

It's time to say...au revoir, adiós, auf wiedersehen, orevwa, さようなら, good-bye to Hurricane Season on November 30<sup>th</sup> and Daylight Savings Time on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 a.m. In case your forgot how...

# A GUIDE TO PUTTING YOUR CLOCKS BACK



## SMARTPHONE

Leave it alone, it does its magic

## SUNDIAL

Move one house to the left

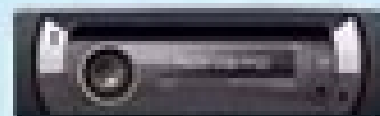


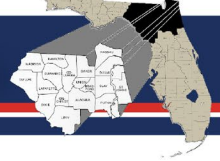
## OVEN

You'll need a Masters in Electronic Engineering or a hammer

## CAR RADIO

Not worth it, wait six months





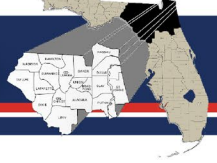
**NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS (TSM&O)  
PROGRAM MANAGER**

735 and counting. I began my career with the Florida Department of Transportation on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1993, and later this month will be my 28<sup>th</sup> year with the organization. I know I've mentioned this in the recent past and **PROMISE** not to address it again until next year. I am just amazed that I may actually make it since at the beginning of my career I'd always considered myself a "job-hopper" (yes, just like the millennials!). Initially, I did change positions about every three years within the Department, however once I joined the ITS program there was no other alternative position I would have enjoyed as much. Been in this position for 19 years and it still presents fresh experiences to me each and every month.

The question often presented to me is "what do you plan to do come 10/22/2023?" In all honesty, I do not know. Financially, I am as stable as I'd ever expect to be, and my health has held up well over all these years. Travel the world? Not sure since I have a tinge of ADHD in my brain that sometimes pops up whenever I feel bored and unchallenged. Play golf? Nah, I pretty much suck after years of practice, so the Champions tour will never have to worry about me joining their ranks. Go fishing? Reference my ADHD. So, at this point my relative direction is to either hang around in the Department for a few extra years, join private industry, or...maybe put my MBA to good practice. That or write a book on all the experiences I've had in my life. I've been told it would be a very interesting read if the things I've shared verbally were put on paper.

So, we are nearly out of hurricane season and may escape without a scratch! Hallelujah!!! It's nice to have a break during this time of the year every once in a while. In actuality, District Two has been very fortunate over the past few years when compared historically to our previous hurricane experiences. No major evacuations, limited flooding events, no three-night stays at "hotel" RTMC. In all honesty, it's quite boring for our TSM&O team when we go through a hurricane season without these major events (remember....ADHD). I'm certain that the RTMC staff longs for the days when I belted out George Michael tunes in the back hallway at 11 PM while riding out the storm. Actually, it was a good way to get free food since they learned that was the best way to keep me from singing.

As the TSM&O team builds up steam I'd like to share the latest happenings. First, the Wrong Way Driving deployment is coming along smoothly. We have 16 exit ramps completed and active in the software notification system. We've also had a couple of validated events where the system was activated by a wrong way driver and the RTMC had to initiate the response plan with FHP and JSO. We are still within the learning curve, but I'm proud of the way our team has adjusted to this new assignment. Secondly, our Over Height detection system on MLK Expressway is operating flawlessly and we are now ready to enhance the operation with an additional verification system. It's so good that when I get the activation snapshots from the software, I can get the company name off the tractor and



**NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT**  
**TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**  
**MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS (TSM&O)**  
**PROGRAM MANAGER continued**

sometimes contact them to go over expectations. The hope is that they share this information with their drivers so that they will know to take the I-95 ramps when they see the blinking lights, instead of going under the I-95 overpass.

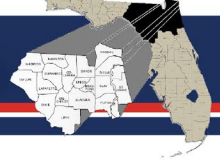
As for the Connected Vehicle projects, we are wrapping up some loose ends before we take the next step. Once this is done, we go back to the drawing board due to an FCC ruling earlier this year that I'd mentioned in a previous newsletter. The current deployment uses Dedicated Short-Range Communication (DSRC) radios that the FCC banned beginning in January 2023. They have directed the Department to transition to Cellular Vehicle to Everything (C-V2X) radios prior to that cut-off date. So, all 133 locations in Gainesville will require us to change their chipset prior to that date or the FCC police will come knocking (question....does the FCC actually have police? 😊) I've already reached out to the vendors and a tentative game plan is in place to make the switch by late Summer of 2022.

As for the Smart St. Augustine project, it is progressing very smoothly. Now that there is a financial commitment of \$7.5 million in FY 2024 for this effort the coordination efforts with the City have begun. The Department met with the City's Public Works Director, Reuben Franklin, to go over the project expectations, tentative schedule, and method of delivery. Key aspects of this project will be the Smart Parking system (i.e. advanced information), Connected Vehicle applications at all intersections & crosswalks, bike/ped safety features, an advanced bridge

alert system and a Smartphone app that puts all the pieces together. I am truly very excited for this long-needed project and it "may be the one" reason to hang around a little longer.

On another note, we are wrapping up the Truck Parking Information System (TPAS) in all the Rest Areas, Welcome Centers, and Weigh Stations in District Two. The original effort did not go as planned; however, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel in the coming month. The biggest struggle, besides the original contractor going under, is that the magnetometer technology used on this project cannot withstand the elements presented in Florida. Too many trucks, too much heat, too much rain.....it was basically an environment that this technology was not strenuously tested for and led to many of the issues with this deployment. As such, our team is assessing an alternative technology that not only meets the needs of the TPAS but will also surpass its performance in terms of additional features.

To wrap things up in a nice bow, I'd like to share the latest on our status during the pandemic. The RTMC ran into some bumps this past Summer due to the Delta variant, however the team regrouped, developed a response plan, and is now back to operating as normal while handling its daily assignments. Likewise, we are almost back to normal in terms of the ITS industry. The ITS Transpo event planned for this past December was rescheduled for July of 2022, however the Florida Automated Vehicle



**NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS (TSM&O)  
PROGRAM MANAGER continued**

summit being held in Orlando is still on track to occur in late November. To follow suit, ITS America has their annual meeting still scheduled in Charlotte for the second week of December. As for other conferences throughout the next year, the invites are popping up in my e-mail on a regular basis, thereby signifying that we may be back to normal in the near future.

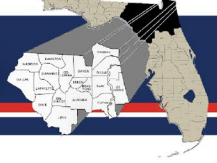
**Pete Vega, District 2  
TSM&O Manager**

**NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT 2 ITS  
OPERATIONS MANAGER**

Greetings All! District 2 has been fortunate this hurricane season thus far (Knock on wood). There is always that sense of uncertainty when hurricane season approaches. Are we prepared enough? Have we done all the necessary repairs? Are we missing any loose items? The overarching theme I am getting at is you need to be able to rely on your team. I joined the ITS group in 2017 and we were always playing catch up to fill positions. We finally got the appropriate number of staff and consultant assistance to do our jobs effectively. The District 2 RTMC is a self-sustaining system with procurement, operations, maintenance, and facility management. The work we do in the RTMC is important to our local and state leadership. The ability to manage roadway congestion and rapidly detect corridor issues is important to our roadway customers. ITS is involved in all current and future construction projects. Our partnerships with our sister agencies and private business give Florida the edge and leads the way into the future of ITS.

The challenge as we continue to hold our position in the top is having the appropriate amount of personnel. Having experienced or qualified individuals to perform ITS work is becoming scarce in large markets and is abysmally more difficult in smaller areas. There has been a severe lack of qualified professionals across various industries, as many of us have seen on the commercial side with most businesses feverishly attempting to fill positions. The ITS group we have built is formidable and resilient. We work together to accomplish the most daunting of tasks but if any cog falls out of place it can take us out for a while. We maintain our professional relationships with our partners to ensure the success of the program and the Department which is why we have finally started on the long overdue project of redesigning our local ITS webpage which will be a portal for all our partners and customers to access information about the program. We want to offer valuable information for any visitors that are eager to learn more about what services we offer outside of Road Rangers or DMS Messaging. Stay tuned for updates and we will be sure to invite you when we have an anticipated launch of Spring 2022.

The final thought I will leave everyone with is about safety. This upcoming holiday season with businesses more open than they have been since the pandemic started will lead to more drivers on the roadway and the ever deadly drunk driving. The Department has doubled down on the installation of ramp notifications for wrong way drivers entering



**NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT 2 ITS OPERATIONS MANAGER continued**

the interstates which in some cases are attributed to driving under the influence. The system sends an alert to the TMC operators and then a message plan on the DMS, warning drivers of a potential wrong way driver in their area. Please stay safe and act responsibly this holiday season.

**Alejandro Varela, P.E.**  
**FDOT D2**  
**ITS Operations Manager**

**NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT 2 ITS PROJECT MANAGER**

**SLOW DOWN. MOVE OVER. BE SAFE.** These six words remind all that the lives of motorists and responders depend on effective actions taken by drivers and highway heroes to save the lives of complete strangers.

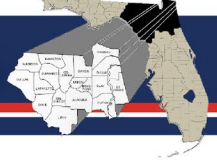
Every minute of every day, emergency crash responders across the state of Florida work tirelessly to help save lives at the scene of traffic incidents. Every year hundreds of emergency crash responders representing Fire/Rescue, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Road Rangers, Asset Maintenance Companies, Towing and Transportation agencies are struck and either injured or killed while responding to incidents throughout the United States. This type of secondary crash intensifies the impact to communities, individuals, and the economy.

We read about these tragedies caused by distracted driving, vehicle malfunction and other variables almost every day and the emergency response community stands to lose the most.

In an effort to help raise awareness about the dangers emergency crash responders face while on-scene at traffic incidents, **November 8-14, 2021**, has been designated as **Crash Responder Safety Week**. In the United States since January 1, 2021, 51 first responder fatalities have occurred – 23 law enforcement officers, 7 firefighter/EMS personnel, 18 Towing and Recovery personnel, 1 mobile mechanic and 2 Safety Patrol/Road Rangers. The goal of this week is to reach out to every responder, and to every driver, and to every passenger, to make it clearer that every person has a role to play. Too many are struck on scene. Too many die.

As Traffic Incident Management program participants and responders, we are faced daily with dangers on the roadway and in our local communities. Together we can use well-rehearsed procedures, coordinate response times to get equipment to the right locations faster, protect motorists and responders and restore traffic to normal flow quickly. Traffic incidents are the single greatest cause of unexpected delay.

Time spent in traffic jams due to traffic congestion and incidents costs businesses billions of dollars in lost productivity. The time lost in no way compares to the value of heartache and time spent when you or a loved one is involved in a serious traffic crash. When



**NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT 2  
ITS PROJECT MANAGER continued**

lives are at stake, time is never more precious. Every minute counts when emergency responders are trying to get to the crash scene and then to the hospital, to deliver lifesaving help to people injured in a crash.

These “**Heroes of the Highway**” **cannot do it alone** – we need everyone’s help in spreading the word. Motorists need to know and abide by safe, quick clearance laws, and policies that require drivers to slow down and move over. Drivers need to be informed to move their vehicles out of the lanes of traffic, to a shoulder or safe location, if they are involved in an incident, where their vehicle is drivable and there are no injuries. We need to make sure that our loved ones, responders, and motorists alike, make it home safe each and every day.



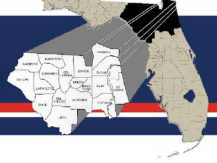
**Dee Dee Crews  
Project Manager  
District 2 ITS Operations**

**NORTH FLORIDA TPO**

The North Florida TPO has always sought solutions “outside the box” from the moment the ITS program began collaborating with them. Within the past year their team was able to assist in getting the Smart North Florida effort off the ground and running. Smart North Florida is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in our region through collaboration, data coordination and smart technologies. This effort focuses resource investment in three areas: regional collaboration, data coordination and smart technology. These investments are strategically deployed to improve the lives of all citizens in our region.

Mr. Clayton Levins is the Executive Director of this organization that works hand-in-hand with the North Florida TPO. Smart North Florida Board members include Jeff Sheffield (NFTPO), Steve Selders (JEA), Karen Bowling (UNF), Reuben Franklin (St. Augustine), and Kristopher Smith (COJ Local Initiatives Support Corporation). As part of the effort, Smart North Florida joined the National Smart Coalitions Partnership that unites 100+ governments across six regional smart cities consortiums. This new organization will leverage a national cross-sector network to accelerate more sustainable and resilient cities using new technology tools and partnerships.

Some of the projects being examined by Smart North Florida include predicting potholes, narrowing the eastside digital divide, Smart St. Augustine and the Data Exchange effort. This effort is just getting off the ground with the hope



**NORTH FLORIDA TPO continued**

that additional projects will be added in the near future. If you would like more details on Smart North Florida, please visit <https://smarthnorthflorida.com>.

If you wish to engage with this organization to be an advocate, partner, investor, or creator, there is information on each for your determination.

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



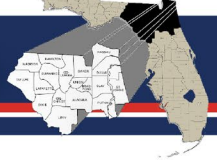
**ITS CONSTRUCTION**

The ITS Group is working with multiple design and construction projects throughout the District and as always, coordination with these projects is keeping us quite busy. This article is going to highlight two of the larger projects, which are getting to the final stages of construction.

The I-10/I-95 Interchange Project is progressing toward completion and the ITS subcontractor is working to get all of the ITS work complete, integrated and tested. In addition to the ITS work on this project, the Shared Use Path is of significant importance to our Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team and more specifically the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD). The ITS Group has been working with JFRD as the Shared Use Path nears completion due to the need for JFRD to respond to emergencies along the path. There are two entrances to the path, one on the north end at Riverside Avenue and one on the south end at Palm Avenue. These entrances will provide ingress and egress points for JFRD to use the path to access anyone who may have an urgent medical issue anywhere on the path. The entrances will be blocked by metal bollards which will be able to be removed using a special key and lock system. Coordination between the ITS Group, FDOT Construction and JFRD will continue and is expected to include training and exercises for JFRD on the Shared Use Path so they can evaluate the fastest and safest methods of responding to any incidents along the path.

The I-295 East Beltway Express Lanes Project is anticipating construction to be completed by the end of this year. The ITS subcontractor still has a couple of ITS device sites to complete

Continued on following page



**ITS CONSTRUCTION continued**

and then will move into final integration and testing. Many of the Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) along the corridor are already displaying the FDOT Test message. Testing of the Microwave Vehicle Detection Sensors (MVDS) will be performed in the coming month, which will involve having 50 vehicles travelling through the Express Lanes prior to them being officially open to traffic. This testing is required due to the MVDS being the mechanism that the TMC uses to determine speed and traffic counts throughout the corridor.

**Craig Carnes, V.P.  
Metric Engineering**

**ITS MAINTENANCE**

Wow! I can't believe a year has gone by since I started working with FDOT. It has been a great year and I have learned so much (and still learning) working with the great people in FDOT. Thank you all for taking the time to make me feel welcomed and helping me to get where I am right now.

Now, let's jump into what ITS maintenance has been up to this quarter. First and foremost, I would like to extend my gratitude to James Smith (Metric) and Jesse Wilson (TCD) for taking the lead in the installation of the TV monitors, DustShield and BrightSign hardware/software on all the rest areas in District 2. The creativity and initiative they took led to this project finally being taken over by PIO.

Our deployment of the VADE system is complete and is finally pushing through our district for the TPAS project in all rest areas in D2. TCD has

diligently installed all 75 VADE units and wood poles to make this happen. We are receiving great data and if the system keeps operating as well as it is, we may see it in other districts in the near future. Thanks, D2! for researching various TPAS technologies.

As for next quarter, we have a few projects that may be starting up. TCD will be adding (2) CCTV cameras at the Mathews Bridge; one camera at each end of the bridge. Seeing that this bridge is busy with a lot of vehicular traffic, installing these CCTV cameras will give us eyes on the bridge, which we haven't had before. TCD will also be installing some BlueTOADS along the gaps of I-75. This will help us keep up with traffic volumes along the I-75 corridor.

See you next quarter!

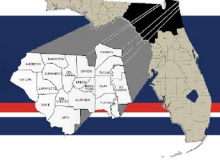
**Jose Morales  
FDOT District 2  
ITS Maintenance Manager**

**OPERATIONS**

The RTMC remained very busy this past quarter. Between incidents, an average of seven inches of rain each month and the testing of hundreds of new devices, the staff remained busy!

A project to repair expansion joints on the Buckman Bridge southbound began July 16<sup>th</sup>. Lane closures would take place each weekend from 9pm on Friday until Monday mornings at 5am with an estimated completion date of Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Per the contract, two lanes would remain open at all times. The RTMC began pre-messaging of





**OPERATIONS continued**

this major construction event on 25 arterial and interstate dynamic message signs on I-10, I-295, Blanding Boulevard and US 17, during non-peak periods to advise motorists so they would have the opportunity to take an alternate route. Additionally, information was posted to the Jax511.com website. Despite all of these measures, there was significantly greater congestion during the day on Saturday and Sunday on Blanding Boulevard approaching the ramps to I-295. FDOT engaged the services of consultant Iteris, an engineering firm that specializes in traffic signal timing plans, analysis and real-time signal timing changes. The task was to monitor the weekend daytime congestion due to the construction and to make changes to the traffic signals to mediate the congestion. As a result, there was a significant decrease from the previous congestion during the weekends of 7/31, 8/7 and 8/14. The repair project was completed on Sunday 8/15, one week ahead of schedule. It just goes to show, you pick out the appropriate tools to use from your toolbox, and if they aren't sufficient, you go back for another tool to get the job done!

From July 1st through September 30<sup>th</sup> District 2 had nine RISC (Rapid Incident Scene Clearance) events. The RTMC Staff worked a total of 19,010 events with 6,818 utilizing DMS. Of those events, 3,834 were crashes. There was a total of 13,672 Road Ranger events.

Remember, Know Before You Go, use **FL511!**

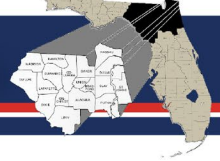
**Jason Evans  
Metric Engineering  
RTMC Manager**

**FIRST COAST TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE**

The First Coast Traffic Incident Management Team's latest bi-monthly meeting was held virtually on **September 21, 2021**, at 10:00 A.M. These meetings are important for FDOT to facilitate an open line of communication between all TIM agency partners to assist with the reduction of incident scene clearance times, deter congestion and improve safety on our interstates here in District 2.

The TEAM started off with the I-10/I-95 Project provided by Mr. Tim Heath where he mentioned that the nighttime detours on I-95 SB and I-95 NB will continue on mainly the weekends but will continue through some weeknights for the construction of Ramp T. Tim also mentioned that the Fuller Warren is still under construction while they work on replacing the median barrier wall. He also advised that they are currently in the process of installing decorative handrails on the Shared Use Path Bridge, it is estimated to be completed in January 2022. He was then followed by Mr. Hampton Ray for the Construction Project Updates where he mentioned that the I-10 widening project was well under way. Hampton also mentioned that the I-295 East Beltway Expressway is targeting a November opening, with delineators being placed in early to mid-October. Hampton also gave a shoutout to the Road Rangers mentioning a First Coast News highlight where one of the Road Rangers pulled somebody out of a burning vehicle, saving their life.

Ms. Amber Brock was then introduced as the new Emergency Management Specialist and



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

gave an emergency operation update. Ms. Amber stated that although both Peter and Rose were out in the Atlantic, neither would be a threat to Florida. The upcoming cold front was working to push Peter out of our path. She then showed the trends of hurricanes and tropical storms for the last hundred years, stating that September is the peak month, but ensured that nobody is letting their guard down and they were still monitoring everything closely.

The group then discussed the ITS Update/ITS Projects/511/TMC Updates which were provided by Mr. Craig Carnes and Mr. Jason Evans. Mr. Craig Carnes mentioned several projects which included a couple of big projects in the Jacksonville area that include ITS such as the TPAS project which is currently wrapping up district wide. Craig mentioned again that there were some issues with the vendor that provided pucks that are used to put in the truck parking spaces. So FDOT is working to warranty that project and get things completed to ensure a quality project. He also mentioned that because ITS is all over the interstate systems both District and Statewide, any current or upcoming project has to protect the ITS infrastructure to ensure it is not impacted in any way, shape, or form. Mr. Jason Evans then jumped in and mentioned that the ITS update maintenance contractor was about to start the annual tree trimming to get rid of overgrowth and give the cameras better views.

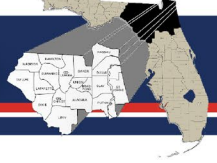
Instead of the typical Performance Measures Presentation and Incident Review, the Team

performed a TIM Self-Assessment. Mr. Craig Carnes advised that the Florida Highway and Wildlife Association (FHWA) asks that the 75 largest municipalities complete the TIM Self-Assessment every year to see how we are going internally as well in comparison to the other municipalities. It is not a contest nor funding related, but only a check that FHWA does to ensure we are doing our job and progressing as a team.

The next First Coast Traffic Incident Management Team meeting is scheduled to be held on **November 16, 2021**, at 10:00 A.M. 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!

**ALACHUA BRADFORD TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE**

The Alachua-Bradford Traffic Incident Management Team meeting held its latest bi-monthly meeting virtually on **August 11, 2021**, at 10:00 A.M. The TIM meeting kicked off by reminding all TIM partners that the purpose of our TIM Team meeting is to continuously reduce incident scene clearance times to deter congestion and improve safety; and cooperation and communication between TIM members when out on the roadways to make everyone safer.



**ALACHUA BRADFORD TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE**  
**continued**

The TEAM then proceeded with the Emergency Operations Update given by Ms. Carrie Stanbridge. Ms. Stanbridge introduced Ms. Amber Brock to the Team as the new Emergency Management Coordination Officer who will be giving the Emergency Operations Updates for the TIM Team meeting moving forward. Ms. Stanbridge then went on to provide the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season outlook predictions, including: 15-21 named storms, 7-10 hurricanes, and 3-5 major hurricanes.

Mr. Craig Carnes and Mr. Jason Evans then jumped right into the ITS/511/TMC updates where they informed the group that the ITS maintenance group is working to get the informational display monitors up at the Rest Areas throughout the entire District where cameras will be installed so the displays can be monitored to make sure the content is up and correct. They then went on to discuss that the Truck Parking Availability System (TPAS) project is coming to a close. Mr. Evans stated that the information has been live so almost all the signs approaching the weigh stations and rest areas have accurate information for the amount of available parking spaces. This information is also accessible on the FL511 website. The FL511 app is still undergoing updates to make it more user friendly and hands free, with more voice activation/prompts to keep driver's attention on the roadway.

The next Alachua-Bradford Traffic Incident Management Team meeting is scheduled to be held on **December 8, 2021**, at 10:00 A.M.,

virtually, but we ask that you please keep in touch with the TEAM due to the uncertainty presented at this time. If any changes are made prior to the next meeting we will send out an email notification to all of our TIM partners.

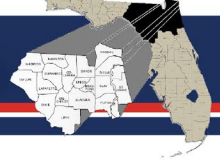
If you are unable to attend, please feel free to send someone else who could represent your agency. We thank you for your participation.



**PLEASE NOTE:** *If anyone is interested in the SHRP2 Incident Management Training Course, please contact Craig Carnes at [ccarnes@metriceng.com](mailto:ccarnes@metriceng.com) or Misha Gonzales Elder at [melder@metriceng.com](mailto:melder@metriceng.com) 904-260-1567.*

Craig is available to work with any agency's schedule; including nights and weekends to make sure the course is available for groups of ten or more trainees.

We are currently in the process of updating the TIM Team meeting process and strongly encourage all TIM members to send in suggestions for agency topics to be discussed during the meeting. All ideas are welcome and can be emailed to Dee Dee Crews at [DeeDee.Crews@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:DeeDee.Crews@dot.state.fl.us).



**TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE continued**

**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.*

**TEAM VISION:**

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

**Dee Dee Crews  
Project Manager  
District 2 ITS Operations**

**ROAD RANGER UPDATE**

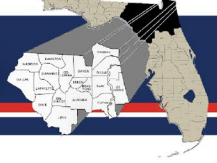
The Road Ranger Program plays a key role in incident management by assisting motorists and local agency partners. The Rangers are an essential part of the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team and they provide real-time information to the Traffic Management Center (TMC) regarding accidents, congestion, disabled vehicles and road debris.

The District 2 Road Rangers continue to prove how essential they are to our incident management TEAM as they are heavily utilized throughout the District. With the addition of the

Mathews Bridge Road Ranger, they now operate eighteen routes in District 2. The Road Ranger Program plays a key role in incident management by assisting motorists and local agency partners. They are an essential part of the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team and provide real-time information to the Traffic Management Center (TMC) regarding accidents, congestion, disabled vehicles and road debris. The Road Rangers assisted with an average of 4,325 events per month from July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021.

Each month our Rangers attend a mandatory Safety Training where safe practices are continuously echoed through presentation and instruction. These meetings are held in both Jacksonville and Gainesville to ensure that this training has resonated with all our Road Rangers across the board. It is critical for these meetings to occur for the TEAM to have that one-on-one time with FDOT staff and their peers to learn from each other. Our Rangers work extremely hard and are highly exposed out on our interstates. We strive to keep them, as well as the motoring public, alive and safe while traveling.

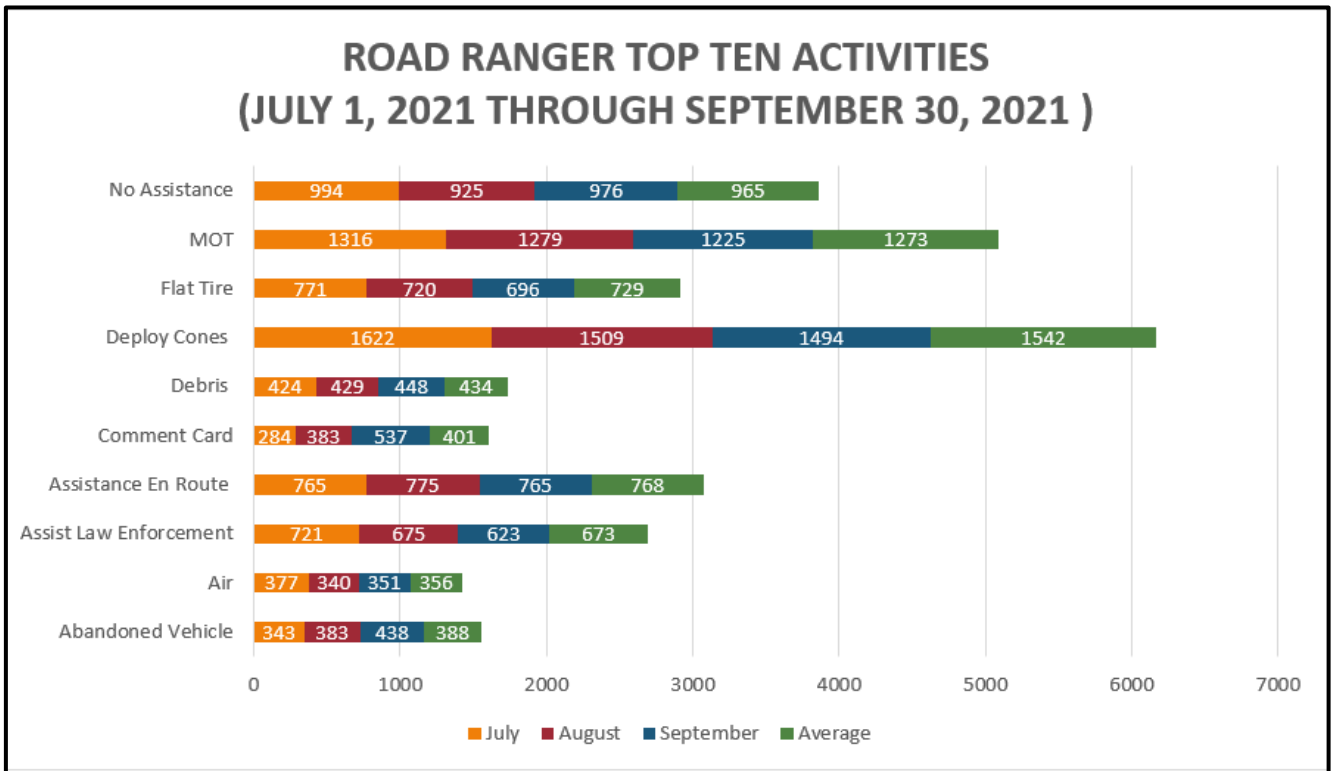
The Road Rangers assist with such events as providing fuel, assisting with tire changes, minor emergency repairs and providing short term maintenance of

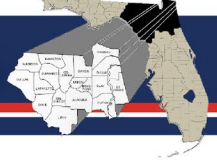


## ROAD RANGER UPDATE continued

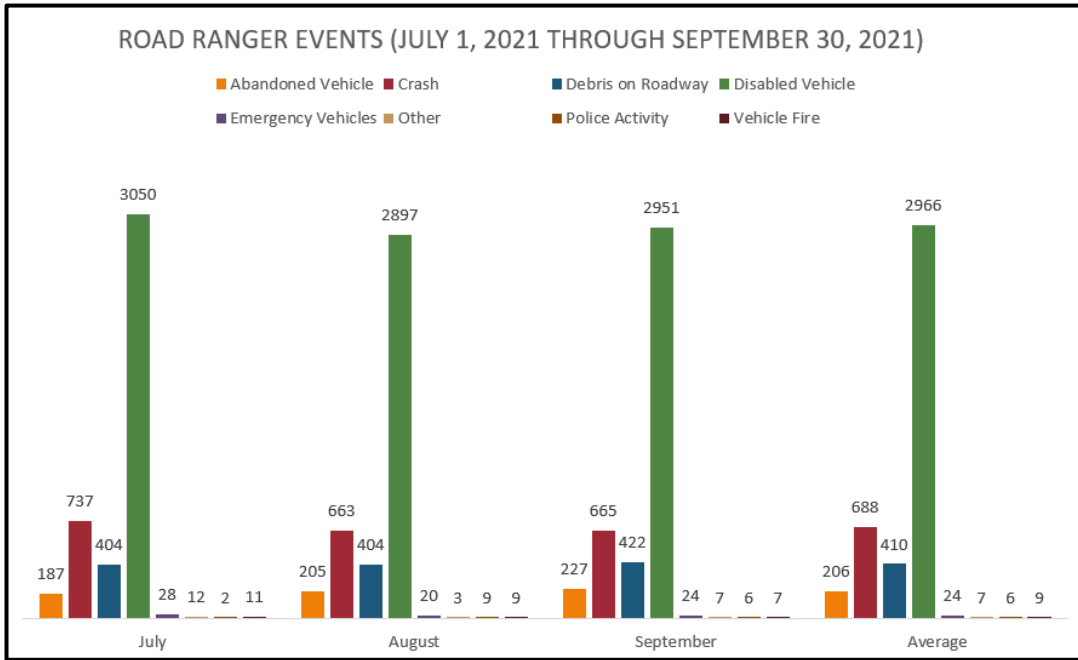
traffic. During the past three months (July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021), the roadway clearance duration has averaged about 56.3 minutes, the incident clearance duration averaged approximately 79.5 minutes and the open roads duration averaged approximately 49.0 minutes.

The following charts show all event types that the Road Rangers have responded to from July 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021, along with some of the main activities performed when responding to these events. The Road Rangers primarily responded to crashes, debris events and disabled vehicles as their main events. Their activities predominantly involved providing MOT, assisting motorists with flat tires, clearing debris, and assisting local law enforcement. As we can see the Road Rangers primarily responded to an average of 15.9% crashes, 68.7% disabled vehicles, 9.5% debris events and 4.8% abandoned vehicles. We also saw a slight decrease in the number of Road Ranger responding events over the past several months when compared to last quarter.





**ROAD RANGER UPDATE continued**



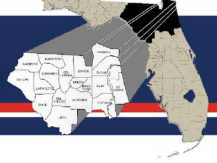
**Katie Jeffries of First Coast News (WTLV12/ABC25) reported the following success story for one of our many dedicated Road Rangers.**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Road Rangers do a lot that many people might not know about. From helping change tires to assisting with traffic control. That's exactly what Road Ranger Anthony Weakley faced as he was just about to finish up his shift in the early morning hours of Aug. 21. He was driving on I-295 near Dunn Avenue when his headlights reflected off something near the tree line. The tail lights of a crashed vehicle. "I could see the orange reflecting off the front end and I could see there was a fire," says Weakley. At that moment, Weakley says he heard screaming and ran to the car to find the driver trapped inside. "He was tucked into his floorboards, I think he had ruptured a fuel line because it [the car] started burning very quickly," describes Weakley.

As fire began to overtake the front of the car, Weakley says he knew he had to act quickly. "I asked him if he was going to be ok, and he said he was, so I yanked him out of the vehicle all at once," tells Weakley. "...and then he and I worked together to get him up the hill as quickly as we could." JFRD and JSO arrived on scene minutes later. The victim was taken to the hospital. In a letter sent by JSO Sgt. M.J. Lessard to the Road Ranger's supervisor, the Sergeant says Weakley's swift actions "saved the driver from serious burns or great bodily injury."

First Coast News was able to reach the driver Weakley saved and he did not want his name used in this story, so we are respecting that. He did say he is currently recovering with two broke legs and he will always be thankful that Weakley saved his life. "I just want to thank him for saving my life that night," he says. "I appreciate him pulling me out of that car that night because without him, I probably wouldn't be here, I would probably be burned up. I will never forget him, and I will never forget the situation and how he helped me. I appreciate him, and it could have been way worse if he hadn't been there."

Weakley says, looking back, he believes everything that night happened for a reason. He stopped a couple of times that night to check abandoned vehicles, and he was driving slower than normal because he didn't feel well. But all of that combined landed him at the right place at the right time. "If I hadn't had done all of those, I wouldn't have been there at that moment," he says. A moment that saved one life and changed another.



## **RISC – RAPID INCIDENT SCENE CLEARANCE - UPDATE**

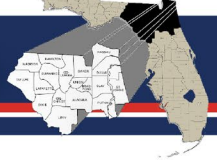
The Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) program supports the Florida’s Open Roads Policy goal of safely clearing major highway incidents and truck crashes within 90 minutes or less. The program is based on incentive and requires specialized equipment and trained operators to quickly remove wreckage from the roadway, where major crashes close most lanes or cause significant travel delays.

The RISC Contractor is responsible for responding to the incident within 60 minutes of the request to activation request. Once on scene, the commanding official on scene will provide the RISC vendor with a Notice to Proceed in which the vendor will have 90 minutes to open the travel lanes for traffic. The RISC contract ensures a vendor is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week to respond to major incidents. This program has proven to be extremely valuable and essential to roadway clearance times and assisting motorists with a smooth traveling experience.

Over the past three months, District 2 has utilized RISC nine times in Columbia, Duval, and St. Johns counties. This program is extremely valuable and essential to roadway clearance times, especially during peak travel time periods. On the following page you will find the details of the RISC events located here in District 2 from July 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021.

For those of you who aren’t familiar with just how big and powerful a RISC wrecker is, here’s an example from one of our many RISC Contractors.



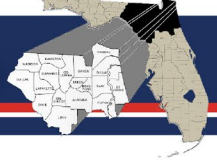


## RISC – RAPID INCIDENT SCENE CLEARANCE - UPDATE continued

Date	Time	Location	Description
7/22/2021	10:19:37 AM	St. Johns on I-95 Southbound, At International Golf Pkwy	Semi vs. Semi and one car with northbound and southbound lanes blocked. Both southbound semis landed in the median, one on its side, and at least one vehicle fell from a car-hauler the second rig was pulling.
8/2/2021	11:07:56 AM	St. Johns on I-95 Northbound, Beyond MM 319	Box truck overturned with 2 left lanes blocked
8/5/2021	9:22:02 AM	Duval on I-10 Eastbound, At US-301	Overturned semi in a construction zone blocking all lanes. The semi was hauling sod which was thrown all over the roadway.
8/25/2021	12:30:58 AM	Duval on I-95 Northbound, At Dunn Ave/Busch Dr	Semi vs. semi and 7 vehicles with all northbound lanes blocked and 2 left southbound lanes blocked. One semi carrying 9 vehicles lost control, hitting a median guardrail fence where 7 of the 9 vehicles became untethered. The crash resulted in a major fuel spill.
8/25/2021	6:23:14 PM	Columbia on I-10 Westbound, At MM 299	Semi vs. Semi with westbound lanes blocked. One semi overturned in roadway with unknown amount of fuel spilled.
8/27/2021	12:24:23 AM	Columbia on I-75 Northbound, At MM 416	A semi hauling fish overturned, blocked two left lanes, and partially blocking the right lane. Fish were thrown all over the roadway along with other debris.
9/7/2021	10:18:45 AM	Columbia on I-10 Westbound, At I-75	Fatal crash involving pickup truck pulling a trailer and a semi. The pickup truck lost control and collided with a semi, blocking all lanes.
9/11/2021	5:36:43 AM	Columbia on I-75 Northbound, At US-90	Semi jack-knifed blocking all northbound lanes.
9/28/2021	12:01:32 AM	Duval on I-10 Westbound, Ramp to Cecil Commerce Center Pkwy/SR-23	All WB lanes blocked, overturned semi vs car, fuel spill. One injured

**Dee Dee Crews  
District 2 ITS Operations  
Project Manager**



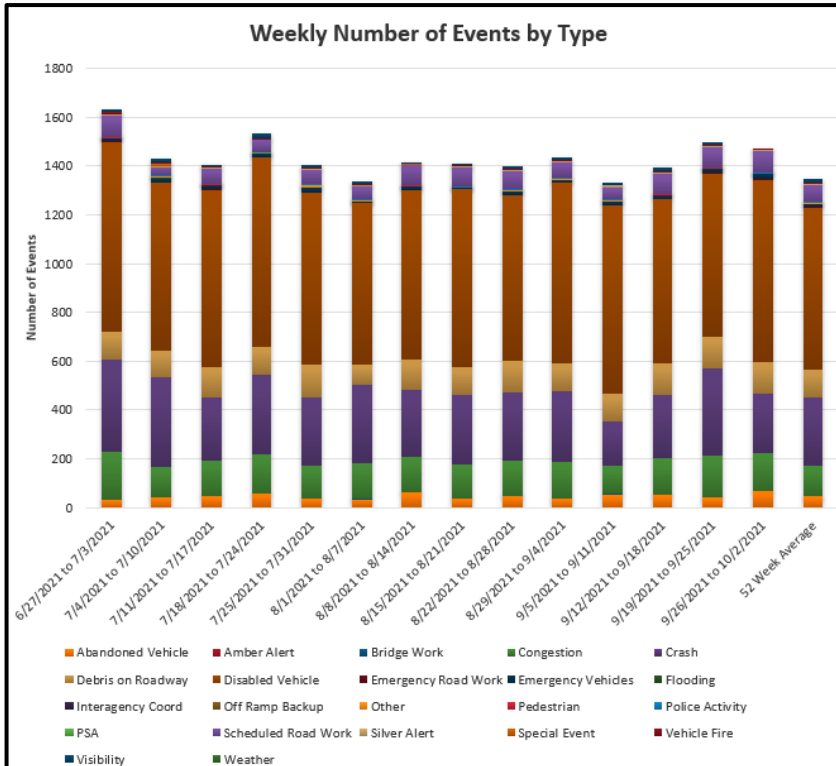


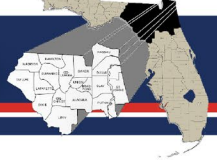
## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

As the scorching summer comes to an end, the fall brings us shorter days and cooler weather here in Florida. The Sunshine State's definition of cool still brings high temps, but our Road Rangers continue to provide services to our motorists despite the end of summer heat.

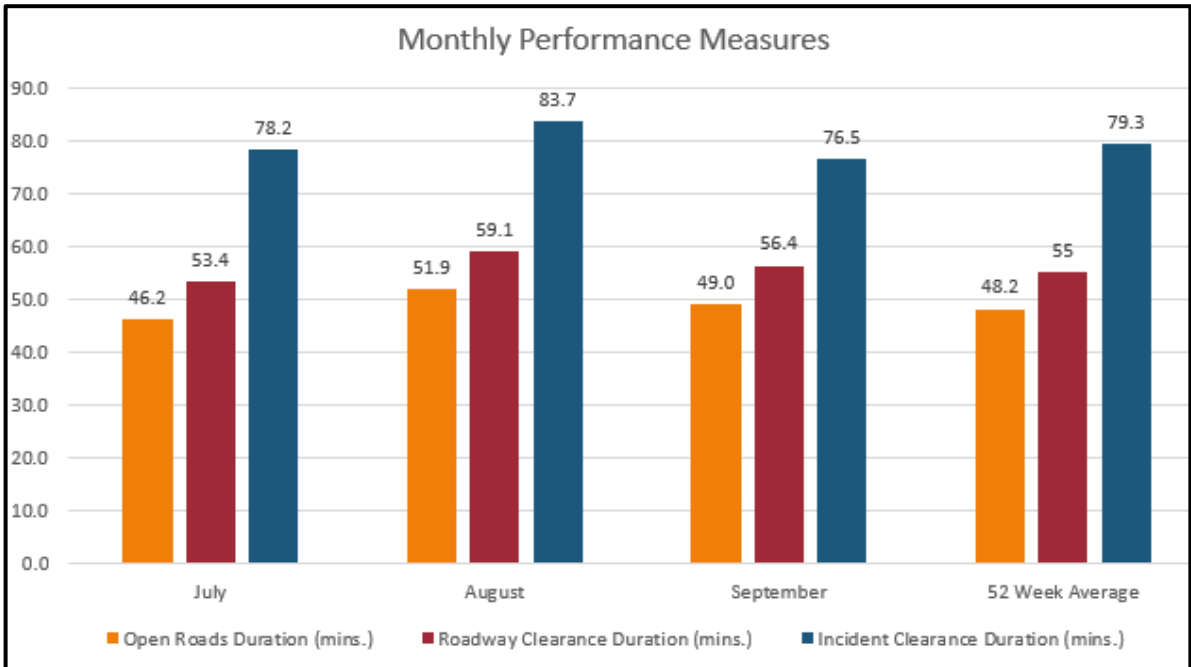
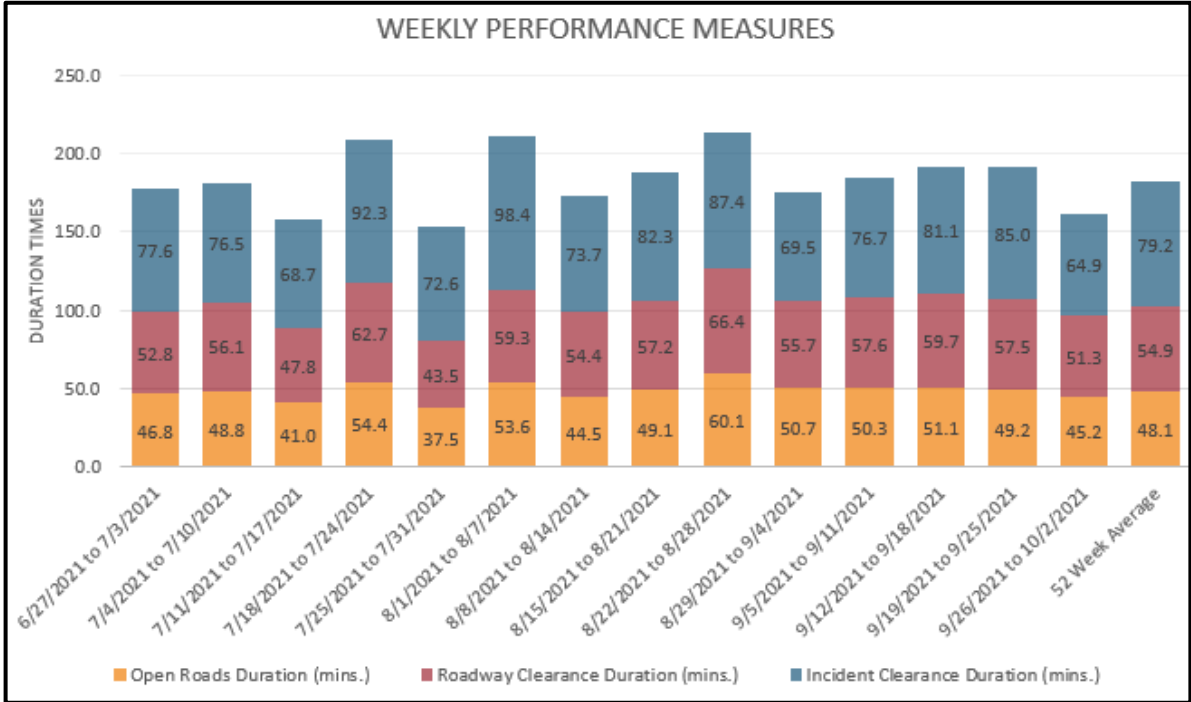
From the charts below, we can see that the Road Rangers responded to an average of close to 293 crashes per week here in District 2 between July 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021. This number represents the average number of total crashes that the Road Rangers have assisted with and is higher than the 52-week average of 281 crashes which accounts for an increase of 4%. Congestion and disabled vehicle events have also increased by 14% and 7% respectively, when compared to the 52-week average. These numbers are also up from the last quarter as visitors continued making their way back to the sunshine state and with school starting back in person for the first time in over a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

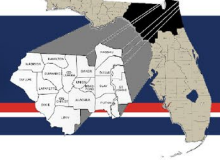
The average clearance duration times for the past three months have stayed well under the goal duration times as we can see in the charts following. District 2 has averaged approximately 49.0 minutes for our Open Roads Duration time, 56.3 minutes for our Roadway Clearance duration time and 79.5 minutes for our Incident Clearance duration time which is overall close to our yearly average of 48.2 minutes for the Open Roads Duration time, 55.0 minutes for Roadway Clearance Duration and 79.3 minutes for Incident Clearance Duration.





**PERFORMANCE MEASURES continued**





**MARKETING**

“Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing about.” – Benjamin Franklin, a Founding Father of the United States and celebrated inventor. While we don’t consider ourselves inventors, we do have something exciting to share that we’ve been working on. In the coming months, the old Jax511 website will get a complete makeover as well as a new domain name. You won’t even have to “pardon our dust” since the new website is being built using a completely different URL address. So in the meantime you can continue using the current site to access traffic information, construction updates, First Coast Traffic Incident Management Team meeting notes, partner links, emergency information and more!

Keiser University played host to a campus-wide career fair at the end of September. Again, it felt SO good to actually be on-site at a real event, with real people and real face-to-face interaction. We were all masked up and vendor tables were spaced six feet apart, of course, but still the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement. Senior level administrators did an amazing job getting the word out to both current students and alumni, and we spoke to 65 people in a little over three hours.

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) will team up with CareerSource Northeast Florida later this month to host a virtual event. Even though the “human interaction” will play out a little differently, we still anticipate a high volume of attendees, mostly because FSCJ will open the event up to all seven of its campuses.

Now transitioning from a virtual footprint back to *real* foot traffic, Gainesville High School will play host to their annual event for staff and faculty. (put on hold last year due to Covid) We’ll make the drive down to Alachua County to let the spotlight shine on our 511 traffic and information system.

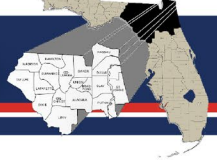
And we still have our eyes on the Tropics. Hurricane season doesn’t officially end until November 30<sup>th</sup>. If you haven’t doubled down and eaten all your hurricane supplies, you’re still in good form. Otherwise, download the FL511 app, head to the store and restock your hurricane supply bin for the remainder of the season. While you’re stocking up on supplies, we’ll keep you up-to-date on any potential road closures, evacuation routes and more! FL511 is available in a variety of platforms. You can log onto [FL511.com](http://FL511.com), download one of the free FL511 Mobile Apps available for Apple and Android devices, or visit us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

**Connect. Know. Go!**

**What are you waiting for?**

**Sherri Byrd  
Metric Engineering  
Marketing Manager**





## **SPOTLIGHT ON...ROBERT LACY** **ITS NETWORK SUPPORT MANAGER**

**Tell us a little about your upbringing. Where were you born/raised?**

I was born and raised in Gulfport, MS. Once my parents got divorced, I lived between Gulfport, MS and Orange Park, FL. I went to OPHS. Go Raiders!

**In your current role as Network Support Manager for Metric Engineering and the Florida Department of Transportation, what are your primary job responsibilities?**

I am responsible for keeping District 2 network secure. Also, I make sure we are up to date with all of our network compliances.

**How long have you been working with Metric/FDOT?**

I started on July 29th with Metric.

**What first drew you into the world of Information Technology? Did you receive any formal training?**

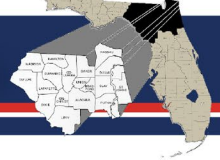
To be honest, what drew me into the IT world was trying to play video games on my Tandy RL 1000 and just about every version of PC after that. I love working on computers.

**What positions did you hold prior to joining our team?**

- LSI, Incorporated-* Hired as a Network Tech in 2004 and worked my way up to Network Manager in 2012 until leaving to join Metric Engineering
- Bombadier Capital-* Computer Operator 2002-2004
- Alljax Computers-* Network Administrator 2002-2004
- Bank of America-* System Engineer 2- 1999-2001



***The Lacy family!***



## **SPOTLIGHT ON...ROBERT LACY** **ITS NETWORK SUPPORT MANAGER**

### **Continued**

**Any cutting-edge projects you're currently working on?**

Setting up Nutanix Cluster to move critical servers to provide high availability for them.

**Worst day on the job? Or a foot-in-mouth moment? (not necessarily *this* job)**

I was trying to rack a 1U server by myself and I dropped it on the floor. The server still worked but my poor shin was used to brace its fall to the floor.

**Looking back over your career, name one defining moment you still carry with you.**

Being selected by staffing company, Metro Information Services, to work for Bank of America, was a pivotal point in my life as that is where I met my loving wife of 18 years.



***Robert and wife, Lacy***

**You've just been gifted with 48 hours of uninterrupted freedom. How would you spend it?**

Currently, I would pack the family up and drive down to Disney for the weekend. Happy to be annual passholders again post-Covid.

**Lunch out with colleagues or microwaved leftovers while sitting at your desk?**

I have always enjoyed going off to lunch with Co-workers.

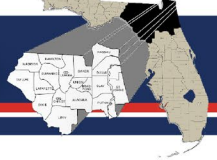
**Editors Note:** *I have it on good authority that Robert is one of the most social guys on the north wing of our building. Pretty much every week, he grabs a coworker and heads out to try a new restaurant. Plus, he recently spoiled the staff with THREE dozen donuts on a random Friday.*

**Tell us a little about your family.**

My wife (April Lacy) and I got married on 6/21/2003. She is my best friend, and I would be lost without her. We have two boys: Lincoln (14) and Zachary (11). Both boys share the same passions that I do with anything Star Wars and video game related. We also have two Great Pyrenees dogs, Minnie and Pearl, and two cats, Bebe and Ivan.

**Favorite vacation spot?**

I love going to Kingsport, TN. My wife's family is from there and we always have a great time visiting them. The views you get to see while driving there are amazing, much better than here in Jacksonville.



Traffic Incident Management  
2021 Meeting Schedule

**First Coast TIM Team**

Regional Transportation Management Center  
980 N. Jefferson St., Jacksonville, FL  
904.903.2000  
10:00am-12:00pm  
November 16, 2021

**Alachua/Bradford TIM Team**

FDOT Gainesville Operations Office  
5301 NE 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville, FL  
352.381.4300  
10:00am-11:30am  
December 8, 2021

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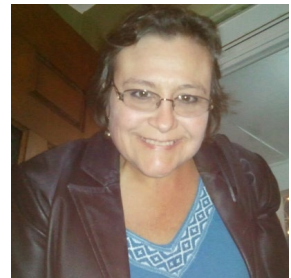


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