

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT TASK FORCE

The TIME Task Force started in 2002 to facilitate a dialogue of inter-agency coordination and cooperation amongst agencies responding to highway emergencies such as Police, Fire, Haz-Mat, Towers, etc. The TIME Task Force is dedicated to creating opportunities for multi-agency training that promotes teamwork and serves as a platform for participants to develop common operation strategies and a better understanding of other agencies' roles and responsibilities.



TIME's mission is to develop and sustain a region-wide incident management program that facilitates the safest and fastest roadway clearance, lessening the impact on emergency responders and the motoring public. The purpose of the TIME Task Force is three-fold:

1. To continue the dialogue on ways to improve inter-agency coordination and cooperation.
2. To create an opportunity for multi-agency training that promotes teamwork.
3. To serve as a platform for participants to develop common operational strategies and a better understanding of other agencies' roles and responsibilities.

The underlying objectives of TIME's programs and outreach are in line with the widely accepted National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management – responder safety; safe, quick clearance; and prompt, reliable and interoperable communications. TIME is working with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to seek available federal funding to assist in completing its training and outreach program objectives. The following goals represent the ongoing efforts pursued by TIME's Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen and volunteers:

Communications	
TIME Brochure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete an updated color brochure highlighting TIME's mission and purpose
Reference Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete a double-sided quick reference card for law enforcement and first responders ■ Highlight vehicle placement and traffic control ■ Emphasize scene safety / vests
Meeting Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase attendance at TIME functions ■ Offer hour-long training before or after quarterly meetings to boost attendance
Link to TIM Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Coordinate promotion of TIME with likeminded TIM organizations, including promotion of website
E911 / Dispatcher Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Secure training opportunities / info outreach covering TIME, TIM, TRIP

Operations	
Secondary Incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create firm definition ▪ Compile available data for review / comparison ▪ Propose actionable solutions aimed at limiting impacts (including fatalities / injuries)
Freight / TIM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate the integration of TIM and related safety initiatives with freight carriers and logistics providers
Consistent Commute Times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use existing data to establish current times ▪ Propose actionable solutions aimed at ensuring more consistent times
National TIM Outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure TIME programs / initiatives sync with national TIM efforts

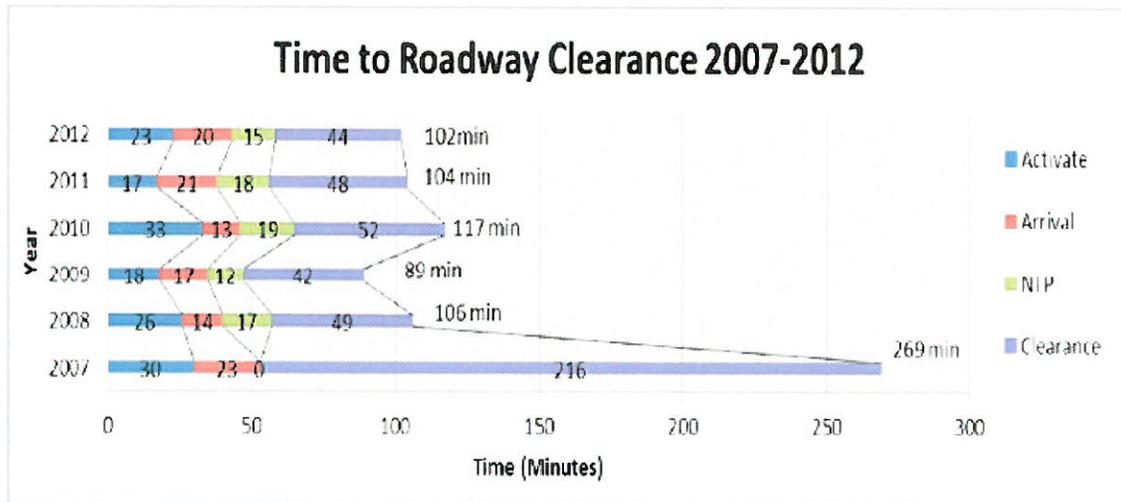
Programs	
Annual Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist in finalizing conference agenda and associated planning ▪ Create dynamic program to involve unique training (as requested by survey respondents)
National TIM Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek local and national opportunities for TIME speakers / reps to participate
TIME Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish defined TIME membership, including incentives and Open Roads signing requirements
Private-Sector Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish lists and make contact with private-sector organizations to contact for funding, sponsorship and speaking opportunities (including quarterly meetings, annual conference)
National TIM Outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure TIME programs / initiatives sync with national TIM efforts

Training	
Agency Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage training officers in law enforcement, fire, HERO, EMS, E911 / dispatchers ▪ Secure more SHRP2, TIM training opportunities (including TIM Teams) ▪ Secure support from command staff at all involved agencies ▪ Provide training on estimating roadway clearance times
Hazmat List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct training / raise awareness of TIME-created list of metro hazmat providers
Training Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to pursue available federal and private funding to support TIME training initiatives
Freight / TIM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate the integration of TIM and related safety initiatives with freight carriers and logistics providers

Other TIME Initiatives	
Open Roads Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand metro-area signees Extend to secure signees outside of metro Atlanta
Interoperable Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline of existing conditions with metro area Create recommendations to realize improved on-scene communications
Statewide TIME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend TIME to other parts of the state
TRIP Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convert TRIP activation criteria into an easy-to-download format
Equipment Giveaways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give away equipment at training meetings to incentivize attendance
Extend TRIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend TRIP training and performance standards to areas outside metro Atlanta (without recovery incentive)

Spills Policy

TIME has recently issued guidelines for the mitigation of non-cargo motor vehicle fluid spills to serve as a supplement to the Georgia Traffic Incident Management Guidelines. These guidelines were developed by TIME to clarify the goals, objectives and processes for clearing the highway of spilled non-cargo motor vehicle fluids resulting from crashes and other vehicle incidents. This document has been endorsed by Metro Atlanta Fire Chiefs Association and reviewed by the National Fire Protection Association.



Open Roads Policy

TIME continues to promote adoption of the Georgia Open Roads Policy, which boosts efforts to reduce traffic congestion while increasing driver safety. The Georgia Open Roads Policy states that whenever a roadway or travel lane is closed or partially blocked by a traffic incident, the Georgia State Patrol, Department of Transportation, local law enforcement and other public safety agencies will re-open the roadway as soon as possible and in an urgent manner. Safety of the public and responders is the highest priority and will be preserved.

Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP)

In 2007, the Task Force concentrated on developing a towing incentive program to improve the clearance time of large commercial vehicle incidents on the freeways within Metro Atlanta. This Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP) was implemented in January 2008 to allow pre-approved, highly trained operators with specialty equipment an opportunity to receive a monetary bonus of up to \$3,500 for clearing commercial vehicle wrecks within 90 minutes. TIME worked to implement and maintain TRIP by approving qualified tow companies, inspecting equipment, working with numerous agencies to facilitate program cooperation and conducting after incident reviews of TRIP activations to ensure the success of the program. TRIP has resulted in a cumulative congestion savings in clean-up time for commercial vehicle incidents. In addition, the TRIP program has reduced each incident's roadway clearance time.

TIM Teams

TIME is actively engaged with traffic incident management (TIM) teams in metro Atlanta. Currently, there are 13 TIM teams throughout the region in various stages of participation from all first responder groups. Outreach efforts are underway to encourage team development in some of non-Atlanta areas, including the southwest (Moultrie) and Athens-Clarke County. Requests for TIM assistance have been received from Macon-Bibb and Chatham Counties.

TIME is seeking to overcome the ongoing challenge of maintaining strong ties and interest in the teams by establishing "champions" to help support growth. Unfortunately with job transfers, retirements and promotions, the champions move on leaving a void in the team's goals. The teams receive free training and the meetings, usually held quarterly, discuss pertinent issues that impact the response of all emergency responders including new and innovative ideas from around the country in TIM.