

Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Meeting Report

December 4, 2020

Prepared for

Florida Department of Transportation

Prepared by

Melissa Gonzalez, TRCC Coordinator

Meeting notes taken by:

Cambridge Systematics, Inc.



1.0 Attendees

The TRCC attendees are listed in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 TRCC Meeting Attendees

Name	Title	Agency	Email	
Amy Pontillo	Systems Architect	FSU / TraCS	AMYC@TRACSFLOIDA.ORG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Angela Lynn	Program Manager	FLHSMV	AngelaLynn@flhsmv.gov	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ben Jacobs	Crash Records and Research Admin.	FDOT	BENJAMIN.JACOBS@DOT.STATE.FL.US	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Beth Allman	Senior Manager	FCCC	ALLMAN@FLCLERKS.COM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Blake Canter	Support Specialist	UF / S4	Blakecanter@dcp.ufl.edu	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brenda Clotfelter	EMSTARS Project Manager	FDOH	Brenda_Clotfelter@doh.state.fl.us	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brian Watts	Manager, Performance and Trends	FDOT	Brian.Watts@dot.state.fl.us	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chief Virgil Sandlin	Police Chief	FL Chief's Association	vsandlin@cedarkeyfl.us	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chris Craig	Traffic Safety Admin.	FDOT	CHRIS.CRAIG@DOT.STATE.FL.US	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Danielle King	Operation Coordinator	FDOT	DANIELLE.KING@DOT.STATE.FL.US	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danny Shopf	Transportation Analyst	Cambridge Systematics	DSHOPF@CAMSYS.COM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
David Brand	Law Enforcement Coordinator	FL Sheriffs Association	Dbrand@flsheriffs.org	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deborah Todd	Program Manager	FLHSMV	DEBORAHTODD@FLHSMV.GOV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Ilir Bejliri	Associate Professor /Principal Instigator	UF / S4	ILIR@UFL.EDU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ian Anderson	Data Sharing Project Manager	FDLE	IAnAnderson@fdle.state.fl.us	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joel Worrell	Transportation Data Inventory Manager	FDOT	JOEL.WORRELL@DOT.STATE.FL.US	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joey Gordon	Transportation Data Analysis Supervisor	FDOT	Joey.Gordon@dot.state.fl.us	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joshua Sturms	Section Administration	FDOH	JOSHUA.STURMS@FLHEALTH.GOV	<input type="checkbox"/>
Karen Card	Reporting and Analysis Unit Manager	FDOH	Karen.Card@flhealth.gov	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larry Gowen	Chief Performance Officer	FLHSMV	LARRY.GOWEN@FLHSMV.GOV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Lisa Spainhour	Professor / Principal Investigator	TraCS / ELVIS	SPAINHOU@ENG.FSU.EDU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lora Hollingsworth	Chief Safety Officer	FDOT	LORA.HOLLINGSWORTH@DOT.STATE.FL.US	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major Gary Howze	FHP Executive Officer	FHP/FLHSMV	GARYHOWZE@FLHSMV.GOV	<input type="checkbox"/>

Major Jeffery Dixon	Troop Commander	FHP / FLHSMV	Jeffreydixon@flhsmv.gov	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Margaret Edwards	System Administrator	FSU / ELVIS	MEDWARDS@ELVISFLORIDA.ORG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maya Taylor	Transportation Analyst	Cambridge Systematics	MTAYLOR@CAMSYS.COM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Melissa Gonzalez	TRCC Coordinator	FDOT	MELISSA.GONZALEZ@DOT.STATE.FL.US	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michele Snow	Program Manager	UF / S4	MSNOW@DCP.UFL.EDU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Richie Frederick	Bureau Chief of Records	FLHSMV	RICHIEFREDERICK@FLHSMV.GOV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Robert Kynoch	Division Director	FLHSMV	ROBERTKYNOCH@FLHSMV.GOV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Rupert Giroux	Safety Data Coordinator	FDOT	RUPERT.GIROUX@DOT.STATE.FL.US	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scott Lindsay	Chief Data Officer	FLHSMV	scottlindsay@flhsmv.gov	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Seth Bartee	Systems Administrator	FSU / TraCS	SETHB@TRACSFLOIDA.ORG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steve McCoy	EMS Administrator	FDOH	STEVE.MCCOY@FLHEALTH.GOV	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Rast	Inventory Control Manager	FLHSMV	Thomasrast@flhsmv.gov	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tim Roberts	Law Enforcement Liaison, Program Coord.	FDOT	Coordinator@floridalel.info	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Timothy Swiggett	Developer	FSU / TraCS	Timothys@tracsflorida.org	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tom Austin	Management Analyst	FLHSMV	THOMASAUSTIN@FLHSMV.GOV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
William Roseburgh	Business Intelligence Analyst	FHP	WilliamRoseburgh@flhsmv.gov	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wilton Johnson	Crash Program Manager	FLHSMV	WiltonJohnson@flhsmv.gov	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Zoe Faulkner	Systems Architect	FSU / ELVIS	Zfaulkner@elvisflorida.org	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Others in Attendance:

- Jessica Lynn, FDOT
- Brennan Blanchard, FDOT

2.0 Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

Speaker: Melissa Gonzalez

Melissa Gonzalez, FDOT welcomed attendees to the December 4, 2020 TRCC meeting. She thanked everyone for attending and reviewed the agenda. She reminded participants that this is a public meeting and there would be an opportunity for formal public comments toward the end of the agenda.

Critical Updates on FY20 TR Projects

Speaker: Goal Leaders

Crash & UTC Data Improvement – FLHSMV

Wilton Johnston, FLHSMV, gave an update on the Crash and UTC Data Improvement project. He said the objective is to increase crash location accuracy reporting by 5 percent and FLHSMV has been working with University of Florida (UF) to identify geolocation accuracy statistics to establish a baseline for performance measurement going forward. FLHSMV will develop Crash Location Accuracy Reports and distribute to law enforcement agencies (LEAs) on a quarterly basis.

Wilton said another goal was to increase UTC accuracy and completeness by 3 percent. The accuracy baseline for this grant cycle was set at 98.87 percent with a goal of 98.90 percent. Currently the accuracy statewide is 98.52 percent. For completeness, the baseline is 97.43 percent with a goal of 97.51%. The statewide completeness is at 97.69 percent. Current e-crash percentage is at 99.13 percent. (Note- statewide measurements are from the period October 1-November 30.) To fulfill their objectives of four train-the-trainer UTC workshops with the Clerk of Courts (COCs) and LEAs, the team is working on compiling training materials and is planning on holding these workshops virtually until further guidance.

Wilton said electronic-crash reports comprise 541,034 of 545,771 (99.13%) of statewide crash reports during the period of January 1, 2020-December 2, 2020. He notes FLHSMV closed the 2019 crash databased on November 6 with 3,185 fatalities reported. The 2019 Crash Facts are currently in progress.

Participants had the following questions and comments for Wilton:

- Richie Frederick, FLHSMV, stated Florida was awarded a Commercial Driver License (CDL) improvement grant from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) geared toward improving the timeliness of processing convictions for offenders that possess a CDL. This project will extend till 2023.
- Under the partnership and agreement between FLHSMV and the FCCC, plans have begun to create a traffic citation central repository. The citation submission will follow the FHP process meaning all officers will submit citations directly to the central repository where validation checks will be conducted for data accuracy before submitting to the Clerk of Courts for processing. This should improve UTC data accuracy as one interface will be used across all LEAs and the 67 COCs.
- Chris Craig, FDOT, asked if there was a way to get an updated report on which LEAs not reporting electronically? There may be a way to coordinate with those agencies and offer grant funding to get them to start reporting electronically.
 - Yes, FLHSMV has this report and can share it.

Driver Data Improvement – FLHSMV

Angela Lynn, FLHSMV, gave an update on Driver Data Improvement. This grant focuses on improving timeliness and completeness of processing driver history, specifically for out of state drivers that surrender their license. Currently, requests for driver history convictions from other states/jurisdictions are sent via USPS. This grant will help to develop an automated electronic process for collecting this driver history. Angela is currently working on completing the hiring process for a part time project analyst to assist with the data improvement.

There were no questions for Angela.

Field Data Collection for NEMSIS – FDOH

Brenda Clotfelter, FDOH, provided an update on Field Data Collection for NEMSIS. She said the EMSTARS Repository transition occurred in 2020. FDOH was notified that the vendor hosting service was going to be discontinued in August 2020 and FDOH decided to transition EMSTARS to Biospatial. To support this transition, Florida has been allowed a small gap where submissions aren't sent to NEMSIS while Biospatial is NEMSIS Version 3 (V3) certified (target Jan. 2021). In less than 3 weeks, 211 of 216 agencies have transition with all agencies receiving web-based training for new functions. Full repository functionality is comprised of four phases with a completion date of August 2021.

Brenda said their completeness objective of increasing the percentage of EMS agencies submitting to the state incident level repository was at 75.25 percent. She said 97.63 percent of EMS emergency run reports are submitted to the state repository continuing to surpass the 95 percent completeness goal. Ninety-seven percent of agencies are submitting in compliance with NEMSIS V3 and all agencies are expected to be submitting by V3 standards by Sept. 2021. Seventy percent of EMS emergency runs are received within 10 hours of the run which as met their 65 percent goal.

An EMS Advisory Council Data Committee work session was conducted on November 17 with future meetings expected to be scheduled virtually. Overall NEMSIS data quality is at 91 percent and FDOH has identified a data quality officer to further improve data accuracy. Impacts from COVID-19 have pushed back the publication of the approved data dictionary and business rules for NEMSIS V3.5. A draft is expected by the second quarter of 2021. FDOH's use of the Biospatial platform allows integration with the Florida Health Information Exchange (HIE) data. Testing is set to begin in quarter 1 of 2021.

Participants had the following questions and comments for Brenda:

- Would FDOH need to pay Biospatial for these database hosting services in the future year?
 - There may be a small fee, but negotiation is ongoing.
 - If NHTSA is providing funding directly to Biospatial, it may be challenging to provide state grant funding for these fees. Further discussion may be needed.

Electronic License and Vehicle Information System (ELVIS) – FSU

Zoe Faulkner, FSU, provided an update on ELVIS. She said 211 agencies and 21,046 users are using ELVIS. and averages about 737,000 queries per month. In 2021, ELVIS is focused on maintaining Memorandums of Understanding with each agency/user. ELVIS has finished the transition to new hardware (servers, etc.)

at the Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) and is working on reconfiguring the old hardware and test backups at TPD for the disaster recovery site. Due to COVID—19 and travel restrictions, installation of the disaster recovery site located at the Seminole County Sheriff’s Department has been postponed until the second quarter of 2021.

The ELVIS team will focus on expanding the application programming interface (API) to include additional vendors and standardized exports from other states since various data formats are used (i.e. NIBRS/FIBRS, NCIC code values). FSU is planning on hosting a virtual user conference in 2021 to gather feedback on ELVIS from users throughout the state. She reminded the TRCC that the most requested feature of ELVIS is the ability to access driver history data from Florida (one of only a few states that cannot be accessed through FCIC/NCIC). She noted the average cost per ELVIS user is around \$26 per year.

There were no questions for Zoe.

TraCS Support, Enhancement and Training – FSU

Amy Pontillo, FSU, gave an update on TraCS Support, Enhancement, and Training. She said there are now more than 20,000 TraCS users from 192 agencies with an expectation in the number of users and agencies to increase in 2021. In quarter 4 (July 1-Sept. 30, 2020), TraCS maintained an average load time of 6.8 days, 99.99 percent load success rate, and submitted around 32 percent (46,060) of the state’s crash reports. Currently all TraCS agencies are utilizing an FCIC/NCIC interface and 76 percent of TraCS agencies (151) are required to use the location tool for crashes (up from 67 percent last quarter). There was no downtime at the primary or secondary site in Q4 of 2020.

Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Department, Miami Gardens Police Department, Stuart Police Department, Center Hill Police Department, and FDLE Capitol Police Department are all new additions to TraCS during this quarter. The Orlando Police Department (PD) is in the process of switching to TraCS. Orlando PD consists of 766 officers and submitted 17,190 crashes in 2019.

There were no questions for Amy.

Central Crash Data Repository and Improved Crash Data Quality: Phase I - UF

Dr. Ilir Bejlari, UF, gave an update on the Central Crash Data Repository project. He reminded members that this project would improve the FLHSMV process for storing crash diagrams to support high resolution aerial photography, eliminate duplicate storage of crash reports, and align FLHSMV and Signal Four crash databases. He said the issues preventing high resolution aerial photography storage and ingestion has been identified and staff have suggested a potential solution that requires testing at FLHSMV. A light synchronization of 2018-2020 crash data has been completed and staff will continue to process historical annual data in reverse order.

Pending tasks included a full synchronization between the FLHSMV and S4 databases as well as the development of a centralized image service for crash reports. FLHSMV IT is releasing Phase I of the Motorist Modernization project this weekend which will combine the motor and driver databases into a single database. FLHSMV expects stabilization by February or March and will be able to free up enough resources to better align FLHSMV and Signal Four databases.

Participants had the following questions and comments for Dr. Bejlari:

- Amy asked, with higher resolution images, would the officers be able to use a Google Maps overlay with the diagram tool when submitting crash diagrams?
 - Yes, but will depend on the timing of implementation for the high-resolution aerial photography storage and ingestion solution.
 - TraCS currently limits the image size to comply with FLHSMV's limitations. Amy would appreciate four weeks notice when this solution is put into place so they can remove that image size limitation and allow for Google Map overlays.
 - FLHSMV will also have to review the size specifications to ensure the file sizes remain manageable and will provide guidelines on file sizes that will be acceptable.
- Will the data still reside in multiple repositories?
 - Signal Four would continue to receive a copy of the FLHSMV data on a daily basis but there would be no further need for FDOT to receive the data because of the alignment with the Signal Four and CAR System (CAR rewrite and FDOT location consolidation).

Geolocation Based Crash Diagramming and FDOT Crash Mapping to Improve Crash Location Timeliness and Quality: Phase I – UF

Dr. Ilir Bejleri, UF, gave an update on the Geolocation Based Crash Diagramming and FDOT Crash Mapping to Improve Crash Location Timeliness and Quality project. He said the development of a geolocation based crash diagramming tool is being developed to decrease the officer field time while ensuring consistency between the location data elements and crash diagram of the crash report. He said an internal functioning copy has been created with the ability to take input parameters (latitude/longitude; crash type/vehicle count; and vehicle type, color, direction of travel) and automatically places the involved vehicles at the collision point based on the officer's location. This tool will allow officers to have a starting point for their diagram.

The UF is currently working on the URL to allow vendors to access the tool. They are also working on expanding the map service providers so that officers can use any map service they prefer (Google, ESRI, Bing, etc.). Usability improvements and bug fixes as well as completing the icon library to support all vehicle, bike, pedestrian, and signage types are in progress. The UF team is also developing the implementation specifications for vendors, which will be similar to the S4 Geolocation tool so any vendor using Geolocation can easily incorporate the diagramming tool into their software.

He said the other component of this project is to align the LEAs, Signal Four, and FDOT geolocation processes and databases. The geolocation consolidation consists of developing interface design mockups, evaluating database design elements, developing functions for various user types (editors, quality control reviewers, and administrators) and the capability to run productivity statistics. Dr. Bejleri provided chart mock-ups for tracking geolocation status, examples of the "pool assignment management" of the crash reports to be located, and the interface design mockup. Next steps will be to finalize the mockups and process flow, setup the database, and begin implementation.

Participants had the following questions and comments for Ilir:

- Ultimately this alignment will ensure that the results of the analysis are consistent between the Signal Four and FDOT datasets which will establish confidence in the dataset as both databases become more consistent and accurate.

Unified and Sustainable Solution to Improve Geo-Location Accuracy and Timeliness of Crashes and Citations – UF

Dr. Ilir Bejleri, UF, introduced Michele Snow, UF, to give an update on the geolocation tool project. She provided an update on the overall geolocation tool usage, indicating usage has increased with more than 41,000 crashes mapped by 164 agencies and 35,000 citations mapped by 119 agencies during the months of September-November 2020. The UF is developing metrics to evaluate usability and improving data transmission to and from vendors. The team is working on Version 3.0 and coordinating with agencies that have not yet mandated use of the geolocation tool. She noted that the “saved location” feature has been implemented at the request of officers. Saved locations can be shared among users and are especially helpful for a unit that commonly writes citations at a particular location. The UF has conducted 3 workshops and pushed out 2-3 minute training videos for the use of the saved locations feature in the geolocation tool.

Participants had the following questions for Michele:

- Amy stated TraCS has posted the training videos on their YouTube website. When should we start formally pushing out this aspect of the tool?
 - This is something we should coordinate offline.
- Tom, FLHSMV, asked if the training videos TraCS specific?
 - The majority of the video is focused on the tool itself. At present, TraCS is the only vendor using the tool so there are likely some TraCS elements included. As other systems adopt the tool, we could create new videos specific to those vendors.

Expanding Accessibility Utilization, and Data Integration of Signal Four Analytics – UF

Michele Snow, UF, gave an update on Expanding Accessibility Utilization, and Data Integration of Signal Four Analytics. She said 174 new users and 5 new agencies have started using Signal Four since September 2020, with 4,298 total users and 883 total agencies and vendors. She said UF has developed the Florida Traffic Safety Dashboard which will consist of crash data from 2018 to 2020 at launch. She said the new version of Signal Four is ready to launch as well and is now functional on all browsers. Efforts continue on reviewing the EMS data dictionary to determine data linkage. A quick demo was provided on the Florida Traffic Safety Dashboard and the new versions in Signal Four Analytics such as the Record Search, Event Analysis, and Standard Reports: Quick Stats and Law Enforcement Liaison Traffic Safety Challenge.

Participants had the following questions and comments for Michele:

- Do users have to log in to view the Dashboard?
 - The Dashboard is available to the public but more specific data queries require a login.

NHTSA Traffic Records Assessment

Speaker: Melissa Gonzalez

Melissa Gonzalez, FDOT, provided the results of the NHTSA Traffic Records Assessment and discussed the next steps. She said the assessment was meant to identify areas of success and areas that require improvement. Melissa said Florida's ratings improved across 7 of the 9 modules when compared to the last assessment in 2016. Modules with most significant improvements were seen for the crash and roadway data systems. She said that 73 percent of questions were rated as "met" and another 10 percent were rated as "partially met." Only 17 percent of questions received a "did not meet" rating. She illustrated that Florida scored above all 56 states (including District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, etc.) in every traffic records assessment module. Florida also scored 20 percent higher on all traffic records module components when compared to the State Averages.

Next steps include compiling state responses to the "partially met" and "did not meet" ratings per the state funding application requirement. She will draft responses based on the round 1 and 2 data collection response the module managers provided and will send out to the data system owners to confirm and add their responses as needed.

Participants had the following questions and comments for Melissa:

- FLHSMV is reviewing the assessment results internally to identify where improvements can be made for the next assessment.

Traffic Safety Information System Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Speaker: Melissa Gonzalez

Melissa Gonzalez, FDOT, said the Traffic Records action plan update is due March 22, 2021.

Cloud Feasibility Study

Speaker: Melissa Gonzalez

Melissa Gonzalez, FDOT, said FDOT has extended services with Cambridge Systematics to support the development of the Cloud Feasibility Study RFP. Next steps are to meet with University of South Florida to discuss RFP requirements and begin developing the RFP scope.

Agency Data Systems Updates

Speaker: Melissa Gonzalez

Ben Jacobs, FDOT, gave an update on the progress of updating the CAR system to align with Signal Four. He said a kickoff meeting is scheduled for next week.

Concept Papers

Speaker: Melissa Gonzalez

Melissa noted there is an update to the Concept Paper submission format. It will now resemble the subgrant format. She said instructions are being updated now and should have a revised set of instructions ready by December 31, 2020 and reminded predicants concept papers are due February 28, 2021.

Public Comment Period

Speaker: Melissa Gonzalez

There were no comments from the public.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Robert Kynoch, FLHSMV, made a motion to approve the minutes. Lora Hollingsworth, FDOT, seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Next Steps

Speaker: Melissa Gonzalez

Upcoming Meetings

- March 12, 2021 – Application Review Subcommittee Meeting
- April 9, 2021 - Executive Board Meeting: FY22 Projects (Voting)
- September 10, 2021 - Status of FY22 Projects/Critical Updates on FY21 Traffic Records Projects
- December 3, 2021 - Critical Updates on FY22 Traffic Records Projects

Adjourn

- Meeting was adjourned at 11:36am.

*All presentations can be found at <http://www.fltrafficrecords.com/>