

17th Street Mobility Plan Working Group, 5th Meeting
**“Institute special event signal timing plans for events at the Convention Center
and for high cruise days at the Port”**

Monday, January 29, 2018

Fort Lauderdale City Hall | 8th Floor Cafeteria

This meeting focused on the current FDOT system for special event signal timing. Allison Glunt, Arterial Operations Manager for FDOT District 4, presented on the special event signal timing process, which includes coordination with a variety of partners including City Police, City staff, County staff, and FDOT staff and consultants a minimum of 3 weeks in advance of a major event. Allison discussed aspects that are included in special event signal timing plans, including signal timing, maintenance of traffic (MOT), Bluetooth device and cameras when available, dynamic messaging signs (DMS), and staff availability. Allison also clarified that the signal process can be duplicated in the future as signal patterns for recurring events can be retained and reused, resulting in easier on-the-fly changes for future special event signal timing plans.

Glenn Wiltshire, Deputy Port Director, spoke on the Port’s current individual events planning process which includes lane closures and expansions to increase cruise passenger and convention attendee flow into the Port and Convention Center. Glenn also discussed the Port’s consideration of events outside of the Port itself that may impact availability of rideshare or impact signal timing downstream.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Discussion of the following general topics ensued during and after Allison’s presentation:

- Signal pre-emption for emergency vehicles, which does currently occur and happens at a distance
- Approach prior to a formal special event signal timing plan which included minor coordination and techniques such as pickling, which manually controls lights but can create flow problems up the line
- City Commission involvement in the special events process and potential fiscal impacts related to staff and fiscal impacts to arrange for event planning
- Las Olas access and improving flow for vehicles along this corridor as part of the 15th Avenue redesign process
- Duplication of the special events signal timing model for other events and the ability to repeat the model for annual events
- SE 17th Street Bridge signal timing, including the perceived lack of compliance for bridge openings as set by 33 CFR 117.261, and the flushing of vehicles after a bridge has disrupted timing
- Potential positive impacts of satellite park and ride locations for major events
- Improvements to predictability based on size of events and completion of parking garages on the beach
- How can we improve impacts to neighborhoods during major events so neighbors are aware of problem areas and peak flush times and can plan to avoid these areas accordingly?

SE 17TH STREET DRAWBRIDGE

A discussion of the operating policies of the 17th Street Drawbridge was held. Glenn Wiltshire clarified that bridge opening and closings are regulated by 33 CFR 117.261 and the 17th Street Bridge should open at the hour and half hour. Attendees expressed concern that bridge tenders are not currently complying

Note: A professional note taker will provide detailed meeting minutes as well as an audio recording. Please request to Robert Modys at rmodys@fortlauderdale.gov if you would like a copy of either one.

with this schedule and open the bridges minutes before the scheduled time. Glenn clarified that certain vessels, such as those under tow, are exempt from closing times. It was determined that most data so far is based on individual observation and that a better understanding of rules and regulations is needed as a starting point before moving forward.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED

Alan Cohen provided a brief update on the parallel route, to be discussed at the February meeting.

Christina Currie asked for an update on the Truck Routing Ordinance. Diana Alarcon responded with an update that we've begun vetting the draft ordinance and an update on the ongoing Las Olas loading and unloading pilot project and their ability to replicate the zones outside of Las Olas.

Barbara Magill requested an update on the Origin & Destination Study. Karen Warfel explained that TAM is currently reviewing existing documents to help further refine the proposed O&D Study scope.

CONSENSUS ITEMS

N/A

ACTION ITEMS

1. Help facilitate meeting with Convention Center and Port Everglades for high cruise days for FDOT signal timing through the City's Night Time Economy Manager
2. Glenn Wiltshire to bring bridge timing up at the next Harbor Safety Committee at the Port
3. TAM to share Parks and Recreation calendar of events with Glenn Wiltshire and the entire Working Group
4. Create a document listing bridge opening and closing times within the City limits per 33 CFR 117
5. Pursue bridge opening and closing signage throughout the City, especially at 17th Street

FOLLOW UPS FROM PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

1. Letter requesting signal timing changes was sent
2. Commissioner Rogers reached out to Legal regarding truck restrictions
3. Requests for available studies have been sent to agency partners. All studies are being compiled into one summary memo to be used to help shape O&D Study needs
4. Signal timing of SE 17th Street, including at SE 15th Avenue, has been reworked to promote optimal vehicle flow