COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Steve Brown
Meeting Date:	Thursday, November 14, 2013	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Recognition of Fayette County Public Safety's Agreement with the Georgia Department of Public Safety and the Georgia Department of Transportation regarding the Open Roads Policy.

Background/History/Details:

The goal of the Open Roads Policy is "whenever a roadway or travel lane is closed or partially blocked by a traffic incident, Georgia Law Enforcement, Transportation and Local Public Safety agencies shall re-open the roadway as soon as possible IN AN URGENT MANNER. Safety of the public and responders is the highest priority and must be preserved."

"This policy establishes a suggested benchmark for all Georgia traffic incident response agencies to adopt." The Open Roads Policy outlines the responsibilities of the Department of Public Safety, Georgia Department of Transportation and other State, County and Local Agencies or Political Subdivisions.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Recognition of Fayette County Public Safety's Agreement with the Georgia Department of Public Safety and the Georgia Department of Transportation regarding the Open Roads Policy.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	Yes	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	Yes
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

Sheriff Barry Babb and Chief David Scarbrough have signed the Open Road Policy, in commitment to the responsibilities outlined within the policy.

State of Georgia

"OPEN ROADS POLICY"
(Typical Agreement)

Quick Clearance for Safety and Mobility

This agreement by and between the Police Department, Fire Department, Local Department of Transportation, State Department of Transportation and Medical Examiner establishes a policy for personnel to expedite the removal of vehicles, cargo and debris from roadways within the local jurisdictions and to restore, in an urgent manner, the safe and orderly flow of traffic, following a motor vehicle crash or other incident on the roadways within the jurisdiction.

Whereas:

Public safety is the highest priority and must be maintained especially when injuries or hazardous materials are involved. Quality of life is dependent upon the free movement of people, vehicles and commerce. Departments share the responsibility for achieving and maintaining the degree of order necessary to make this free movement possible. Agencies have the responsibility to do whatever is reasonable to reduce the risk of responders, secondary crashes and delays associated with incidents, crashes, roadway maintenance, construction and enforcement activities.

The following operating standards are based on the philosophy that the roadway system will not be closed or restricted any longer than is absolutely necessary.

Be It Resolved:

Roadways will be cleared of damaged vehicles, spilled cargo and debris as soon as it is practical and safe to do so. It is understood that damage to vehicles or cargo may occur as a result of clearing the roadway, on an urgent basis. While reasonable attempts to avoid such damage shall be taken, the highest priority is restoring traffic to normal pre-incident conditions. Incident caused congestion has an enormous cost to society.

Police Department's Responsibility:

Police Departments, who respond to the scene of traffic incidents, will make clearing the travel portion of the roadway, a high priority. When an investigation is required, it will be conducted in as expedient a manner as possible, considering the severity of the collision or incident. Non-critical portion of the investigation may be delayed until lighter traffic conditions allow completion of those tasks. Police personnel will close only those lanes absolutely necessary to safely conduct the investigation. Police personnel will coordinate with the Department of Transportation representatives to set up appropriate

traffic control, establish alternate routes and expedite the safe movement of traffic at the scene and to restore the roadway to normal conditions as soon as possible.

Whenever practical, damaged vehicles will be removed to accident investigation sites or other safe areas for completion of investigations to reduce the delays associated with motorists slowing to “look”. Once the vehicles involved have been safely moved out of the travel lanes, or when in a safe area and not a part of traffic control, Police personnel will turn off their emergency equipment (blue lights) when safe to do so, again, to minimize motorists slowing to “look” reaction. Tow and recovery vehicles will be requested and dispatched as soon as it is evident they will be needed to clear the roadways. Police personnel will only utilize towing and recovery operators which are certified through a professional certifying association (i.e. wreckmaster, etc.) after meeting competency levels and that the equipment is of appropriate size, capacity and designed to meet the association’s standards. (A complete resource list of heavy and specialized equipment available to the Police Department should be provided by the Wrecker Company).

The Police Department will not unnecessarily cause any delay in reopening all or part of a roadway, to allow a company or individual, to dispatch its own equipment to off load cargo or recover a vehicle or load that is impacting traffic during peak traffic hours or creating an immediate hazard to the public.

Department of Transportation Responsibilities:

When requested by an emergency service agency, the State and/or Local DOT will respond and deploy resources to major traffic incidents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, depending on location and severity of the incident. Both State and Local DOT will develop and implement response procedures to meet the goal of providing initial traffic control within 30 minutes of notification during the assigned working hours and 60 minutes after normal working hours.

State and/or Local DOT in coordination with the Police Department will upgrade traffic controls, determine detour routes and discuss clearance strategies. When requested State and/or Local DOT will provide temporary traffic controls to ensure a safe work zone for all responders and the motoring public.

State DOT, in cooperation with other responding emergency service agencies, will determine and deploy the necessary heavy equipment and manpower (public and/or private) to reopen the roadway, if there is a delay in clearing the travel lanes or if it is apparent that the task is beyond the capabilities of the wrecker service on the scene.

In the case of cargo or spilled loads (non-hazardous), the DOT and Police personnel will continually work together to ensure that the needs of the traveling public are being considered and met in the most professional, safe, and efficient manner.

Fire Department Responsibilities:

Upon arrival at any roadway incident, the Fire Department will only utilize the lanes absolutely necessary for a safe work zone and for the safety of their personnel. The Fire Department's on-scene ranking officer, should coordinate with the on-scene Police Department's ranking officer to determine whether or not the fire equipment might be repositioned to allow travel lanes to be reopened. Fire Departments will deploy the initial display of traffic cones, in a taper fashion from the rear of the closest piece of equipment upstream, toward approaching traffic. Once a Georgia DOT HERO Unit arrives on the scene, they will implement traffic control measures to protect both the incident scene and emergency responders. Once traffic control is established and traffic is flowing safely through and/or around the traffic incident, fire departments should turn off their emergency lighting, as soon as the situation allows. Responder safety is paramount.

Medical Examiner Responsibilities:

Medical Examiners who respond to the scene of a traffic incident, when applicable, will make clearing deceased persons from the travel portion of the roadway a high priority. Upon notification of a fatality incident, the Medical Examiner agrees to make all necessary arrangements for the **immediate** processing and transportation of deceased persons from the scene of a roadway incident. To expedite the removal of deceased persons off travel lanes, the Office of Medical Examiner agrees to accept digital photos and/or Polaroid photos of the incident scene from trained police investigators which will include aerial type photographs of the overall scene, if available, detailed photos of deceased persons and how they are found, the interior of the vehicle, if necessary, as well as photographs of the vehicle and its impact points to the incident. Once the police investigator has completed taking photos of the deceased person(s) and the incident scene, the Office of Medical Examiner agrees to the movement of deceased person(s) from the travel lanes. The movement of deceased persons may include ejected deceased persons and vehicles containing deceased persons to the shoulder of the roadway, to off ramps, accident investigation sites, or other safe areas off the travel lanes for completion of investigation to reduce the delays and secondary crashes associated with motorists slowing to view the incident scene.

It further agrees that:

Police Department, Fire Department and Department of Transportation should initiate cross training standards that will allow all departments to work for the betterment of our state/county/city roadway system.

Police Department, Fire Department and Department of Transportation will research, evaluate and conduct training in the most advanced technologies, equipment and approved; methods for the documentation and investigation of crash or incident scenes. Police Department, using these techniques, will prioritize the investigative tasks and

reopen travel lanes upon completion of those tasks which **MUST** be conducted, without impeding traffic flow.

Roadways will be cleared as soon as possible. It is the goal of all agencies that ***all traffic incidents be cleared from the roadway within 90 minutes of the arrival of the first responding officer.*** This goal being made with the understanding those more complex scenarios may require additional time for complete clearance.

Police Department and Fire Department will actively solicit and enlist other county and local agencies, political subdivisions, industry groups, professional associations and wrecker companies to enforce and become party to this, “Open Roads Policy” for local jurisdictions.

All parties agree to participate in the Local Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team and Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Task Force.

In witness whereof each party hereto has caused this document to be executed in its name and on behalf by it’s duly recognized Department Head.

By:_____	By:_____
(Signature)	(Signature)
_____	_____
(Type Name)	(Type Name)
_____	_____
(Title)	(Title)
_____	_____
(Agency)	(Agency)
_____	_____
(Date)	(Date)

Reviewed By:

_____, _____

(Agency/Office) (Date)

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