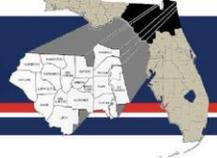




**2022 Atlantic Hurricane Names**

<i>Alex</i>	<i>Hermine</i>	<i>Owen</i>
<i>Bonnie</i>	<i>Ian</i>	<i>Paula</i>
<i>Colin</i>	<i>Julia</i>	<i>Richard</i>
<i>Danielle</i>	<i>Karl</i>	<i>Shary</i>
<i>Earl</i>	<i>Lisa</i>	<i>Tobias</i>
<i>Fiona</i>	<i>Martin</i>	<i>Virginie</i>
<i>Gaston</i>	<i>Nicole</i>	<i>Walter</i>

The Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project team predicts an "above-normal" 2022 Atlantic hurricane season. The team forecasts 19 named storms, including nine hurricanes, four of which will be major hurricanes.



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

During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of calendar year 2022 our brethren in District Five opened their first Express Lanes along I-4. Aptly named the I-4 Ultimate, these Express Lanes stretch from Lake Mary on the east end to the Attractions area on the west. This corridor spans 21 miles and allows motorists to bypass much of the traffic in the downtown area. Currently, the cost for the entire 21-mile trip will be a fixed rate of \$3.00 in each direction to allow for further calibration of the vehicle detectors. There are multiple ingress/egress points within this 21-mile section of roadway that allow the motorist to utilize the system at reduced rates. Once District Five and the Concessionaire are comfortable with the data, the system will transition to a dynamic operation that will determine rates based on demand in the Express Lanes versus conditions in the General Use Lanes.

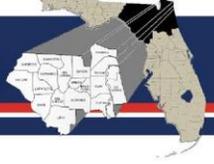
This deployment is unique in several ways. First, Districts Two, Four and Six Express Lanes use delineators to separate this corridor from the General Use Lanes. Within the limits of the I-4 Ultimate, the lanes are separated by a barrier wall. It's almost like driving on a separate roadway parallel to I-4, similar to what you experience along the I-95 corridor in West Palm Beach where the Interstate runs parallel to the Turnpike just a few hundred yards away. Also, because of the barrier wall District Five had to develop an elaborate emergency response plan to address incidents within these Express Lanes. There are many access points along the barrier wall where emergency responders can

drive up, put in a code at the gate, and access the Express Lanes. This allows them to bypass much of the queue congestion created by the incident in order to respond quickly.

Another unique feature of these Express Lanes are the ramps that allow motorists to ingress/egress at certain arterial road interchanges. This is not the case in the other Districts who mainly have ingress/egress points beside the General Use Lanes. There are instances where these Districts have a direct connection to another interchange, but it's mainly to access another limited access roadway.

Likewise, since it seems like its own separate roadway system, the shoulders on both sides are nice and wide, which allows for quicker lane clearance during an incident. This is critical to the operation of an Express Lane due to the requirements within a Florida Statute of maintaining speeds above 40 MPH.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to drive the least expensive "ride" in Orlando, I recommend you give it a try. I've done it three times and can vouch on the value for the money. However, let me offset this with the fact that even though you may breeze through Orlando congestion you must deal with the horrific traffic at both ends of the Express Lanes. Once I got to the end of the Express Lanes, in the westbound direction I encountered stop and go traffic for about 11 miles and a travel time of nearly 25 minutes. In



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

the eastbound direction it wasn't as bad as I encountered about three miles of congestion near the St. Johns River bridge.

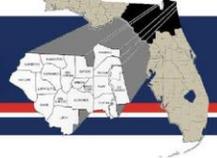
To deal with this bottleneck situation, District Five has another project planned aptly named "I-4 Beyond the Ultimate Improvement Project." Hopefully, this effort will deal with the challenges I encountered since it involves making improvements 20 miles east and 20 miles west of the Express Lanes. The goal is to extend the Express Lanes in the westbound direction, while making roadway improvements in the eastbound direction (i.e. widening and adding lanes). My expectation is that completion will be well beyond my lifetime, however it will be a much needed improvement to the Florida Interstate system as the State grows exponentially in the future.

As for District Two's Express Lanes program, our final effort along the I-295 East Beltway is nearing completion. The Construction team has opened the Express Lanes in each direction to allow us to gather data from the vehicle detectors. There are still some minor construction issues to address, with the hope of final acceptance by late summer. Currently, these Express Lanes are open in "Zero Toll" mode, thereby allowing motorists with a transponder to try the system for free until the vehicle detectors are fully calibrated. Once the calibration is complete, our program will operate a little differently from the other Districts in that we will utilize Time-of-Day tolling during peak hours (Monday through Friday) at a set rate of

\$0.50. Many of the other Districts will transition to Dynamic mode for their tolling operations.

I have tried these Express Lanes several times and can fully attest to the benefits of this system. In the exponentially growing St. Johns County region, this allows residents in that area to maintain a consistent commute to and from work by giving them the opportunity to bypass high congestion areas along I-295. Speeds are regularly maintained at posted limits, with a "few" lead footers going a little faster. As growth continues in this area of Northeast Florida, this system will be critical for many motorists who value their time during a commute. One thing to note is that this system (unlike District Five) has only two ingress/egress points in each direction.

I should note that the I-295 Express Lanes is approximately 5 miles in length in each direction with a direct connection at the Butler Boulevard and State Road 9B interchanges. Most commuters work off of Butler Boulevard and Town Center Parkway, thus the expectation is that this "thinning of the herd" will lead to exceptional improvements in the General Use Lanes of I-295. Also, I should mention that we have many residents in the Orange Park area that work off of Butler Boulevard. They also get the benefit of the I-295 West Beltway Express Lanes, thereby assuring them of reliable travel times to and from work by using both systems.



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

As for the future, District Two is playing it by ear on deploying any more Express Lanes. The goal at the moment is to address existing roadway needs with the intent of keeping this feature in our back pocket if it's ever warranted. O&M for Express Lanes is not cheap, thus as good stewards of public tax dollars we must choose wisely on our investments. Fortunately, if the need ever arises, we have a team with the expertise to add this feature to other roadway systems in the next several years.

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



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

Welcome All

Glad to have another quarter officially in the books. We made some great strides with the District 2 TSM&O program. We are operating exceptionally well despite the departure of our facility Manager, Gabriel Sosa. We wish him the best in all his future endeavors. This month I had the luxury of attending some testing as a member of a Technical Review Committee at the Traffic Engineering Research Laboratory in Tallahassee. In an attempt to avoid sharing too much information we are evaluating companies

to provide a system for bicycle and pedestrian detection and warning to drivers. The candidate that is selected for the contract will install their system in Gainesville at the University of Florida campus where there are plenty of bicycles and pedestrians. I am excited for the solutions these vendors can present because at this present moment we are breaking new technological ground and becoming more innovative. Since a lot of these technologies are still in infancy in terms of development it's quite fascinating to see the expansion and sophistication increase every day. The ultimate goal is to live in a future where all road users, including vulnerable road users, can coexist in a zero-fatality environment.

There are many people today who were alive to see the US land on the moon and what monumental experience that was so being a witness or involved at the beginning of something so special can be a fun story to share when I am much older. I can compare it to the development of the mobile phone. We went from wireless house phones, car phones to the cell phone brick (the Zach Morris phone, from Saved by the Bell) to smaller slightly more sophisticated phones and then ultimately sliding into smart phones which for all intents and purposes are minicomputers, but who knows what is in the future for us. Tony Robbins shared that "The only limit to your impact is your imagination and commitment".

The next newsletter release will be during Hurricane season, so I urge all of you now to



## NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT 2 ITS OPERATIONS MANAGER continued

get your plan in place and make sure you are prepared for the unexpected because when you live in Florida the possibility is always there. I look forward to my Key West trip at the end of the month and hope to find some new experiences I can share in my next article. Until then stay safe and be kind.

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

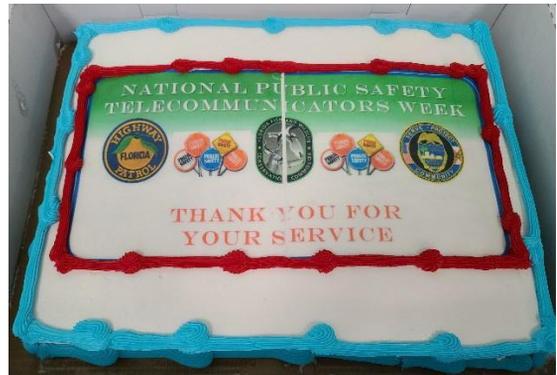
## NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT 2 ITS PROJECT MANAGER

They're ready 24-hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year to answer emergency calls, so their hard work was recognized during National Telecommunicators Week – April 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

This special week is a time when we honor our operators and dispatchers at the RTMC. Of course, we centered our festivities around food by grilling burgers, having a Mexican fiesta party (minus the margaritas), a pizza party, a dessert day and potluck luncheon. We had dress down theme days for the week– Superhero Day, Patriotic Day, Tie Dye Day, Thrift Store Day, and Fiesta Day. Everyone enjoyed being able to express themselves by dressing up.

These individuals deal with stressful situations daily and keep on going. I can tell you that telecommunicators, whether FHP, JSO, FDOT

or FWC, possess many hidden superpowers which include maintaining calm in the face of chaos, being able to multi-task while under great pressure during an emergency, typing faster than the speed of light, actively listening to hear what is going on and finding out all the information needed to relay to response teams, super strength to pick themselves back up for crazy calls and to lift co-workers up when they are having a bad day, all while having focused determination even in the face of uncertainty and chaos.



**Fiesta Day below**



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



**NORTH FLORIDA TPO**

During the week of April 10<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>, the annual National Public Safety Telecommunications Appreciation week was scheduled. As mentioned previously, our Regional Transportation Management Center

(RTMC) is unique in Florida (and around the country) in that we have multiple agencies working within the confines of this facility. Agencies situated on the operations floor include the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Fish & Wildlife, Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, and Florida DOT staff. We currently have over 40 personnel within the RTMC handling daily operations along our roadway system. They must all deal with unique events that involve the health and safety of the traveling public.

The willingness and commitment of these personnel is beyond comprehension. Many put in long hours during the day, at night, and on the weekend to ensure the well-being of all. During major events, like Wildfires and Hurricanes, many of these staff members commit to two or three continuous working days that involve expanded hours and limited sleep for the duration. It takes a special person to make this commitment, while putting their personal well-being and worries aside during a time of need. I have personally shared such experiences with them over the years and it’s always left me with a sense of awe and appreciation for what they do for the RTMC.

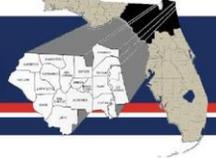
I mention this because none of it could have happened without the foresight and contribution provided by the North Florida TPO. This RTMC was just a vision 17 years ago and now it’s been a reality for the past six years thanks to the funding provided by this organization. I

am amazed at the growth, partnership and teamwork that’s evolved over the years within the RTMC thanks to the opportunity given by the NFTPO. I can attest that the operation within this facility is the benchmark for others throughout the State of Florida and many parts of the nation.

National Public Safety Telecommunications Appreciation week is a way to say “thank you” to all the staff that make it happen each day. Unfortunately, when they are called to duty it rarely involves good news. Normally, it’s an accident, fatality or unfortunate event that requires them to quarterback the situation within the confines of the RTMC. Over the past year, I’ve seen some staff lose their cool, get frustrated, blow a lid and get emotional, however they always seem to be able to regroup as they screw their head on right while dealing with the situation.

During the week, as a testament to our appreciation the agency supervisors set up a theme for each day based on consensus. Monday was Superhero Day, Tuesday was Patriotic Day, Wednesday was Decade/Dye Day, Thursday was Thrift Store Day and Friday was Fiesta Day. Each themed day associated itself with some type of meal provided by the agency supervisors and NFTPO. It ranged from hamburgers/hotdogs to tacos to desserts. One day was dedicated to Pizza Day and hence the reason for this article.

The NFTPO is in a separate area of the facility but truly understands the benefits of these operations, thus they covered the cost of pizza. They did not have to participate, nor contribute,

**NORTH FLORIDA TPO continued**

yet they did. This goes a long way in displaying the teamwork of all agencies under the roof of this facility. The realization is that one could not succeed without the other, thereby providing a symbiotic relationship that makes the Northeast Florida RTMC the success that it's been known for over the past several years. So, one last "thank you" to all that have made our vision reality!

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

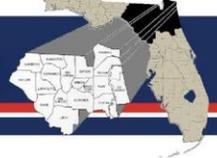
**ITS CONSTRUCTION**

The ITS Group has been busy this quarter coordinating with all of the Roadway Construction projects throughout the District, attempting to avoid any damage to our infrastructure and/or conflicts with our ITS Devices. We review all Roadway Construction projects during the design phase to look for any issues that may arise during construction, such as foundations being placed too close to our infrastructure, conduit runs that may cross our

fiber and/or power lines, and obstructions to the sight lines of our CCTV cameras, microwave vehicle detectors, sensors and wireless devices.

We have to be so diligent with Construction plan reviews, because our ITS Infrastructure has become even more critical over the past several years. The D2 fiber optic cable now connects FDOT Central Office to all of the FDOT District's ITS Networks and also connects FDOT District Three with the rest of the Districts. These connections are extremely important during hurricane evacuations and allow FDOT Central Office and Emergency Operations Center personnel to view real-time videos from across the State. Additionally, the connections between the Districts allow command and control of any District's ITS devices and system to be shifted to another District in cases where hurricane landfall near an RTMC is imminent. This means that the ITS devices can be used, as long as they maintain power and communications, while the local RTMC is evacuated and that local RTMC personnel can return to the RTMC after the hurricane has passed. Even though most District's RTMCs are rated for Category 2 and Category 3 storms, it is operationally advantageous to have the ability to shift control to other RTMCs so that personnel can take shelter with their families, if needed.

Two of the larger projects we have been coordinating with for the past several years are the I-295 East Beltway Express Lanes and the I-10/I-95 Interchange Improvements (Your 10&95) Project. These projects are wrapping



**ITS CONSTRUCTION continued**

up construction activities and contract related tasks will be completed in the next several months. With the amount of work that these projects included and the amount of time that it has taken to complete the Construction, there has been significant involvement by our group. We appreciate the efforts of the CEI Consultants and Contractor staffs to keep the ITS System operational at almost 100% availability throughout both of these projects. Congratulations to both Project Teams for getting these massive projects completed and making it easier for motorists to travel through and around Jacksonville.

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

TCD is still working on the Mathews Bridge project, where they are installing (2) CCTV cameras, one camera on each end of the bridge so DOT can have visual coverage. This should be completed in the next few weeks.

This upcoming quarter TCD and FDOT will be working with COJ to install more Bosch CCTV cameras on arterial roads. These CCTV cameras will be installed on existing COJ infrastructures for more visibility throughout D2's rights-of-way. We would like to begin this project by starting at Beach Blvd and Atlantic Blvd. We will then move to other arterials after we compile a list of possible locations.

See you next quarter!

**ITS MAINTENANCE**

It has been a busy quarter for ITS maintenance. Here are a few things TCD has been tackling this quarter.

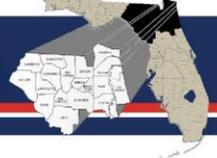
TCD has been pushing through installing more cameras in D2's Rest Areas for the VADE TPAS system. The following Rest Areas are completed: Baker County Rest Areas EB and WB, Hamilton Rest Area and Nassau County Welcome Center. The next rest area on the list will be Madison County Rest Area EB and WB. Finally, TCD has replaced all the solar chargers for the CCTV cameras along SR 202/Butler Blvd and since the replacement of the solar chargers, the cameras have been working and we have had only minimal issues on some units because of multiple days of cloud coverage. Thanks to TCD for getting these units back online and operational.

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

**OPERATIONS**

Hurricane Season begins on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Some of you might think that the RTMC Staff just monitor for any potential storms that could be coming our way, but that is far from our real life. In the month of May, we send out an email to all of our Staff to check on their availability Pre-Storm, Imminent Storm (these are the folks who come and stay 24/7 at the RTMC) and Post-Storm. We remind all about having an Emergency Preparedness Plan for their loved ones, pets and their homes.

We have multiple air mattresses for the Imminent Storm Staff, so we make sure that



**OPERATIONS continued**

the air mattresses have no leaks and that the electric inflator works! Though our state of the art facility has generators that are regularly checked throughout the year, we check our flashlights and batteries.

Next, the big grocery store run for all of the non-perishable items so that breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks are available for Staff.

We coordinate with the Duval County EOC (Emergency Operations Center) to insure that our Management Staff have access, as we have one Staff Member embedded at the EOC at all times for coordination between the EOC and the RTMC.

Checks are made on our Satellite phones, on the Master Hub Generators (TCD) and on all of our Wind and Water Level Devices. The RWIS (Road Weather Information System) provides wind meters on all of our major bridges that monitor wind speeds to let us know when the sustained wind speeds exceed 45 mph and the bridge must be closed until the winds subside. This is one of our best tools instead of the old days of having a police officer at the top the bridge monitoring wind speeds with a hand-held anemometer.

Check out the photo gallery to see Hurricane Prep in action!

Our employees of the month this past quarter were:

- January: Breanna Cranford
- February: Amanda Hedrick
- March: Gracie Cranford

It's always tough to pick just one staff member each month as all do a great job, but some go beyond to help out! Congratulations!

From January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 District 2 had Ten RISC (Rapid Incident Scene Clearance) events. The RTMC Staff worked a total of 16,815 events with 6,926 utilizing DMS. Of those events, 3,125 were crashes. There was a total of 11,833 Road Ranger events.

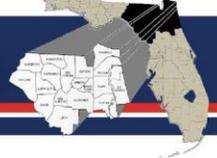
**Connect. Know. Go!**  
**What are you waiting for? Use FL511!**

**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 **March 15, 2022**, 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 the decorative handrail is being installed on the Shared Use Path Bridge. There is continuing work on Ramp T which goes from I-95 NB to I-10 WB and advised that there would be no daytime lane closures but will continue to have nighttime lane closures. He was then followed by Daryl Goss for the Construction Project Updates where he mentioned there will be detours on San Pablo Road at JTB while the



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

Diverging Diamond Interchange is completed. The widening project from I-95 to I-295 is experiencing lane shifts going both eastbound and westbound to make room for widening of the bridges. He also advised that the I-295 Express lanes are close to opening.

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 the Truck Parking Availability System (TPAS) project which is currently wrapping up District-wide. He also stated that they have requested information regarding fiber optic cables and connections from the contractor for the Buckman Bridge ATMS project.

Mr. Jason Evans stated that Central Office is in the process of a major update in the FL511 app to make it as handsfree as possible, with possible voice activation. The updated app will also have a search by location feature to see the status of traffic at your destination along with a saved map view. He mentioned that these features will be available to all users, but it would be beneficial for users to be logged into their accounts for the information to be saved properly. The TMC has also been testing a beta version of the updated app over the last month, which should be rolling out soon. Mr. Evans also stated that the TMC is currently preparing for hurricane season as March and April are usually the time they start updating the documentation.

The next First Coast Traffic Incident Management Team meeting is scheduled to be

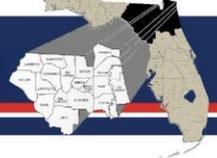
held virtually on **May 17, 2022**, at 10:00 A.M. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to send someone else who could represent your agency. We look forward to seeing you there!

**ALACHUA BRADFORD TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE**

The Alachua-Bradford Traffic Incident Management Team meeting held its latest bi-monthly meeting virtually on **February 9, 2022**, 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.

The TEAM then proceeded with the Emergency Operations Update given by Ms. Amber Brock, who stated that the sea is quiet and that her team is starting to prep for the upcoming hurricane season.

Ms. Carrie Stanbridge then gave the maintenance operations update, stating that there are new asset maintenance contractors in place for I-75 and I-10 on the westside of the district. She also stated that the rest areas, weigh stations, weight facilities, static facilities, and welcome centers are all under a new asset maintenance contractor.



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

Mr. Craig Carnes and Mr. Jason Evans then jumped right into the ITS/511/TMC updates where they informed the group that although the Truck Parking Availability System (TPAS) is close to being wrapped up, they are still experiencing some issues with the devices. In the meantime, the TMC is performing manual counts to ensure the signs are as accurate as possible until the contractor fixes the issues with the devices. Mr. Evans went on to discuss the new FL511 app that has many new handsfree features, such as voice-activation, to keep drivers off the phones on the roads. A beta version of the app has been released that is being tested and it is performing well so far.

The next Alachua-Bradford Traffic Incident Management Team meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on **June 8, 2022**, at 10:00 A.M. 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.

**I 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).

**TEAM MISSION:**

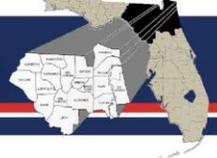
*The Florida Department of Transportation District Two's Traffic Incident Management Teams through partnering efforts strive to continuously reduce incident scene clearance times to deter congestion and improve safety. The Teams' objective is to exceed the Open Roads Policy thus ensuring mobility, economic 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**

While the world has been busy trying to adjust to the new normal of coming out on the other side of a 2-year pandemic, the District 2 Road Rangers have remained a constant with their ability to assist the motorists of our roadways. 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 operate eighteen routes in District 2, including six routes that provide 24/7 coverage across the district. From January 1, 2022, through March 31, 2022, the District 2 Road Rangers assisted with an average of 3,758 events per month, which is significantly lower than the previous quarter's average of 4,226.

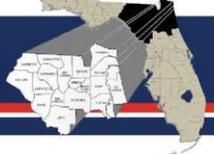
Each month our Rangers attend a mandatory Safety Training where safe practices are continuously echoed through presentation and instruction. These meetings are held in both Jacksonville and Gainesville to ensure that this training has resonated with all our Road Rangers across the board. It is critical 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 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, tire changes, minor emergency repairs and providing short term maintenance of

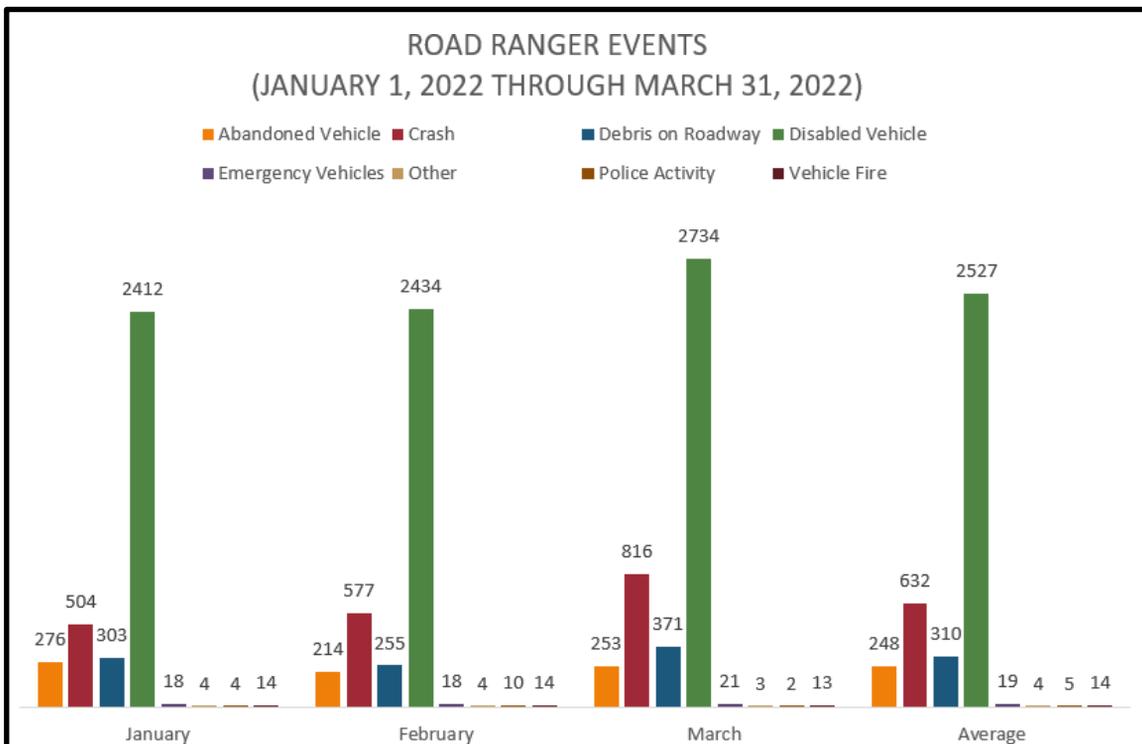
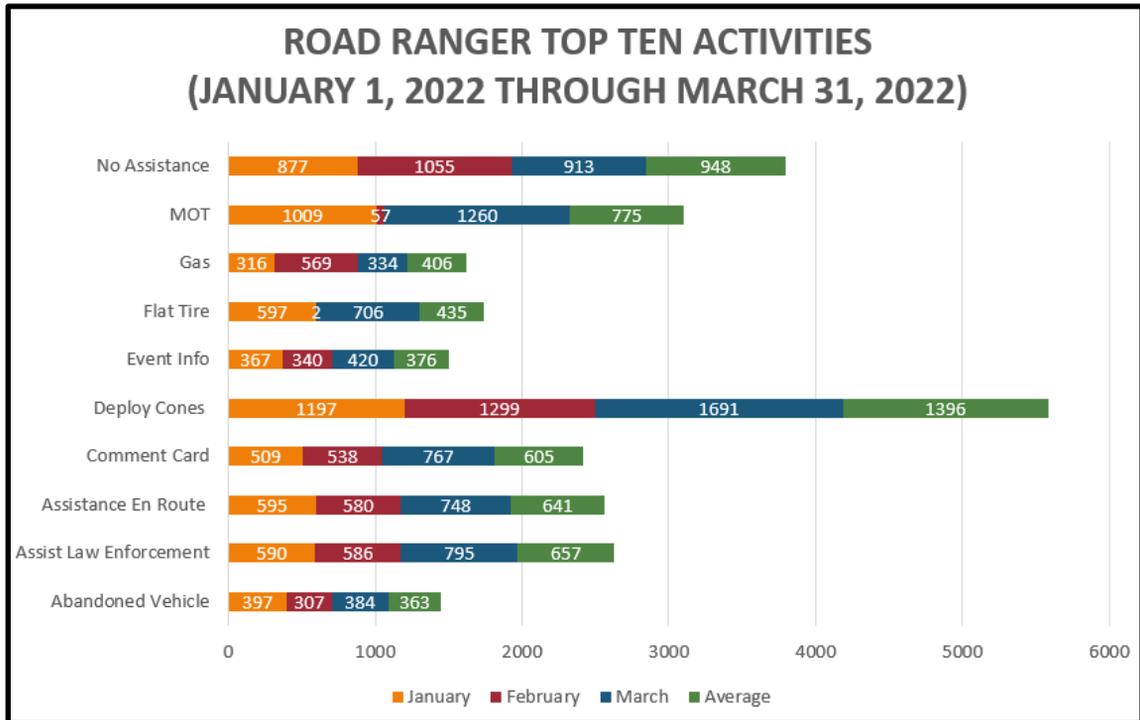
traffic. During the past three months (January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022), the roadway clearance duration has averaged about 54.6 minutes, the incident clearance duration averaged approximately 77.6 minutes and the open roads duration averaged approximately 47.8 minutes.

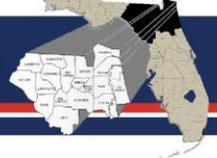
The following charts show all event types that the Road Rangers have responded to from January 1, 2022, through March 31, 2022, along with some of the main activities performed when responding to these events. The Road Rangers primarily responded to crashes, debris events and disabled vehicles, and their 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 16.8% crashes, 67.2% disabled vehicles, 8.2% debris events and 6.6% abandoned vehicles. Although there was a slight decrease in the number of Road Ranger responding events from the previous quarter, there was a 19% increase in the number of Road Ranger responding events from February to March. This is likely due to spring breakers traveling to the state throughout the month of March.





## ROAD RANGER UPDATE continued





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

The Rapid Incident Scene Clearance (RISC) program is a highly innovative program that supports the Florida’s Open Roads Policy goal of safely clearing major highway incidents and truck crashes within 90 minutes or less. The RISC Contractor has the responsibility to respond to the incident within 60 minutes of the request to activation request. Once on scene and provided a Notice to Proceed by the lead official on scene, the vendor will have 90 minutes to open the travel lanes for traffic. If the proper equipment arrives on scene within 60 minutes and the towing company clears the travels lanes within 90 minutes, the RISC Contractor is eligible for a bonus.

Over the past three months, District 2 has utilized RISC ten times in Alachua, Baker, Columbia, Duval, and Suwannee counties. This program is extremely valuable and essential to roadway clearance times, especially during peak travel time periods. Below you will find the details of the RISC events located here in District 2 from January 1, 2022, through March 31, 2022.

Date	Time	Location	Description
1/5/2022	11:24:00 PM	Duval on I-10 Eastbound, Before between Lenox Ave/McDuff Ave	Crash involving two semi-trucks and two passenger vehicles. Approximately 80+ gallons of fuel was reporting to have leaked out.
1/10/2022	1:14:00 PM	Duval on I-95 Northbound, Before Beaver St	Crash involving tanker vs. car. Tanker rolled over after collision and cab of tanker caught on fire. All lanes were blocked, and Hazmat was called out due to fuel leak.
1/12/2022	8:56:00 AM	Duval on I-29 W Southbound, Beyond between I-95 NB/MM 34	Crash involving semi-truck which rolled over, blocking all travel lanes.
1/28/2022	5:43:00 AM	Suwannee on I-75 Southbound, At SR-136	Crash involving a semi-truck which rear ended another semi-truck. This caused the semi in the back to travel northwest across the center and left lanes, and overturn onto its passenger side before hitting the guardrail in the center median. The truck then caught fire and was completely engulfed.
2/10/2022	10:17:00 AM	Baker on I-10 Eastbound, At CR-125	Crash involving a truck hauling dry concrete mix, traveling eastbound on I-10 in the left lane which overturned due to another vehicle shifting into the truck’s lane. The truck then swerved to the left, went off the roadway, overturned and collided with the guardrail. The HAZMAT team was called to clean up a 50-gallon fuel spill resulting from the crash.
3/7/2022	5:12:00 PM	Alachua on I-75 Northbound, At US-441	Crash involving nine vehicles which sent eight people to the hospital. Nearly 300 gallons of diesel fuel was spilled. All three northbound lanes at the exit were blocked.
3/14/2022	1:01:00 PM	Columbia on I-10 Eastbound, at US-441	Crash involving multiple semi-trucks with all lanes blocked.
3/16/2022	6:19:00 AM	Duval on I-10 Eastbound, Before MM 341	Crash involving an overturned semi-truck with all lanes blocked.
3/22/2022	5:50:00 AM	Duval on I-10 Westbound, Beyond MM 353	Crash involving two vehicles and one semi-truck which overturned. All lanes were blocked.
3/24/2022	9:22:00 AM	Columbia on I-10 Westbound, Beyond MM 301	A crash involving an overturned semi-truck. All EB lanes were blocked, and one WB left lane was blocked.

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

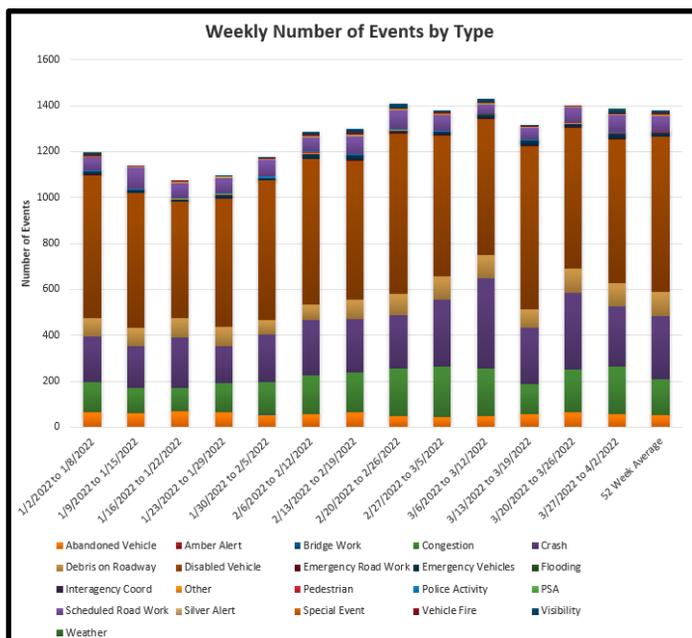


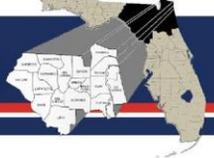
**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

With the first few months of 2022 under our belts, we are starting to regain a sense of normalcy in our lives with the majority of schools being back to in-person classes, and workers heading back to the offices. The year has been a breath of fresh air so far, and we are hopeful it keeps that momentum throughout the remainder of the year. Throughout the last two years, the Road Rangers have proven to be resilient with the ever-changing world, and there is no doubt that they are an essential asset to our District 2 roadways.

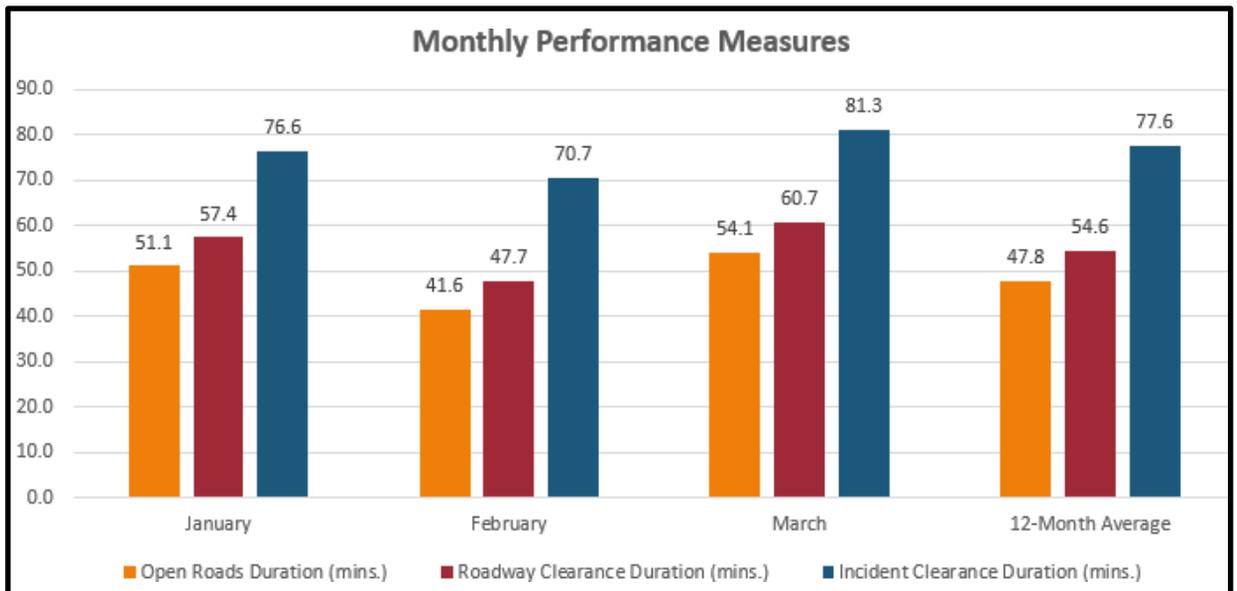
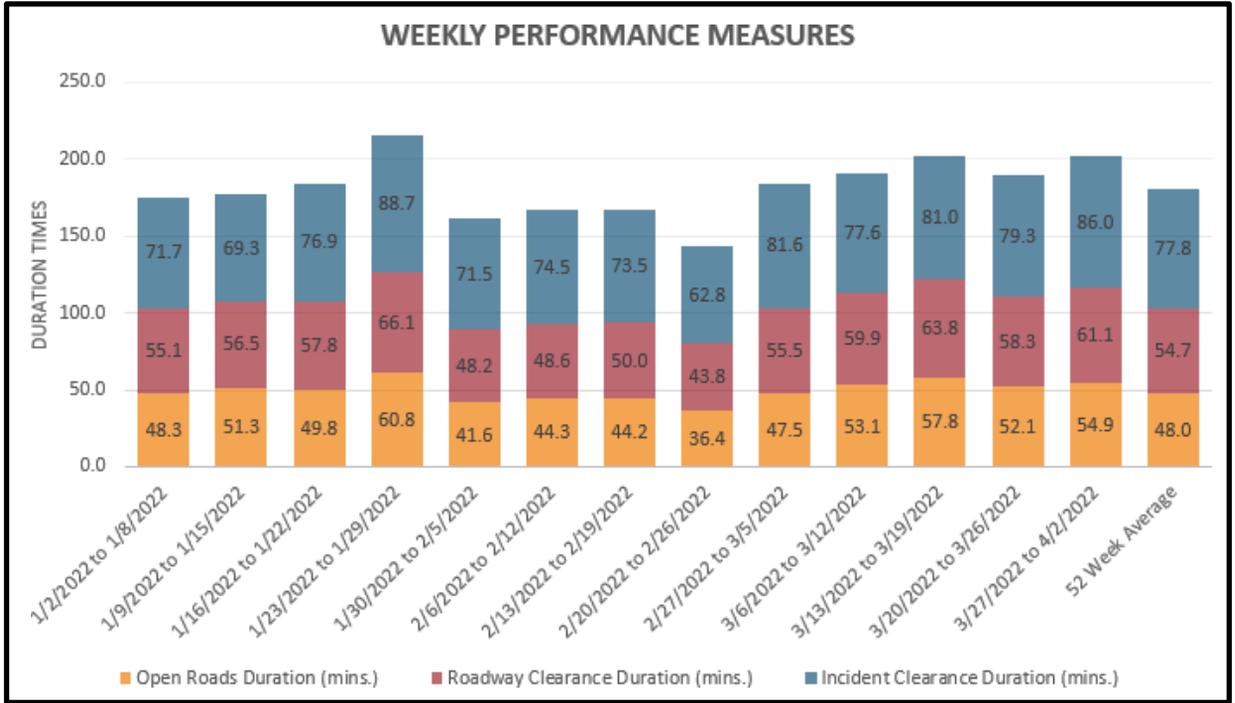
Looking at the charts following, we can see that the Road Rangers responded to an average of 247 crashes per week in District 2 from January 1, 2022, to March 31, 2022. This number is representative of the average number of total crashes that the Road Rangers have assisted with and is lower than the 52-week average of 276 crashes, accounting for a decrease of 10.5%. Congestion events have also increased by 5% when compared to the 52-week average. The Road Rangers saw a spike in the number of crashes in March, most likely due to the influx of spring breakers entering the State of Florida.

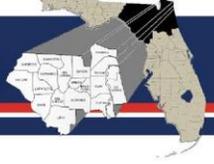
The average clearance duration times for the past three months have stayed well below the 90-minute goal, as seen in the charts below. From January 1, 2022, through March 31, 2022, District 2 has average approximately 48.9 minutes for our Open Roads Duration time, 55.3 minutes for our Roadway Clearance time, and 76.2 minutes for our Incident Clearance time. These performance measures are very similar to our yearly average of 47.8 minutes for the Open Roads Duration time, 54.6 minutes for the Roadway Clearance Duration, and 77.6 for Incident Clearance Duration.





**PERFORMANCE MEASURES continued**





## **MARKETING**

The first quarter of 2022 has been a busy one. Our calendar was filled with marketing events as Covid restrictions gradually began to lift. We kicked off the new year with a visit to the I-95 Welcome Center in Yulee for their Florida Showcase. We joined a dozen other vendors January 28th as hundreds of visitors flocked across the state line to enjoy some of our Florida sunshine. The lobby was filled to capacity and we personally spoke to 317 motorists that day, many even downloading the FL511 app on the spot in anticipation of heavy travel volumes throughout the state.

Our travels also took us to three separate schools this month. Paxon School for Advanced Studies hosted a campus-wide wellness event in their beautiful courtyard. Students came during their lunch break to hear safety messages and learn about the benefits of Florida 511. Keiser University also welcomed us onto their campus where we were able to share the 511 message with 81 students and faculty members. Then the University of North Florida played host to the military's annual Tri-Base Job Fair where applicants learned how the FL511 app can help them make it to that next job interview on time!

Perhaps one of the biggest and most anticipated events we participated in was Construction Career Days. This three-day event at the Jacksonville Equestrian Center brought a total of 2,824 students into our exhibit area! We also had a Learning Lab where students learned firsthand how a drone can facilitate traffic management efforts.

Rounding out the month of March we visited Florida State College at Jacksonville's Advanced Technology Center. This marked the first time since early 2020 that we had stepped onto their campus. They, like most other organizations, had suspended all of their campus activities when Covid came calling. Needless to say, we are over the moon with all of these in-person events popping up around the city. We almost can't add them to our calendar fast enough.

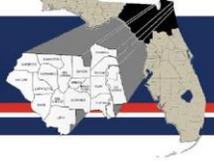
Whether you're heading to work or to the lake house, make sure your trip begins and ends with FL511. We'll keep you up-to-date on current road conditions. FL511 is available in a variety of platforms. You can log onto [FL511.com](https://www.fl511.com), download one of the free FL511 Mobile Apps available 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...LISA SPARLING**  
**METRIC ENGINEERING**

**Talk about your upbringing – where were you born/raised?**

I was born in an Army hospital in Fort Leonard, Wood, Missouri. At the age of 3 my family moved us to Chicago, Illinois where I would spend the rest of my adolescent years.

In Chicago I grew up with my dad, mother and sister until the age of fourteen, then it was my mom, me, stepdad and stepbrother. Another example of life changing and us with it.

I enjoyed Chicago because of the change of seasons. The snow, sledding, and the food were things that I grew up loving. In high school I also enjoyed running. I was on the Rolling Meadows track team. I obviously never made a career out of it but this is where I made a lot of my friendships. Even though you can meet friends anywhere the best part of growing up in Chicago was the friendships that I made. I still keep in touch with some of those friends but life changes as we get older. They have their life and I have mine.

**Early Career and/or brief job history:**

Out of high school I went to Travel Agent school, then became a Corporate travel agent for BTI America where I worked directly onsite for Comdisco. I liked the client interaction and that there was something new every day. Some tasks may not seem grandeur to others. However, I enjoy researching, planning and organizing events.

When I had my first child, Taylor Leksander, I decided to become a stay at home mother. I felt it was important that I was there for her in her early years. I then continued my journey as a stay at home mom once I had my second

daughter Tiffany Leksander. Then most of my son's (Ryan Sparling) earlier years were also spent at home with him. I felt a lot of satisfaction doing this for my kids. Then in April 2014 I was offered a position with Metric Engineering and the rest is history.

**Tell us a little about your current role as Administrative Assistant with FDOT/Metric Engineering, Inc. How long have you been at your current job?**

I have been at Metric Engineering for 8 years. I work onsite at the Jacksonville North Florida Regional Transportation Management Center. As an Administrative Assistant I have a wide variety of daily tasks. Some include processing the RTMC bills, Road Ranger Audits, Cost Center 263 audit and multiple other tasks that help the Traffic Operations team fill any gaps that are needed. I enjoy the people that I work with and the different challenges that it brings every day.

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

I really enjoyed being a travel agent. However, it's not what it used to be because people have changed the way they travel due to technology. I also really enjoyed being a stay at home mother because it allowed me to be close to my kids. I would have to rank this job my 3<sup>rd</sup> favorite. With that said, it's a really good 3<sup>rd</sup> favorite.

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

I'm not really sure who told me, but somewhere I picked up a drive to never give up. As general and cliché as it might be, it's really a sound principle.

Continued on following page



## **SPOTLIGHT ON...LISA SPARLING** **METRIC ENGINEERING Continued**

### **Favorite lunch spot close to work? Or delivery item through Uber Eats and Grubhub?**

I usually bring my lunch to work. However, if I had to choose I'd have to say Chick-fil-A. It's pretty self-explanatory. Their food is awesome.

### **The zombie apocalypse is coming, what three items do you grab from your house to take with you and why?**

My Shoes – So my feet look cute.

My Purses – To carry more shoes.

My Family – To carry my shoes and purses, and my husband will grab the important stuff.

### **Brag a little on your family. We'd love to hear about your husband and kids and what they're up to these days.**

Jeremy (Husband) – My husband is a kind man who seems to always have our family's best interests in mind. He recently took a new position with Express Supply, which he seems to be enjoying. I don't really know what he does but he seems to be doing a good job and I am proud of that.

Taylor (Daughter) - 3<sup>rd</sup> year in college (FSU). She's doing excellent keeping up her grades while working as a nanny for a nice family. She

recently took on an internship doing online marketing which is one of her Majors.

Tiffany (Daughter) – Is graduating high school this year and has recently committed to the University of South Florida. We are so proud of her.

Ryan (Son)– Loves basketball and we enjoy watching him play at the Above facility in St. Johns County. Currently, he participates in 3v3 league and is enjoying himself.

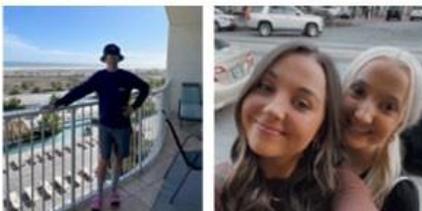
Outside of my family's successes, when we get a chance to get everyone together, we enjoy each other. We enjoy going to concerts, boating, four wheeling and dining out.

### **If you could buy an island, what location would you pick and why?**

Amber Cove (Dominican Republic) - I love how beautiful the beaches are and the island has a nice tiki bar at the top of the mountain. Once you reach the top you could cool off with a refreshing drink and enjoy the gorgeous view.

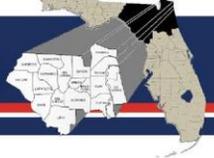
### **If you could travel back in time to meet anyone, who would it be?**

Michael Jordan again. He's always been my favorite athlete and will always be the **GOAT**.



*Lisa & her beautiful family, I'm thinking that this picture is at the top of Amber Cove!*





**PHOTO GALLERY**  
**HURRICANE PREP**



Hot showers! ✓



Generators and fuel ✓



Network ready ✓



Hurricane Contract Reviews ✓

(r) 1 of 3 food Shopping loads (non perishable) ✓



Air Mattresses! ✓

(r) Evacuation routes & ESU (Emergency Shoulder Use) procedure review ✓



"Pete Hurricane Jinx"- leaving on cruise 3 days before Hurricane development





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

May 17, 2022                      July 19, 2022  
September 20, 2022          November 15, 2022

**Alachua/Bradford TIM Team**

FDOT Gainesville Operations Office  
5301 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL  
352.381.4300  
10:00am-11:30am

June 8, 2022                      August 10, 2022  
October 12, 2022              December 14, 2022

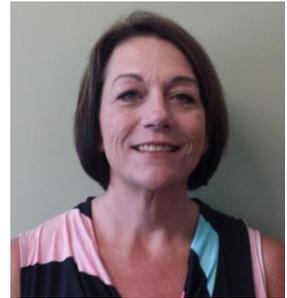
**FDOT DISTRICT 2 ITS STAFF**



**Peter Vega, District 2**  
Transportation Systems Management  
& Operations Program Manager  
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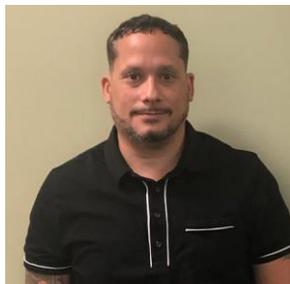
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