

# CORRIDOR PROJECT NEWS



For the Southern Traffic Incident eXchange

December 2010

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## Expanded Road Ranger service patrol coverage in FL

Florida's Treasure Coast, made up of Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties, is the northern most portion of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four. Recently, FDOT expanded its Road Ranger safety patrol service, a very welcome program by both motorists and incident responders, to cover the 71 centerline miles of I-95 in this area.

The FDOT District Four Road Ranger program is contract based, with the Treasure Coast contract awarded to Anchor Towing. The contract is for five years of service and cost \$1.6M per year. Anchor Towing is responsible for providing 11 trucks (nine on the road and two spare) and for training for their staff. The fleet of pick-up trucks is subject to inspection by District Four's Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV) Team. Each truck is inspected twice monthly to make sure it is fully equipped and in optimal running condition.

FDOT decided to expand the program into the Treasure Coast as part of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) deployment in the region, but also because of the increasing population. Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) counts are as high as

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Road Ranger Service Patrol Truck

## Inclement winter weather coordination



Winter 2010 in Suwanee, GA

Winter—and the strong winds, ice, sleet, and snow that come with it—is just around the corner. To help prepare for inclement winter weather, the I-95 Corridor Coalition is hosting a webinar for representatives from all four southern states in January 2011.

The webinar will help to coordinate inclement winter weather plans in each state, and the discussion will lead to a preventative four-state snow storm plan. Watch your email for the webinar announcement. ■

### Stakeholder Input

Do you have regional news or pictures to include in the next STIX newsletter?

Has your TMC expanded its coverage area?

Do you think your TMC could benefit from an AAR or additional outreach?

If so, please contact  
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# Road Rangers, Cont.

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65,000 in some areas of the Treasure Coast, which is more rural than the other parts of District Four (such as Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach). While the Road Rangers do offer motorist assistance, their primary function is incident management, including supporting emergency responders. For example, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Troopers are given an additional line of safety, benefit from the maintenance of traffic (MOT) that Road Rangers are trained to provide, and in many cases, are relieved from roadway incidents faster so they can respond to others.

Within the first four weeks of service, the Treasure Coast Road Rangers accumulated the following statistics:

- 1,291 events reported
- 45 crashes
- 183 debris calls
- 792 disabled vehicles
- 153 other calls

“The Road Rangers have been helpful in so many ways,” said Trooper Joseph Bullock, FHP Troop L, Fort Pierce. “My experience as a Trooper has given me an insight to how dangerous working near a roadway can be and I take officer safety and the safety of others very seriously while I am performing my duties,” he continued. “The implementation of the Road Ranger program is an extension of the FHP family and every Trooper will do their best to protect the Road Rangers while they conduct their business as I know they will do the same for us.”

Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Tim Frith said the Road Rangers provide a tremendous service, particularly in assisting disabled motorists and removing debris from the highway.

“It frees us up. You need law enforcement officers going after those aggressive drivers and DUI offenders,” Frith said. “I can’t tell you the difference they’ve made in removing some really weird objects from the roadway. They’re out there all the time and doing a great job for us.”

Treasure Coast Road Rangers will be patrolling 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday. Performance measures and additional program details are available [online](#). For more information, contact Gaetano Francese, District Four Freeway Operations Manager, by [email](#) or at 954-847-2785. ■



Road Ranger Service Patrol Truck

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## Did you know?

The 16 states through which I-95 travels account for:



- \$4.7 trillion of the US economy, or 40% of the GDP
- 21% of the nation’s road miles
- 35% of the nation’s vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- 565 million long-distance trips (>100 miles) annually
- 5.3 billion tons of freight shipments annually

## Southern HOGs meet in Georgia

On October 26, the Southern Highway Operations Group, or HOGs, had their annual meeting in Athens, GA. All four STIX states were represented by 13 attendees from GDOT, SCDOT, NCDOT, FHWA, the Professional Wrecker Operators of Florida, Inc. (PWOFF), and Delcan Corporation. This annual meeting immediately followed the Metro Atlanta TIME Task Force’s 2010 Annual Conference.

After an overview of the I-95 Corridor Coalition Project Idea Form process (found [here](#)), the Southern HOGs received updates from the Coalition, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

These face-to-face meetings are vital to establishing relationships, cooperation, and coordination among the southern states. The group’s discussions always foster new ideas, and this meeting was no exception: the Southern HOGs latest innovation is the winter weather webinar that was announced earlier in this newsletter. ■

## Coalition Hosts Successful NUG Summit

The I-95 Corridor Coalition held a highly successful Summit on the National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management on September 21-22 near Baltimore, MD. In attendance were 156 multidisciplinary traffic incident response field representatives from 84 federal, state, regional, and local entities. More than 150 additional people participated in a FHWA-provided nationwide webinar, which broadcasted the September 21 speaker presentations.

Sponsored by the Coalition, with co-hosts Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition (NTIMC), the Summit focused on the three major NUG objectives:

- responder safety
- safe, quick clearance
- prompt, reliable interoperable communications

All NUG Summit presentations are available [here](#).