the devices as the sites are completed. This project is scheduled for completion in February 2017. The contractor and their sub-contractors are ahead of schedule on the I-75 Fiber Optic Installation Project. This project is installing fiber optic backbone cable and infrastructure on I-75 from SR 24 in Gainesville going north to the Georgia State Line. Crews worked along the length of this 86 mile project this month proofing conduit, pulling tracer wire, installing fiber optic cable, installing fiber optic pull boxes and splice vaults, and forming and pouring concrete aprons around pull boxes and splice vaults. This project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2016, but the contract completion date is February 1, 2016.

The I-75 ITS Device Installation Project will install ITS devices within the project limits of the fiber optic installation project detailed above and will use the fiber optic cable to communicate back to the Gainesville Smartraffic TMC. TMC operations personnel will control the devices and view CCTV camera images from both the Smartraffic TMC and the North Florida RTMC. The Notice To Proceed is scheduled for early November and field work is anticipated to begin late this year.

The I-10 Fiber Installation Project will install fiber optic backbone cable and infrastructure on I-10 between Jacksonville and Tallahassee. The Notice To Proceed is scheduled for early November and field work is anticipated to begin late this year.

The contractor for the SR 16/US 1 fiber optic cable installation project installed pull boxes and splice vaults as well as fiber optic conduit via trenching and directional bore methods throughout the project limits this month. The fiber optic cable being installed by this project will be used to connect St. Johns County and



#### **CONSTRUCTION**

City of St. Augustine's traffic departments to the ITS fiber network and their local signals. This project is scheduled for completion in February 2017.

### Kevin Jackson ITS Construction Liaison

#### **ROAD RANGER UPDATE**

Our Road Rangers are tasked with bringing together all agencies involved in clearing the roadway crashes with the objective of improving detection, verification, response, and clearance times. To do this, our Rangers must risk their lives every day by helping disabled drivers while providing the best real-time information to motorists. Even though the risks are steep, our Rangers put on their uniforms every morning with the intention of serving our communities. This service is provided at no cost to the motoring public and is a great asset to our incident management team.



The Road Rangers held their monthly safety meeting at the FDOT Urban Office Training Center at 11:30 A.M. on September 7, 2016. Mr. Cody Parham welcomed all of the Rangers to the meeting and complimented all of the Rangers on their work during Hurricane Hermine. He mentioned that he was impressed with their positive attitude and their willingness to help was clearly displayed by their hard work. With that in mind, the Road Rangers were very lucky this past month as one of their own, Mr. James (Jim) Staton was struck on September 6, 2016 while assisting a motorist who was changing a blown tire. Thankfully, Jim was sitting in the truck at the time of the collision and not out on the roadway. Jim suffered minor injuries and was at the Road Ranger Safety meeting in good spirits. We are very appreciative of Jim's dedication and determination to the Rangers. In the activities chart below, the most common Road Ranger event types for the month of September are highlighted to show the variety of services that they provide as well as the different kinds of reported events.

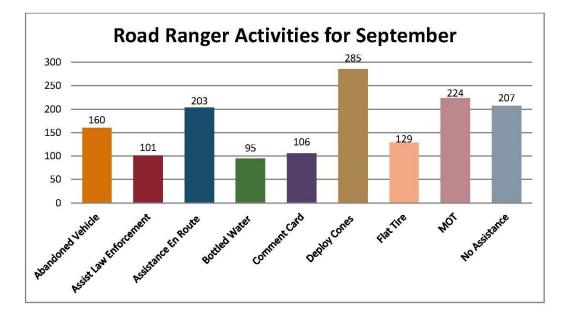
As we can see by the charts on the following page, the Road Rangers have been very busy by responding to approximately 2,100 events so far in the month of September. During the hot months, they are out there providing bottled water to motorists, changing tires and providing MOT when needed. The Road Rangers are much appreciated for all that they do.

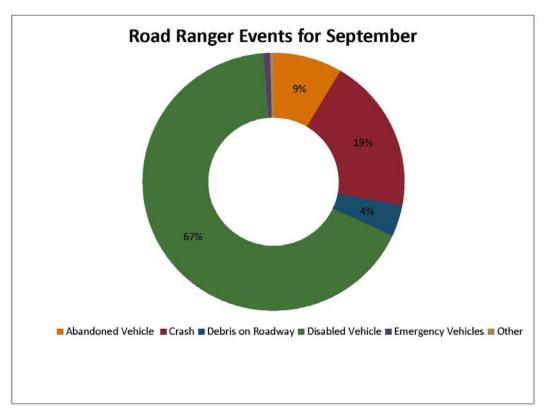
> DeeDee Johnson District 2 ITS Operations Project Manager



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#### **ROAD RANGER UPDATE continued**





#### <u>RISC – RAPID INCIDENT SCENE</u> <u>CLEARANCE - UPDATE</u>

The Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) program supports the Florida's Open Roads Policy by establishing a 90-minute goal for the clearance of motor vehicle incidents on Florida's roadways. RISC is an essential platform to help secure and restore interstates for public use and is a major component of Florida's Traffic Incident Management strategy. Over the past few months, RISC has been utilized more than it had been in the past year! This shows the value of this program at this present time on our roadways.

RISC was activated on Friday, September 2, 2016, on I-75 SB at CR 234 in Alachua County at 7:46 A.M. when a semi-truck travelling southbound struck a passenger vehicle that was overturned in the median from an earlier crash. The semi-truck then jack knifed and leaked fuel all over the interstate. RISC was activated at 7:55 A.M. and arrived on scene within 30 minutes but was placed on hold due to the amount of fuel that spilled on the roadway. The Environmental Protection Agency attempted to clean up the spill before the RISC vendor, Dave's Hi-Way, was allowed to clear the incident scene. Dave's was given notice to proceed at approximately 9:23 A.M. and all lanes were cleared by 9:57 A.M. The table below shows the responding agency's on scene times.

#### I-75 SB at CR 234

Agency	Arrival	Departure	On Scene Time
FHP	7:50 AM	9:57 AM	2:07:00
RISC	8:28 AM	9:56 AM	1:28:00

#### <u>FIRST COAST TRAFFIC INCIDENT</u> <u>MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE</u>

The First Coast Traffic Incident Management Team held its bi-monthly meeting at the Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) - 980 N Jefferson St., Jacksonville, Florida on September 20, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. welcomed their new The TEAM TIM coordinator, Dee Dee Johnson, as she led the meeting for the first time. Dee Dee opened up the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation in the meetings and helping to expand coordination between all of our TIM agency partners. The TEAM also welcomed new member, Marci Larson, from the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO). Marci gave a brief overview of the role that the NFTPO plays in transportation and how public input determines the boundaries of the work performed.

Bill Kays then took over with the Overland Bridge Project Update. Bill provided the group with a brief presentation of the current Overland Bridge construction and noted that the end of October will bring another northbound traffic switch, which will require drivers to shift further left onto the new part of the FEC Railroad Bridge. This bridge is currently under construction and all drivers are expected to be traveling on the mainline by the end of the year. This project is expected to be completed by July 2017.

Ed Ward then gave an Emergency Operations Update by counting our lucky stars that Hurricane Hermine did not do much damage to District 2. There was some minor flooding and power loss, but overall District 2 was not hit as bad as the panhandle. Craig Carnes moved the meeting right along with his ITS Construction Update and was very proud to announce that

#### FIRST COAST TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE continued

District 2 has coverage of the entire area with ITS devices. We are currently waiting on all devices to be finalized by late spring/early summer.



Ryan Crist provided the 511 update and asked all of the TIM partnering agencies to be patient as there have been a lot of issues with the system. He quelled everyone's concerns as he mentioned that corrections are currently being made as quickly as possible to address all of the problems. The old 511 app does not prompt the user to utilize the new app, which is called Florida FDOT 511 and can be downloaded from your phone's app store.

Dee Dee ended the meeting by announcing that we are currently in the process of updating the TIM Team meeting process and strongly encouraged all TIM members to send in suggestions for agency topics to be discussed during the meeting. Any and all ideas are welcomed and can be sent to <u>DeeDee.Johnson@dot.state.fl.us</u>. PLEASE NOTE: If anyone is interested in the SHRP2 Incident Management Training Course, please contact Craig Carnes at <u>ccarnes@metriceng.com</u> or Misha Gonzales at <u>melder@metriceng.com</u> /904-260-1567. Craig is available to work with any agencies' schedule; including nights and weekends to make sure the course is available for groups of ten or more trainees.

The next First Coast Traffic Incident Management Team meeting is scheduled for **November 15, 2016** at the Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) – 980 N Jefferson St., Jacksonville, Florida at 10:00 A.M. Please mark your calendars to attend this meeting as each agency's participation is important for the good of the group.

#### ALACHUA BRADFORD TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE

The next Alachua-Bradford Traffic Incident Management Team meeting will be held on October 12, 2016 at the FDOT Gainesville Operations Office – 5301 N.E. 39th Ave., Gainesville at 10:00 A.M. Please mark your calendars to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to send someone else who could represent your agency. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### **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.

DOT

#### **TEAM VISION:**

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

## DeeDee Johnson District 2 ITS Operations Project Manager



#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

As September draws to a close and our summer season officially ends, I can say we have been very fortunate here in District 2 considering the minimal impacts that Hermine brought to our area. While Florida braced for Hermine, the first hurricane landfall for Florida in over a decade, Jacksonville's incident management team was on task and was well prepared for anything to happen. With the potential threats of severe weather, which included heavy rainfall, strong winds, storm surges, flooding, and isolated tornadoes, I felt safe knowing that our team was ready to respond if anything was to occur.

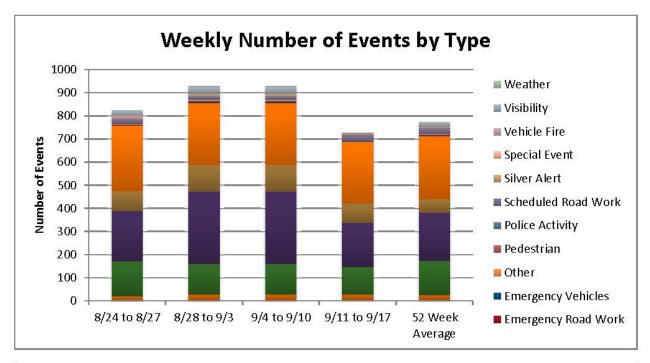
In the charts following, we can see that there has been a five percent increase in abandoned vehicles on the roadways when compared to the month of August. As to be expected during the week of Hurricane Hermine, there was an increase in the number of congestion and crash events by an average of 18 percent. Also during Hermine, there was a spike in the number of visibility events by approximately 38 percent.

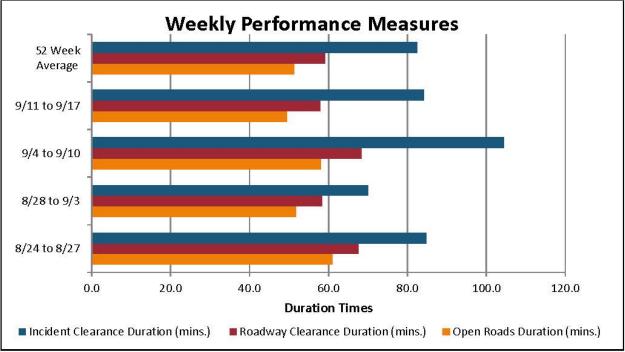
The average clearance duration times for the past 12 months have stayed well under the goal duration times as we can see in the charts below, but the month of September definitely reflects the timestamps for the RISC event that occurred in Alachua County on September 2, 2016. District 2 has averaged approximately 51 minutes for our Open Roads Duration time and 82 minutes for our incident clearance duration time in the month of September as compared to the open roads goal of 90 minutes.

The following charts show the Performance Measures for the Open Roads, Roadway Clearance, Incident Clearance durations and events for the past four weeks.



#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES continued



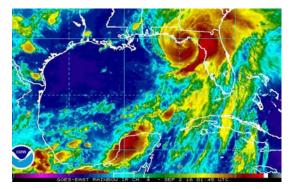


Sherrell Lall Metric Engineering



#### **OPERATIONS**

As Peter Vega was sending out the Newsletter for last month the District 2 RTMC was dealing with the first Hurricane to hit Florida since Wilma in 2005. How fortunate we have been. As Ed Ward will tell you, it only takes one hit to make it a bad Hurricane Season. Hermine made landfall along the Gulf Coast and with it came downed powerlines, loss of power to thousands, flooding, roadway/ home damage and toppling trees. When most people were stocking up with supplies and hunkering down in safe locations the RTMC and Responders were hard at work.



Hermine brought much of the damage to District 3 and the western part of District 2 so getting to work at 3:30AM was not too much of an issue.



Sustained wind speeds on our First Coast bridges mainly topped out at 25MPH, in short, not high enough for FHP to worry about closing any. That knowledge did not make my drive any more comfortable. Our RTMC was 3 man strong at that time and Road Rangers were getting prepped for a 4:00AM arrival. To my surprise, I found McDonalds open at just before 4:00AM and I bought a dozen sausage, egg and cheese McMuffins. To my delight, and surprise, the RTMC had fresh baked chips, salsa, dips and food already up and running. I added my McMuffins to the table and got to work.

Dee Dee Johnson was already roaming the floor asking questions, giving advice and prepping the RTMC Staff for the Road Rangers who were about to head out. Our staff did an amazing job coordinating and managing Hurricane Hermine.

Brian Hill stayed over as one Operator couldn't make it in for the morning shift. His spirits were high and his food options fantastic. Alan Maricle just would not leave and managed the Road Rangers who came on at 4:00AM even though he was the one they called into as off route on Thursday night at 6:30PM.

Ashley Zirkle was working the phones and managing events. Not easy when I-10 had five directional closures in Madison County alone! Penny Kamish was at the EOC shouting out wind speeds, getting updates and sharing information with our partners. Joanna Garcia came in earlier than expected and helped out with all of the District 3 coordination. Erin Moore (pregnant!) and Rachel Crisler arrived to give the overnight folks a break and took over.



#### **OPERATIONS** continued

The Road Rangers responded, with no complaints, and worked in the wind and the rain from 4:00AM-6:30PM that day. Despite giving her an out, Sherri Byrd arrived a little before 6: 00AM and did her morning drive and provided on air reports to WOKV. This was an effort I am grateful for and made me proud. Thank you everyone!

I love statistics so let's jump right into Hermine's! There were 35 initial notifications to our Jacksonville Maintenance Office AM Contractors. Some of those were for multiple items and all required follow up. Jason Summerfield helped create eight new Event Management Locations for District 3 to help people in that area. He is owed a lunch special in Sopchoppy. Joanna took the lead with the 49 floodgates that were posted. The RTMC worked 352 events of which the Road Rangers responded to 152 of them. 62 of those events lasted longer than 90 minutes. Our new 511 system, that was rolled out the day before, helped disseminate information. To help 511 was the RTMC using DMS associated to 129 of our total events worked during the storm. Talk about stats!

It was a proud day. It was also a great way for DeeDee to show everyone what she was made of. She showed dedication and leadership. Hermine was also a nice last hoorah for Josh Reichert who we spotlighted last month on his departure from the Department. I got a chance to see some new blood in the RTMC show me what they are made of and some of our veterans remind me of how good they are. Preparation leads to confidence and success. Hurricane Hermine brought a lot of devastation to Florida (mainly District 3) but through hard work and preparation the District 2 RTMC was able to make things a little better for motorists and responders. Thank you everyone for your hard work!

> Ryan Crist RTMC Manager

#### **MARKETING**

You've heard of Two Men and a Truck. How about Two Marketing Employees and a Couple of Dollies? Put us on the 7th floor of the Omni Parking Garage and it makes for an interesting trek back down to the ground floor, across Bay Street, then back up several stories via two sets of elevators, where the doors eventually open up and deposit us in front of an armed security guard on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the EverBank building. All part of our recent adventure to attend Everbank's annual health and safety fair. Oh, and did I mention it was raining when we crossed Bay Street? Kudos to Stephen, our marketing assistant, for helping me schlep 50 pounds of supplies across a busy street during morning rush hour traffic.

Yet, we soldiered on. Numerous events, countless miles logged (both in the car and on foot)...and still, we LOVE what we do! Every event brings a new experience. We encounter people from all walks of life. Different neighborhoods. Different stories. Different demographics. Different routes into work. But one thing remains the same...traffic. Traffic is the great equalizer. The common denominator that connects (and frustrates) us all. It's no respecter of persons. It inconveniences both the young and the old, corporate executives and college students alike. Fortunately for us, traffic is the thing we do best. Our marketing



#### MARKETING

team loves to educate, equip and engage motorists, all in an effort to shed light and increase participation in the 511 Program.

And while EverBank marked the start of a new partnership for us, our fall calendar is also filled with visits to familiar places as well. In October, we've penciled in visits to see our friends at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Steinmart and the Prudential building on Jacksonville's southbank. We'll have a chance to familiarize our longstanding 511 users with several new tools, such as the new 511 app, which boasts interactive turn-by-turn navigation, expanded roadway coverage, alternate travel routes and newly added transit links.

We're looking forward to a very robust fall calendar as we provide tutorials on the new 511 system. There's been a learning curve for us, too, as we familiarize ourselves with the new 511 system. The transition from old to new hasn't been without its hiccups. But once the dust settles, we hope to secure our spot as the "go to" travel companion of motorists all across the state.

We hope you'll also remember to include 511 in your fall travel plans. You can dial 5-1-1, visit <u>www.FL511.com</u> or download one of our free 511 Traffic Apps available for Apple and Android. When it comes to the most up-to-date traffic information, we've got you covered! Know Before You Go and Keep Moving!

### Sherri Byrd Marketing Manager

Photos below of EverBank 511 outreach







#### SPOTLIGHT ON

This edition of the Spotlight Feature is a little different (and we're under a bit of a time crunch), because two of our District Two Transportation Management Center Operators are expecting babies around the same time. With due dates only three weeks apart! In fact, as this newsletter goes to print, Michaela is still patiently waiting and Erin is reading this story from inside a baby nursery, surrounded by soft lighting and soothing lullabies, with Baby Emma cradled in her arms. More on Emma to follow.



A Tale of Two Mothers-to-be

#### SPOTLIGHT ON...ERIN MAY

#### First of all, sort of set the stage for us. How long have you been with the Transportation Management Center and what did you do prior to coming to work for us?

I have worked for Metric for almost 4 years now. Before this, I worked at the Museum of Science and History for 4 years. I started out as a summer intern for community service hours and I worked my way up to the Assistant Manager of Guest Relations.

# Are you currently in school, and if so, what are you studying?

I have my associate's degree in accounting, and I am working on turning that into a bachelor's in business administration, slowly but surely. My motivation has been slowly deteriorating since high school.

Now that we've established your work history, let's talk a little about this other topic, the new BABY! When is your due date, and do you know what you're having? Also, is this your first?

I am due on September 12<sup>th</sup>, and we are having a baby girl. This is the first for my husband and I, but we have lots of experience with nieces and nephews.



Baby Emma Lynn Moore Born at 12:12 a.m. on 9/21/2016 weighing in at 7 pounds 13 ounces, 20 inches long.

Since you chose to have the baby's sex revealed early on, have you purchased any "themed" items (clothing, bedding, stuffed animals)? Will there be a nursery? We are trying to stay away from anything too theme-specific. Also, we have hardly had to purchase anything whatsoever. Our families



#### SPOTLIGHT ON...ERIN MOORE continued

have 3 grandsons already, so they are absolutely thrilled to have a granddaughter and they may have gone overboard with the tutus and headbands and stuffed animals. We currently live in an apartment, but we were able to convert the closet in the master bedroom into her nursery, lavender and turquoise.

Have you experienced any complications during your pregnancy? Morning sickness? Honestly, this has probably been the easiest pregnancy on record. No morning sickness, wacky cravings, extreme emotional rollercoasters or anything like that. Though I have had my fair share of sciatic nerve pain and swollen ankles. My feet even grew about a size, and that's when they're not swollen!

What has been the most challenging part of working at the RTMC while going through the various stages of pregnancy? (aren't you glad we at least have headsets for our operators and adjustable work stations?!?!) The most challenging part of working is actually getting up to go to work. The early mornings were never easy, but they definitely did not get any easier. The 12-hour shifts were difficult to make it through as well, especially without a nap. The adjustable work stations are a blessing. Sometimes you need to stand up to keep yourself awake!

# What is the one comment since being pregnant that you hope to never hear again? (whether it's from friends, coworkers or perfect strangers)

I appreciate the concern for my well-being, but I am done with all the comments and questions about "Should you really be eating/drinking/doing that?" Yes! I may be young, and this is my first, but I have done A LOT of research and I ask my doctor a laundry list of questions every time I see her. I know what I'm doing. Also, don't rub my belly if I don't know you!



# Are you able to reveal the baby's name? Or do you want to keep that a secret?

Her name will be Emma Lynn Moore. I am just too excited and I don't know how I would be able to keep it a secret. I have told everyone I've run into since the day we found out.

#### How long will you be on maternity leave and what are your plans for the baby once you return to work?

I only plan on taking the standard 6 weeks if we are both healthy. Of course, I might change my mind later on if I can't break myself away from the snuggles. Luckily for us, we have a lot of family already lining up to babysit so I don't think we will have to ever pay for childcare.



# SPOTLIGHT ON...ERIN MOORE continued

# Is there an office pool on who will go into labor first?

I don't think anyone has started a pool but I have a theory I will go a little late and Michaela will go a little early, and we will end up in the hospital at the same time.

#### SPOTLIGHT ON...MICHAELA DIRAIMO

First of all, sort of set the stage for us. How long have you been with the Transportation Management Center and what did you do prior to coming to work for us? I began working for the Transportation Management Center back in October of 2015. Along with that, I work for Best Buy in which I've been employed there since October of 2014.

Are you currently in school, and if so, what are you studying? I am not currently in school. In December of 2014 I applied to and was accepted at the University of North Florida to study Business and Logistics, but decided to decline the offer and move to upstate New York in Poughkeepsie to be closer to family. After my mother passed away in June of 2015, I traveled back to Jacksonville and began my journey with the TMC as well as a new Best Buy location.

Now that we've established your work history, let's talk a little about this other topic, the new BABY! When is your due date, and do you know what you're having? Also, is this your first? My due date is very close, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (my sister's birthday). We are expecting a little baby boy, our very first bundle of joy!

Since you chose to have the baby's sex revealed early on, have you purchased any "themed" items (clothing, bedding, stuffed animals)? Will there be a nursery? We have purchased a wide variety of things, from a cute little fox blanket with crinkly ears and a squeaky nose, to a whale themed cooling lunch box for bottles and snacks. Majority of clothes purchased are firetrucks, being that my fiance is in school and well on his way to becoming a fire fighter. We won't have a nursery for the first 6 months due to relocating from a small apartment to our very first house, but when we do it will be a dark blue theme with a light seafoam green (We've put a lot of thought into it already). We already have the crib set up, along with a changing table and a swing.

Have you experienced any complications during your pregnancy? Morning sickness? Only one case of morning sickness! (thank heavens), but during my 19 week checkup the doctors pulled us aside and said that they believe I have amniotic bands, which soon turned into what they thought was a slight placental abruption. After seeing the high-risk doctors, it finally ended up being nothing after a couple more checkups. The only other "complication" that I've experienced may be a little extra weight gain for my rank, but that just means I'll have a stuffed healthy baby! (I should lay off indulging in my cravings).

What has been the most challenging part of working at the RTMC while going through the various stages of pregnancy? (aren't you glad we at least have headsets for our operators and adjustable work stations?!?!) The ONLY challenging part of working here at the TMC are the early hours. Waking up at 5 in



#### SPOTLIGHT ON...MICHAELA DIRAIMO continued

the morning isn't the ideal time for a pregnant woman! But other than that, it's been great. The ability to sit and work is perfect!

What is the one comment since being pregnant that you hope to never hear again? (whether it's from friends, coworkers or perfect strangers) Comments about my weight! Friends (Jokingly) point out how huge I'm getting, and that's not something every woman wants to hear. Strangers comment about how tiny I am for being nearly 8 months pregnant, which makes me feel as if I'm not feeding myself enough. (which I always have some type of food in my hand!) I am just excited for my weight to **hopefully** get back to normal.

# Are you able to reveal the baby's name? Or do you want to keep that a secret?

Julian Alexander Lola. The reason we picked that name is because it is the only boy's name we could agree on. The middle and last name come from my fiance, Ramee Alexander Lola.

How long will you be on maternity leave and what are your plans for the baby once you return to work? I plan on taking maternity leave for about 2 and a half months. I will not be returning to work for Best Buy after Julian is born, to ensure that I spend the most time possible bonding and raising our baby. Hopefully between our work/school schedules we will only need a baby sitter once maybe twice for a couple of hours a day throughout the week.

Is there an office pool on who will go into labor first? Not that I'm aware of, though I'm sure Erin will go first seeing as how she's ahead of me. Though I wish my bundle of joy would come out already so we can finally meet him!

Do you have any funny work stories relating to your pregnancy? Some type of personal emergency while simultaneously dealing with a traffic emergency... or some out-of-whack hormones that put your coworkers on edge? Nothing too embarrassing or funny, just typical excessive bathroom breaks and food breaks. lt's relatively hard to hold in your bodily functions with a baby in you. Though I will add, that if I'm craving a certain type of food and can't get it, I get pretty angry!

# Anything else you'd like to add...(please feel free to embellish here)

We are just so excited to be expecting our first child. It hasn't been easy being a young (soon to be) mother, but it is definitely worth every ache and pain!



Mother and father to-be; Michaela & Ramee



#### Traffic Incident Management 2016 Meeting Schedule

#### First Coast TIM Team

FDOT Urban Office Training Center 2198 Edison Avenue, Jacksonville 904.360.5400

November 17, 2016

#### Alachua/Bradford TIM Team

FDOT Gainesville Operations Office 5301 NE 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville 352.381.4300

October 12, 2016 D

December 14, 2016



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