

Q3 2025 NEWSLETTER



Attendees at the EBB

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT

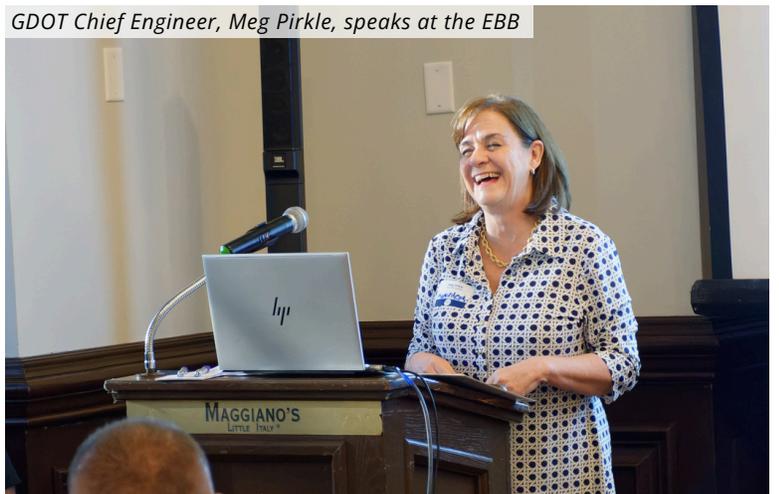
The Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Task Force hosted its biennial Executive Briefing Breakfast (EBB) on September 19 in Dunwoody, Georgia. This event brought together traffic incident management (TIM) industry executives to share insights, network, and discuss the future of TIM in Georgia. Keynote speaker Meg Pirkle, GDOT's Chief Engineer, highlighted Georgia DOT's current projects, innovations, and the bright future ahead. Additional speakers included Jeremy Young (Parkers Towing and Recovery) and Chief Gregory Shinkle (Coweta County Fire Rescue) who emphasized responder safety following the tragic loss of Toby Bowden, a tower for Parkers Towing and Recovery. Other speakers included:

- Requel Williams, AECOM
- Tyrone McCord III, GDOT HERO
- Ashlyn Morgan, AtkinsRéalis
- Christine Simonton, Parsons
- Chidi Kalu, AtkinsRéalis
- Captain Ritchie Howard, Georgia State Patrol

WELCOME!

- In this edition:*
- Quarterly Highlight
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GDOT Chief Engineer, Meg Pirkle, speaks at the EBB



QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT CONT.

A major event highlight was the Annual TIM Awards. There were six award categories that honored TIM professionals who go above and beyond to improve safe, quick clearance in Georgia. A big congratulations to this year's winners (in order from left to right in the photo below.)

- HERO Operator of the Year: **Jimmie Holmes**
- Individual of the Year: **Requel Williams**
- CHAMP Operator of the Year: **Scott Snelgrove**
- TIM Team of the Year: **Liberty County TIM Team**, represented by Chief Charles Roney of Liberty County Fire Rescue
- TMC Operator of the Year: **Deshona Davis**
- TRIP Tower of the Year: **Parkers Towing**, represented by Jeremy Young, Janet Parker, and Wilson Fuller

It was an honor to share this time with the Georgia TIM industry's top executives, and we look forward to seeing how this collaboration positively affects safe, quick clearance in Georgia. To learn more, visit the [event page on the TIME Task Force website](#).

Upcoming: The 2026 TIME Task Force Conference will take place October 4–7 in Columbus, Georgia. Stay tuned for more details on this biennial conference!

Annual TIM Award winners at the EBB



TRAINING UPDATES

TIM PRACTICES



A TIM Practices class in action

The Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Practices class is an 8-hour class required for all tow truck operators working within GDOT's Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP). All TRIP towers are required to complete this training once every three years; the class is offered throughout the year whenever and wherever it is requested by towing and recovery companies.

The class, which is delivered in-person, combines the four-hour National TIM Responder Training classroom presentation with a tabletop scenario simulation and hands-on training. Although the Federal Highway Administration provides an online version of the National TIM Responder Training (NTIMRT), the in-person TIM Practices class combines NTIMRT with additional discussions about TIM concepts to engage students in thought-provoking discussion based around their real-world experiences operating on roadways.

Tabletop scenario discussions allow students to interact with complex hypothetical incident scenes and position responding apparatus(es) to protect the scene and mitigate the incident quickly. Most importantly, during this portion of the training students are assigned to represent a responding agency other than their own, to help them see the scene from other agencies' priorities which assists with facilitating better on-scene communication and collaboration during real incidents.

If you are interested in the TIM Practices class, please reach out to TIM_Training@dot.ga.gov for questions or to make a request.

**TIM TEAM MEMBER OF THE QUARTER:
CONGRATULATIONS, CAPTAIN LEE SMITH!**
Twiggs County Sheriff's Office



Captain Lee Smith

Captain Lee Smith of the Twiggs County Sheriff's Office is the Q3 TIM Team member of the quarter!

Lee Smith is a retired Senior Master Sergeant (E-8) from the U.S. Air Force Reserve, serving over 22 years from 1983 to 2005. He began his civil service career in 1988 and retired in 2020 as a NH-04 Section Chief at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, responsible for overseeing the U.S. Air Force Special Operation Forces/Personnel Recovery Rotary Division. In this role, Capt. Smith managed a \$2B annual budget, four supervisors, and 41 employees responsible for all Air Force Rotary aircraft, UH-1N and TH-1H trainers, and the HH-60G Pave Hawk.

Capt. Smith has more than 34 years in law enforcement, including 21 years with the Byron Police Department, where he pioneered the Department's Interstate Criminal Enforcement Unit. Since October 2021, he received several promotions to his current rank of Captain and Director of Training, Crime Suppression, Community Engagement Team, and K-9 units at the Twiggs County Sheriff's Office. Capt. Smith also coordinates traffic enforcement for 12 counties and 31 agencies through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

As an avid supporter of safe, quick clearance strategies and tactics, Capt. Smith supports the Regional TIM Team by attending and presenting at TIM Team meetings and serving as liaison to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Thank you, Captain Smith, for being an excellent leader in your community! Keep up the amazing work, and congratulations on this honor.

TIM TEAM OF THE QUARTER: CONGRATULATIONS, CHEROKEE COUNTY TIM TEAM!



2025 Cherokee County TIM Team Meeting

For the past five years, Cherokee County has been a leader in Traffic Incident Management (TIM), hosting TIM Team meetings at the Emergency Operations Center, coordinated by the Cherokee County Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

Cherokee County's commitment to TIM extends beyond the local level. The county actively supports the Georgia TIME Task Force, with Lt. John Brookshire of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office formerly serving as Director of Law Enforcement on the TIME Task Force Advisory Board from 2024–2026. Additionally, local first responders frequently host National TIM Responder Training sessions. The Director of Cherokee County E911, Shane Bonebrake, is very active in TIM and local partners play key roles in fostering strong interagency communication between local and State agencies. Local tow companies, Mauldin's Body Shop and Ingram's Towing, are regular attendees and contributors to the success of this team.

At the center of these efforts is Rebecca Logan, Deputy Director of Cherokee County EMA, whose leadership and dedication ensures that meetings are well-organized, impactful, and widely attended.

Each TIM Team meeting consistently draws strong attendance from key partners, including local first responders, towing companies, HERO/CHAMP, local E911, the Transportation Management Center, EMA, GDOT, and other state agencies. Topics typically include:

- Unified command strategies for highway incidents
- Crash investigation technologies
- After-action reviews
- Roadway hazardous materials spill procedures
- Local construction updates
- Best practices to improve communication, coordination, and cooperation during highway events

Engagement goes beyond attendance, with collaborative discussions and hands-on exercises driving continuous improvement. Congratulations, Cherokee County TIM Team! Thank you for your hard work and dedication and for being an outstanding example of local TIM collaboration.

INNOVATION OF THE QUARTER

NAFECO

Designed by Firefighters, for Firefighters: The Turtle Fire System

This quarter, we are excited to share an innovation that is helping responders keep up with the ever-changing conditions on our roadways. Electric vehicles are increasingly present and pose life-threatening risks to responders when they combust. NAFECO® hopes to mitigate this risk with its Turtle Fire System. Below is NAFECO's description of their product as well as a diagram to help explain this unique design.

The Turtle Fire System was founded in response to the growing concern of electric vehicle fires and the need for a safe and effective water delivery system. Its unique design and operation allow for application beyond electric vehicle fires, such as internal combustion engine fires, cooling fuel storage tanks, deep-seated fires, exposure protection, hazmat incidents, and more.

Some of the key features of the Turtle Fire System include:

- **Volume:** Full spectrum nozzle capable of delivering 150 to 500+ GPM.
- **Safe:** Once deployed, the Turtle Fire System operates unmanned, reducing exposure to fire and harmful toxic gases.
- **Effective:** Low-profile design is easily deployed under a vehicle to deliver copious amounts of water directly onto an electric vehicle battery case.
- **Durable:** The Turtle is made in the USA of 100% welded American steel.
- **Simple:** Able to be assembled and deployed rapidly with minimal manpower.
- **Force multiplier:** The Turtle Fire System enables departments to repurpose manpower and do more with less.

This system is a unique innovation that helps responders stay safe at incident scenes, which are increasingly involving electric vehicles. To learn more about the Turtle Fire System, visit the NAFECO website or reach out to info@turtlefiresystems.com.



The NAFECO Turtle at the 2024 TIME Task Force Conference

THE TURTLE FIRE SYSTEM

EV NOZZLE



The Turtle Fire System was founded in response to the growing concern of electric vehicle fires and the need for a safe and effective water delivery system. Its unique design and operation allows for applications beyond EV fires, such as internal combustion engine fires, cooling fuel storage tanks, deep-seated fires, exposure protection, hazmat incidents and more.

VOLUME

Full spectrum nozzle capable of delivering 150 to 500+ GPM and anywhere in between.

SAFE

Once deployed, the Turtle Fire System operates unmanned, reducing exposure to fire and harmful toxic gasses.

EFFECTIVE

Low-profile design easily deployed under a vehicle to deliver copious amounts of water directly onto an EV battery case.

DURABLE

The Turtle is made in the USA of 100% welded American steel.

SIMPLE

Able to be assembled and deployed rapidly with minimal manpower.

FORCE MULTIPLIER

The Turtle Fire System enables departments to repurpose manpower and do more with less.



The Turtle Fire System is the first full spectrum EV nozzle capable of quickly adapting to the demands of the fireground. Its flow pattern is equipped to accommodate both low- and high-profile vehicles and the flow rate can be adjusted from 150 to 500+ GPM while deployed to address the varying stages of thermal runaway.



DESIGNED BY FIREFIGHTERS, FOR FIREFIGHTERS.

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An American Firefighter and Veteran owned company.

TIME TASK FORCE GRANT

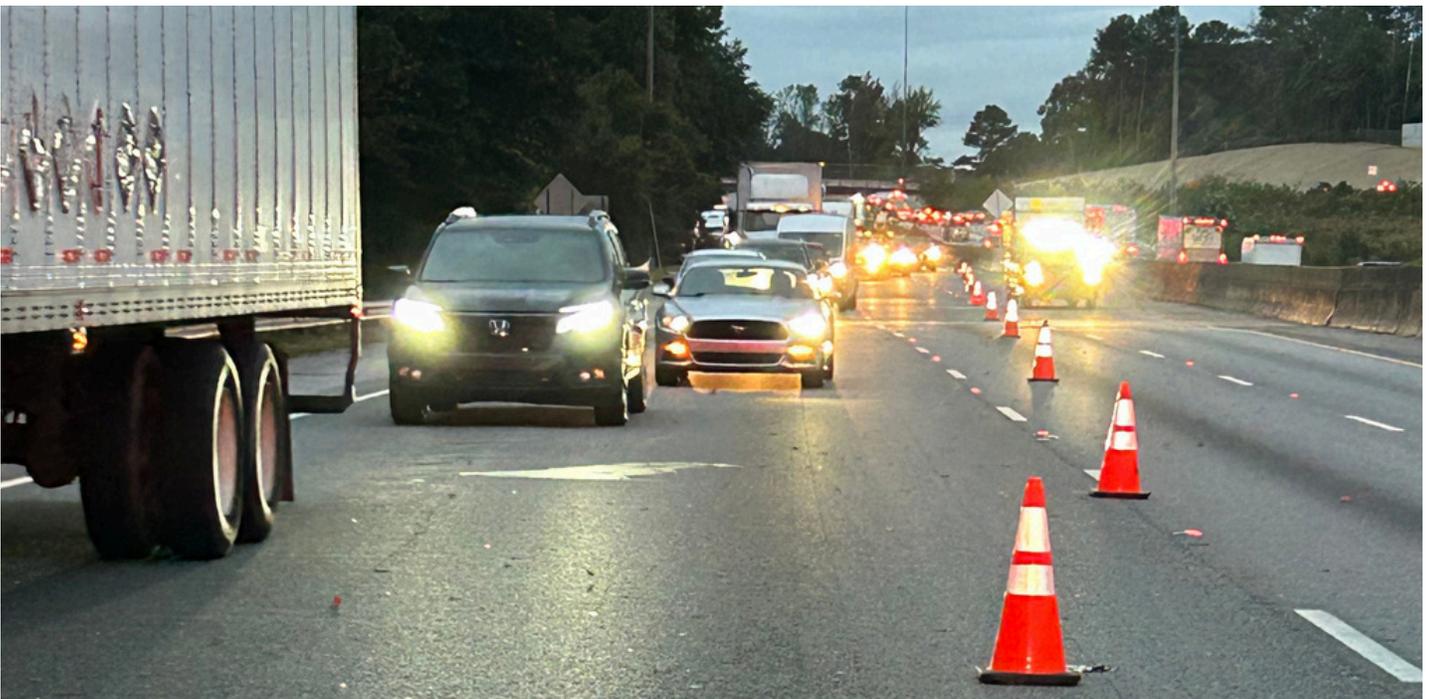
With support from Georgia DOT (GDOT), the TIME Task Force opened 2025 applications for grant money to provide equipment incentives to public TIM agencies responsible for responding to and mitigating traffic incidents within the State of Georgia.

GDOT continues to spearhead initiatives to enhance TIM in Georgia. Awarding grant money to Georgia agencies that actively align themselves with the TIME Task Force’s mission helps support these agencies in their endeavors and encourages prospective agencies to stay involved for future application opportunities.

Grant awards are based on the TIME Task Force Grant Committee’s evaluation criteria and budget availability. Each applicant provided details of their agency’s needs and involvement in TIME Task Force activities, including TIM Team meetings and training. Once all applications were received, the Grant Committee began assessing these applications to determine this year’s winners.

Agencies were able to apply for eligible equipment this year, including safety vests, traffic cones, vertical panels, a traffic baton, a light-emitting diode road flare kit, a “Stop” and “Slow” safety paddle, a tactical flashlight, barricades, barricade lights, traffic control signs, a storage bag for roll-up signs, and traffic gloves.

Although 2025 grant applications have closed, the 2026 grant application is set to open from August 15 – September 30. Agencies interested in applying for the 2026 TIME Task Force grant can visit the [TIME Task Force Grant website page](#), [sign up to receive email updates](#) from the TIME Task Force, or [follow the TIME Task Force on social media](#).



A Georgia incident with traffic cones, an item available through the TIME Task Force Grant



Heavy Wrecker Technical Rescue Training for Responders

UPCOMING EVENTS

For the latest information on training in your area, please check the [TIME Task Force calendar](#) or scan the QR code below to visit the website. NOTE: All dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Register for the event to receive email updates and monitor the website calendar to verify before travelling to a meeting.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN A TIM TEAM



Interested in TIM Team meetings or TIM training? Visit [the TIME Task Force website](#) or scan the QR code to learn more. Questions? Contact TIMteams@dot.ga.gov.



National TIM Responder Training

INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEWSLETTER?

[Share](#) an innovation your agency is implementing in your local community or a notable effort in traffic incident management.

LMS INFORMATION

GDOT's STIMS learning management system (LMS) provides a free online centralized hub for registered users to have full access to and management of their training content. You can do things like view the course catalog, enroll in courses, track progress, and view and download your course completion certificates.

The LMS portal has training content in the areas of NIMS, National TIM Responder Training, TIM, professional development, and much more. These will be readily accessible to you by a quick login to the LMS platform after your user profile has been created. Happy Learning!

To enjoy user benefits and create your account, please email us at TIM_Training@dot.ga.gov.

Want to stay up to date with transportation news and trends from GDOT? Check out their [Ahead of the Curve Podcast!](#)

