

## **TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT MEETING MINUTES**

**State Police Academy Room 317  
May 3, 2013, 10:00 a.m.**

**Colonel W. Steven Flaherty welcomed members and provided the framework by which the committee will operate:**

- The committee will have no authority to mandate beyond the authority that we hold in our own organizations and agencies.
- We will not enforce any mandates, funded or unfunded.
- The way we will get our work done is through our individual organizations, and we collectively drive that philosophy and ideology based on the decisions we make here.

**Colonel Flaherty presented the history of the committee:**

### **2010**

- Our actual start was in August 2010.
- The National Uniform Goal (NUG) for traffic incident management were at the heart of the discussion.
- In September, 2010, the committee recommended accepting and promoting the National Unified Goals in the general sense and to use those goals as our structure.
- Virginia State Police Captains and First Sergeants were asked to participate in existing local Traffic Incident Management (TIMs) groups or create local TIMs groups where none existed.
- The First Sergeants reported back to Colonel Flaherty on committee meetings and what goes on concerning Traffic Incident Management.
- In December 2010 the committee reported their findings to the Secretary of Public Safety about Traffic Incident Management (TIMs).

### **2011**

- In January, 2011, a meeting was held with Federal Highways to discuss the Strategic Highway Research Project training which led to Virginia being selected as a pilot state for the SHRP II TIMs project.
- We met again in September 2011, primarily to review a newly created Traffic Incident Management (TIMs) Plan.
- An initial draft of the TIMs Plan was developed and reviewed. The final draft is in your handouts. Please review and give Colonel Flaherty feedback, if you feel additional changes are needed.

### **2012 to Present**

- SHRP II Training pilot was conducted at the State Police Training Academy in June 2012.
- Additionally, in June 2012, we developed Executive Order documents. This was submitted to the Secretary of Public Safety in October, and was approved on December 31, 2012.
- The TIMs Training Oversight Subcommittee was formed to ensure the SHRP II training was effectively implemented and managed.
- The Resolution and Executive Order both moved forward and were enacted and that is what brings us to today.

**Colonel Flaherty presented Executive Order 58 and Senate Joint Resolution 277:**

- Executive Order 58 is a directive from the Governor formally creating this advisory committee of public safety leaders and transportation experts who are committed to the management of traffic incidents (copy attached).
- It discusses what the problems are, and the next to last page discusses the formulation of the committee.
- Senate Joint Resolution No. 277 (copy attached) contains much of the same information. The difference is this document comes from the General Assembly.
- It presents the three National Unified Goals for TIMs which are *quick, safe clearance, responder safety, and interoperable communications*.
- In referring to line 59, we will be using voluntary cooperation as our tool.
- We are required by the Secretary of Public Safety to have a document prepared on what we have done to accomplish our mandate.

**Lieutenant F. Daniel Glick presented the Training Oversight Subcommittee SHRP II training report:**

- In early 2012, Virginia was selected as a pilot program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Highway Research Project (SHRP II).
- The benefits of the Strategic Highway Research Project include:
  - Unified, multi-disciplinary approach which promotes more effective incident response.
  - Emphasizes the NUG Concepts (responder safety, quick clearance, and better communications).
  - 12 and 4-hour classes (We are currently focusing on the 4-hour classes).
  - 11 training modules with table top scenarios.
  - Forces all disciplines to work out differences in the classroom instead of at the scene.
- In June of 2012, we had 34 original trainers. In March of 2013, we added 13 additional trainers. We currently have 40 active trainers.

VSP	16
VDFP	9
Local Fire/Rescue/L. E./E. 911	8
VDOT	6

- Due the limited number of trainers on several regions, the Training Oversight Committee is planning three more supplemental “train the trainer” events this fall in Hampton (August), Fairfax County (September), and Dublin (October).
- Training was slow and rocky at first as trainers determined their roles and responsibilities.
- There have been 16 training programs with 400 people were being trained during the first four months of this year.
- Significant training is scheduled for May and June across the Commonwealth.
- Feedback from the field has been very positive and the table top exercises are what brings it all together. People reported that the classes are very helpful.
- Concerns:
  - Need support for training classes. Limited success in metropolitan areas (Divisions 1, 5 and 7).
  - Shortage of trainers in Division 4 and 7 (need VDOT, OEMS and local trainers).
  - Need funds to purchase table top matchbox car kits.
- Colonel Flaherty mentioned the Driver Training Complex, and it may be a good place to do practical exercises as well as a good place to hold some of these training sessions.

#### **Colonel Flaherty presented the final Traffic Incident Management Plan Draft:**

- This plan defines roles of the stakeholders, and was first put together in September 2011.
- There are some applicable statutory references, definitions of incidents and classifications of incidents, and strategies and tactics.
- This is not a procedures manual. It is a statement of goals, roles, strategies and objectives.
- Please review and provide your feedback to Colonel Flaherty by June 7, or e-mail us that you have no feedback.

#### **Colonel Flaherty discussed the goal of linking this committee to the local TIMs committees:**

- We need to put together an introductory letter or document on a plan to go out to introduce ourselves on what we are all about and our goals.
- A copy will be sent to each of you to share with your associations and agencies.
- We will present copies to the leaders of the local TIMs committees
- We need to talk about training, demonstrate our philosophy, and help at local levels. Opportunity is a starting point to broader involvement.
- We need to be consistent with our Unified National Goals (NUG) which are *quick clearance, responder time, and interoperable communications*.

**Colonel Flaherty discussed the creation of 3 TIMs workgroups/subcommittees:**

- Requested that members think about delegating someone from their agency or association to help with following three work groups. Please let Colonel Flaherty know by June 7 if you or someone in your organization or agency would be interested in serving on any of the following groups. The group size will be four or five:
  - Responder Safety Workgroup—Identify roadway hazards. Emphasis on using safety equipment. Vehicle lighting, etc.
  - Best Practices Workgroup—Look at the implementation of best practices for traffic incident management in Virginia
  - Communications Workgroup—Radio communications, car-to-car, and dispatch. This will be a larger group with technical expertise.

**The following comments were made by members of the committee:**

- It was stated that dealing with the media is a challenge, especially for our dispatchers. The communication centers are being asked questions during events and knowing how much information to give can be tricky.
- Colonel Flaherty stated the State Police is fortunate to have a Public Relations Office and that media relationship is an important part of the process. They can be an ally in traffic incident management. We need to expand the discussion of the media.
- A comment was made that technology, such as smart phones, will be a big key in helping first responders in the future

**Recap:**

- Promote NUG concepts through our associations and agencies.
- Employ the NUG concepts in our TIMs Philosophy.
- Promote membership on the local TIMS committees.
- Establish three work groups – communications, best practices, and responder safety.
- Create an introductory letter to local committees and distribution of documents.

**Colonel Flaherty will be in touch with committee members in scheduling the next meeting to be held in October or the first of November. He adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.**