SUNGUIDE®
DISSEMINATOR
Florida Department of Transportation's Traffic Engineering and Operations Newsletter

Viva Florida 500 – A Year-Long Celebration

By Fred Heery, FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations

Although Florida's history dates back more than 12,000 years when the first Native Americans began to inhabit the peninsula, written history began with the arrival of Europeans to Florida—beginning with the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León in 1513. Ponce de León was seeking the mythical "Fountain of Youth" when he discovered the land he named La Florida (Land of Flowers) and claimed it for Spain. Since then, Florida has been held by Spain and England at different times, until Spain finally sold it to the United States in 1819.

Welcome to Florida sign with Viva Florida 500.

This year, 500 years later, Florida is celebrating its diverse cultural heritage through a statewide initiative—Viva Florida 500—led by the Florida Department of State. Viva Florida 500 includes more than 200 events statewide throughout 2013. The goal is to promote 500 years of Florida's history – its people, places, and cultural achievements – and this important milestone in American and Florida history.

Viva Florida 500 is made possible by a partnership of many agencies, including the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). FDOT partnered with the Department of State and installed signs at various locations throughout the state. These included airports, seaports, Welcome to Florida signs at the state line, and attached VIVA 500 signs to existing cultural trail signs on freeways and non-

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freeways. Posters were installed in all the rest areas. Several offices contributed to the successful installation including the Traffic Engineering and Operations Office, the Maintenance Office, the Sign Shop, District Traffic Operations, and District Maintenance Offices. The signs and posters are intended to promote Florida's cultural and historic places for travelers on Florida's roadways and for our citizens, encouraging all to participate in the celebration of Florida's 500 years. The signs will remain in place until January 2014.

Join us in celebrating the Florida we live in today! Follow Viva Florida 500 and the different events at http://www.vivaflorida.org; Viva Florida 500 is also available on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/VivaFlorida500.

For information, please contact Mr. Heery at (850) 410-5416 or e-mail to Fred.Heery@dot.state.fl.us.

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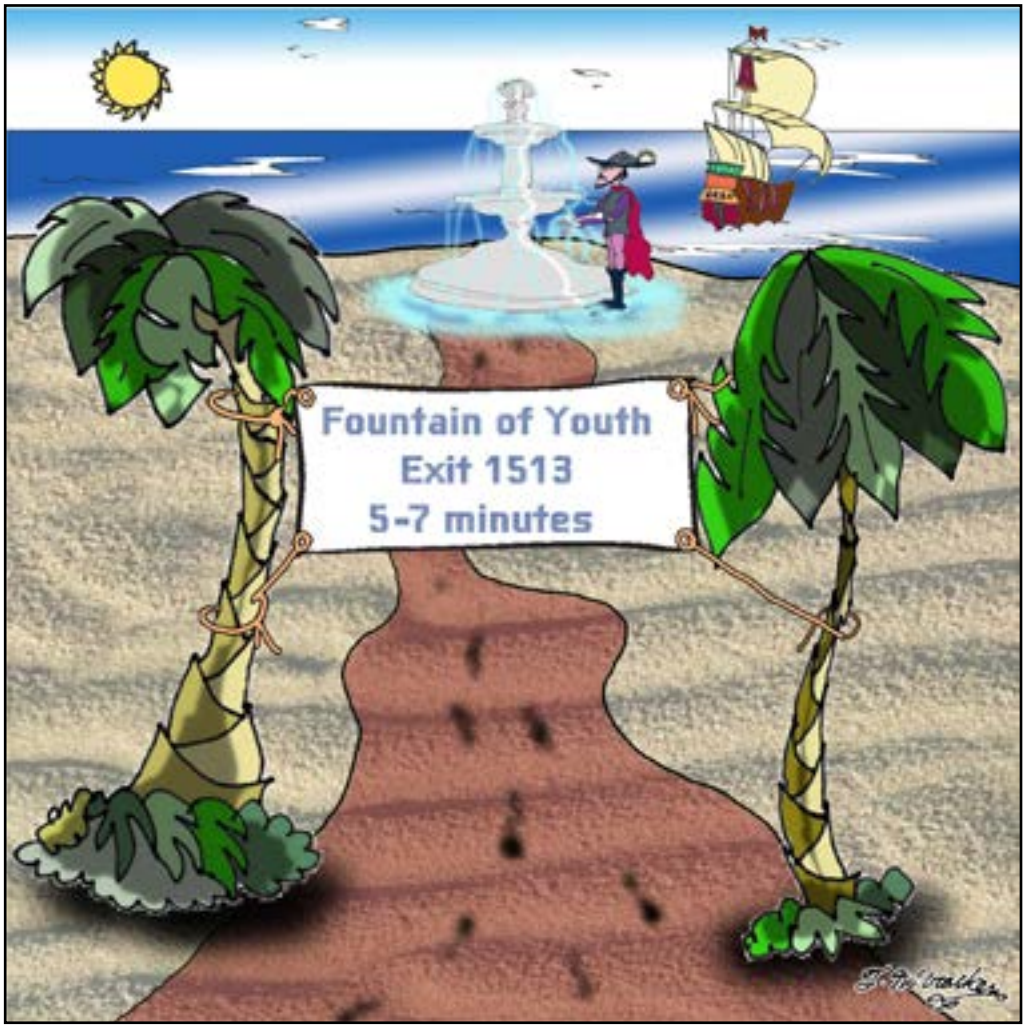
Moment of Humor!



Happy 500th birthday Florida!

FDOT Joins ITS America's Leadership Circle

By Elizabeth Birriel, FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations

In December 2012, the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) established a Leadership Circle, a new transportation thought group, to advance smart technology solutions in national, state, and local transportation challenges. The founding members of the Leadership Circle represent an important group of public and private sector executives who will advise ITS America and the broader transportation community in their thinking on significant issues such as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) implementation and reauthorization, alternative transportation financing mechanisms, and evolving business models.

The ITS America Leadership Circle is made up of public and private sector members who will:

- Advise the ITS America Board on how to further widespread ITS deployment;
- Promote and champion ITS solutions; and

- Assist in providing thought leadership and advocating on behalf of ITS America.

The Leadership Circle will work alongside the ITS America Board and staff on cutting edge projects to define and expand the ITS marketplace, forge new partnerships, educate policy and decision makers, and encourage investment in transportation technology.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is one of 22 founding members in the Leadership Circle. As a founding member, FDOT will receive many benefits for advising ITS America, including increased visibility; enhanced government affairs opportunities; and enhanced services, thought leadership, and networking.

FDOT will receive increased visibility through the ITS America Leadership web site at http://www.itsa.org/membership/leadership-circle-info. This dedicated page will feature member and company bios along with links to member web sites. ITS America is also involved in a variety of social medias, including Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube, from which the Leadership Circle will be visible. Leadership Circle members will be promoted at ITS America meetings and in the Transportation Technology Newsletter and other publications.

Other enhanced government affairs opportunities include the opportunity to display at the Capital Hill fly-in and technology fair and assistance coordinating individual meetings on Capital Hill.

FDOT will receive additional opportunities from ITS America to meet with other Leadership Circle members to discuss intelligent solutions for our transportation system.

For information, please contact Ms. Birriel at (850) 410-5606 or e-mail to Elizabeth Birriel@dot.state.fl.us.

* * * *

What's in the Cloud for Florida's ITS?

By Clay Packard, Atkins

Looking at Your Neighbor's Answer Sheet?

Cloud computing is already improving availability, cost and time efficiency, flexibility, and otherwise unattainable services in countless ways in other industries. Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) strives to take the best products and practices from other industries and fine-tune them to fulfill our vision. As an example of this, ITS has taken data centers, telecommunications, streaming video and shared display, radar, video processing, full color dynamic message signs, and countless computer science algorithms, and leveraged, integrated, and elevated their value for ITS.

Where is the Cloud Now?

Currently, the cloud provides services that would otherwise be outside the region of feasible to obtain; however, after adopted, these services have become mission critical. Imagine a motorist setting up their own personal live traffic information system, rather than using Florida's 511 advanced traveler information system and mobile app. Several traffic data providers are already using the cloud to push ITS beyond urban, limited-access roads and into rural areas and arterials. Other types of cloud services that provide value to other industries and that hold promise to providing value to ITS include:

- Information dissemination to the public
- Transaction processing for customers over multiple points of sale
- Data center and/or custom applications and systems for unrestricted use

- Software development and hosted testing environment in the cloud
- Off-site disaster recovery and backup

What is Our ITS Cloud Vision?

The cloud is not a one-size-fits-all solution for every application; however, as with any new technology or approach, we will evaluate ways in which the cloud can benefit the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) ITS Program in similar ways it benefits other industries, and how to carefully integrate cloud-based solutions in a manner that minimizes impact to operations, minimizes cost over the long term, and provides value to current needs – one step at a time. We've discussed several ways in which the cloud is used in other industries, so let's take a look at some of our existing, desired, and potential operations and visualize how they could be delivered by the cloud.

There are other agencies, both smaller municipalities within Florida, and agencies of all scopes and sizes outside of Florida that may benefit from the cloud by not having to deploy a large data center from scratch; the cloud would give them the flexibility to scale the amount of cloud resources they consume as their operation grows. The following list shows several applications of a SunGuide® software deployment and how a cloud solution might specifically benefit each in addition to the general benefits already described:

- ***Third-party ITS data feeds*** – Having a cloud deliver ITS data to SunGuide software reduces the burden on ITS operations to maintain and operate a set of field devices or complex systems. No matter how complex the deployment or systems are that produce the product, a data feed is much easier to operate, maintain, and consume than a local deployment of the devices and central systems. This is already in use for traffic data in rural areas and arterials, where detectors may not be deployed. There's no doubt the future holds many other solutions, delivered as data feeds that can be incorporated into ITS operations by tapping into the cloud-hosted data feed. Weather is another existing example. This solution type also allows for system developers, trainers, and demonstrators to make use of the data feed without utilizing the production system or environment, which is currently not possible with traditionally deployed detectors and other devices. Cloud-based data feeds provide value over traditional, local devices and systems through the ease and virtual elimination of local deployment as well as accessibility to non-production usages.
- ***Information dissemination to end users*** – Having a cloud-based solution helps to collect and distribute information to many users located virtually anywhere. Currently, Florida's 511 system and the new central data warehouse utilize cloud services to deliver information to motorists, researchers, other FDOT offices, and their contractors. In the past, each region was responsible for deploying, operating, and maintaining a regional 511 system and for providing data archive files to the universities for research. FDOT is already extracting value from the accessibility and ease of data collection that a centralized cloud solution provides over locally deployed systems.
- ***SunGuide software testing or staging deployment*** – Having a cloud solution available for this would allow new versions of the software and other proposed configuration changes to be tested prior to production deployment. Having this system in the cloud adds the additional benefit of allowing SunGuide software support to easily access and obtain detailed test results, provide deployment training, and test what impacts would be caused by any change to the system. Availability of this system provides tremendous value and cost savings over deploying traditional, private test systems.
- ***SunGuide software training and demonstration system deployment*** – Having a cloud solution would maintain consistent quality in the training resources available for operator training and demonstrations. This system would have a set of configurations available and easily changeable to emulate any deployed system or any desired test configuration, and to be used for agency-specific training and demonstration needs. Consistent quality and safety of this training and demonstration resource provides value over classroom training without a training system or the risk of using the production system to provide training or demonstrations.
- ***SunGuide software disaster recovery deployment*** – Many FDOT Districts and most smaller agencies have not

yet deployed a full copy of their production system for immediate disaster recovery. A new system would have to be deployed using backups. Having the production system replicated onto a cloud-hosted disaster recovery system would provide this capability, which would reduce the cost, schedule, and ongoing maintenance burden of a transportation management center (TMC) maintaining a private, disaster recovery failover deployment. For many, this falls into the category of a new deployment, which we have already discussed as the value added by a cloud-hosted solution.

- ***SunGuide software database and configuration backup*** – If a full deployment is not needed, there is value in replicating even the database portion of a SunGuide software deployment. A TMC can focus on managing their resources and can have a database replication backup ready to go in the cloud. This would not be much different from the disaster recovery as the SunGuide software application could be cloned and launched quickly if needed, and much faster with the database already replicated and online. This would be one of the components of the disaster recovery deployment, but without as much effort to maintain and test the application servers. This would also allow SunGuide software support to access the database and configuration information needed to help resolve issues with the production system.
- ***SunGuide software cloud development*** – Having a cloud-hosted development environment solution would allow more vendors the ability to add value to the software. Currently, the Change Management Board requests vendors to write their own device drivers for integration into SunGuide software. Having this development environment hosted in the cloud would alleviate the vendors from setting up their own local development environment, which is a significant burden without existing knowledge of the SunGuide software. SunGuide software development support and collaboration would be made possible and easy in the cloud environment as well. Researchers could also participate in modification of SunGuide software to prototype the innovation they are attempting to add to the ITS program.

There is a future for ITS in the cloud. In fact, the cloud is already here and in use for Florida's 511 system and traffic data feeds, and we're analyzing, building, and deploying new solutions one step at a time, where we can enable otherwise infeasible solutions or save significant cost.

For information, please contact Mr. Packard at (850) 410-5623 or e-mail to Clay.Packard@dot.state.fl.us.

* * * *

District Four SIRV Program Continues Success Story

By Gaetano Francese, FDOT District Four

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four commemorated the first successful year of the Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV) Program in Palm Beach County on February 20th. The SIRV Program has been a key component of the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Program in District Four since its inception in Broward County in 2005.

Palm Beach SIRV operators provide an immediate FDOT incident command presence at severe incidents affecting the 46-mile section of I-95 in Palm Beach County. The SMART SunGuide® Transportation Management Center dispatch SIRV operators who respond 24/7 to severe traffic incidents, including full highway closures, fatal crashes, overturned commercial trucks, and other events that may last longer than two hours. In addition, SIRV responds to any incident that blocks a highway lane while they are on duty Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. When available, SIRV can assist at incidents on arterial state roads near highway entrance and exit ramps.

During the first year, Palm Beach SIRV operators responded to 596 events and were directly responsible for reducing the duration of lane closures by 3,906 minutes (65 hours). The amount of time saved for Road Rangers, fire rescue, wrecker companies, law enforcement, and other responder agencies totaled 6,448 minutes (more than 107 hours).

The reduced individual lane closure durations are based on the time SIRV staff provided a service or equipment, thus saving the time it would have taken to dispatch additional resources. Advanced on-scene management often leads to freeing responding agencies from the incident scene. On-scene SIRV activities that reduce incident durations include:

- Spill mitigation
- Debris clean up
- Directing Road Rangers
- Roadway repair
- Coordinating maintenance of traffic to open lanes quicker
- Negotiation with other responders to open lanes
- Bio-hazard mitigation

Benefits are not only in terms of time and cost savings for partner agencies, but also in quicker and safer incident clearance for the traveling public. During off-peak hours, SIRV performs quality of service audits and vehicle inspections for the FDOT Road Ranger Service Patrol Program. SIRV also participates in the bimonthly Broward County and Palm Beach County TIM Team meetings.

For information, please contact Mr. Francese at (954) 847-2797, or email to Gaetano.Francese@dot.state.fl.us. For more information on the District Four SIRV program, visit www.smartsunguide.com/SIRV.aspx.

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Strategic Highway Safety Plan Emphasis Areas

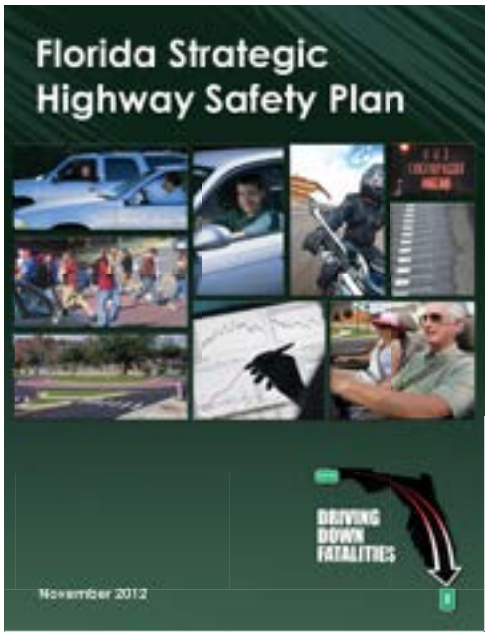
By Joseph Santos, FDOT Safety Office

Last month I shared with you a general overview of national and state transportation safety efforts. The efforts mentioned included national efforts through legislation (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century – MAP-21) and state efforts through the Florida *Strategic Highway Safety Plan* (*SHSP*). The *SHSP* efforts bring together all of the Florida safety partners to focus on the 4Es of safety – engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency medical services – and include the following emphasis areas:

- Aggressive driving
- Intersection crashes
- Vulnerable road users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists)
- Lane departure crashes
- Impaired driving
- At-risk drivers (aging road users and teens)
- Distracted driving
- Traffic data

This month I will highlight one of the *SHSP* emphasis areas – intersection crashes.

Between 2007 and 2011, more than 40 percent of the statewide traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Florida were intersection related crashes; crashes which occur at or within 250 feet of signalized and unsignalized intersections are defined as intersection related. Based on research of best practices and input from the Federal Highway Administration, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) adopted new intersection signal designs, which included requirements for a signal head per lane, retroreflective backplates, and no diagonal signal head displays. The new signal designs were adopted as policy for all new state road designs and are detailed in FDOT's *Plans Preparation Manual*. FDOT encourages local agencies to adopt the new



intersection signal designs on their projects.

In addition to the traditional approach to implementing intersection improvements which uses crash data to identify high-crash locations and implement countermeasures specific to the location, FDOT began using a systemic approach to achieve the intersection crash reduction goal. This approach starts with a set of low-cost, effective countermeasures and searches the crash data system to identify intersections where the countermeasures can be deployed in a cost-effective manner. The first use of the systemic approach focused on stop sign control on side streets of high-speed divided highways. The systemic approach was adopted as FDOT policy in 2009. To address pedestrian related crashes at intersections, FDOT began encouraging the Districts to review signal timing for pedestrians. Techniques deployed include setting appropriate walk times and use of advanced pedestrian or pedestrian only phases.

The Florida *SHSP* intersection crashes emphasis area identified seven strategies:

- Increase safety of intersections for all users
- Identify systemic intersection safety improvements, update the *Intersection Safety Plan*, and encourage implementation at the local level
- Promote improved access management at the state and local levels
- Consider including safety in the planning/value engineering manual
- Update policies, guidelines, handbooks, and training based on the *Highway Safety Manual*
- Increase education programs designed to provide targeted information to drivers
- Increase targeted enforcement activities at high-crash locations and increase public education on intersection safety

The lead "E" selected for the intersection crashes emphasis area to ensure the action plan is focused and stays on track is ***engineering***.

Next month I will cover another engineering related SHSP emphasis area, lane departure crashes.

More information concerning the Florida SHSP can be found online at http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/SHSP2012/SHSP-2012.shtm.

For information, please contact Mr. Santos at (850) 245-1502 or e-mail to Joseph.Santos@dot.state.fl.us.

* * * *

Word Challenge Answer

CIRCLE

SOLUTIONS

ADVOCATING

LA FLORIDA

The CLOUD—to connect or not to connect. That is the question!

District Six: Public Interest Abounds for the SunGuide® TMC in Fiscal Year 2011/12

By Javier Rodriguez, FDOT District Six

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Office hosted more than 2,000 visitors from all over the world last fiscal year. Industry professionals from far-reaching countries, such as India, South Korea, and Colombia all made a stop at the SunGuide® Transportation Management Center (TMC) to learn more about the ITS program's operations and public services.

Projects, such as the widely successful 95 Express, raised FDOT's profile in the past few years. As a result, national and international members of the industry came to learn more about 95 Express as well as the interrelated services that support it. Depending on whether they were interested in knowing more about the whole project, or just one of its components, visitors were given customized presentations that met their specific interest and needs. This type of attention to detail prompted various repeat visits from attendees who typically invited more of their colleagues. This allowed District Six to showcase the overall ITS Program in a more effective way. Visitors learned about the importance of building a sound ITS infrastructure and its correlation to sustaining a highly complex system such as managed lanes. They learned about the District's operations contract, performance measurement provisions, inter-agency coordination, and enhancement to the incident management and traveler information programs.

Besides industry professionals, the TMC hosted visits for elected officials, local media agencies, private citizens, and school organizations. The center even became the go-to backdrop for other high-profile projects to showcase their operations because of its connection to traffic management.

These visits were all made possible through the work and support of the entire ITS team. Tour coordination is an essential part of the program's regular operations because, as a publicly funded program, it is District Six's duty to remain open to the community and raise local and statewide awareness.

For information, please contact Mr. Rodriguez at (305) 407-5341 or e-mail to Javier.Rodriguez2@dot.state.fl.us.

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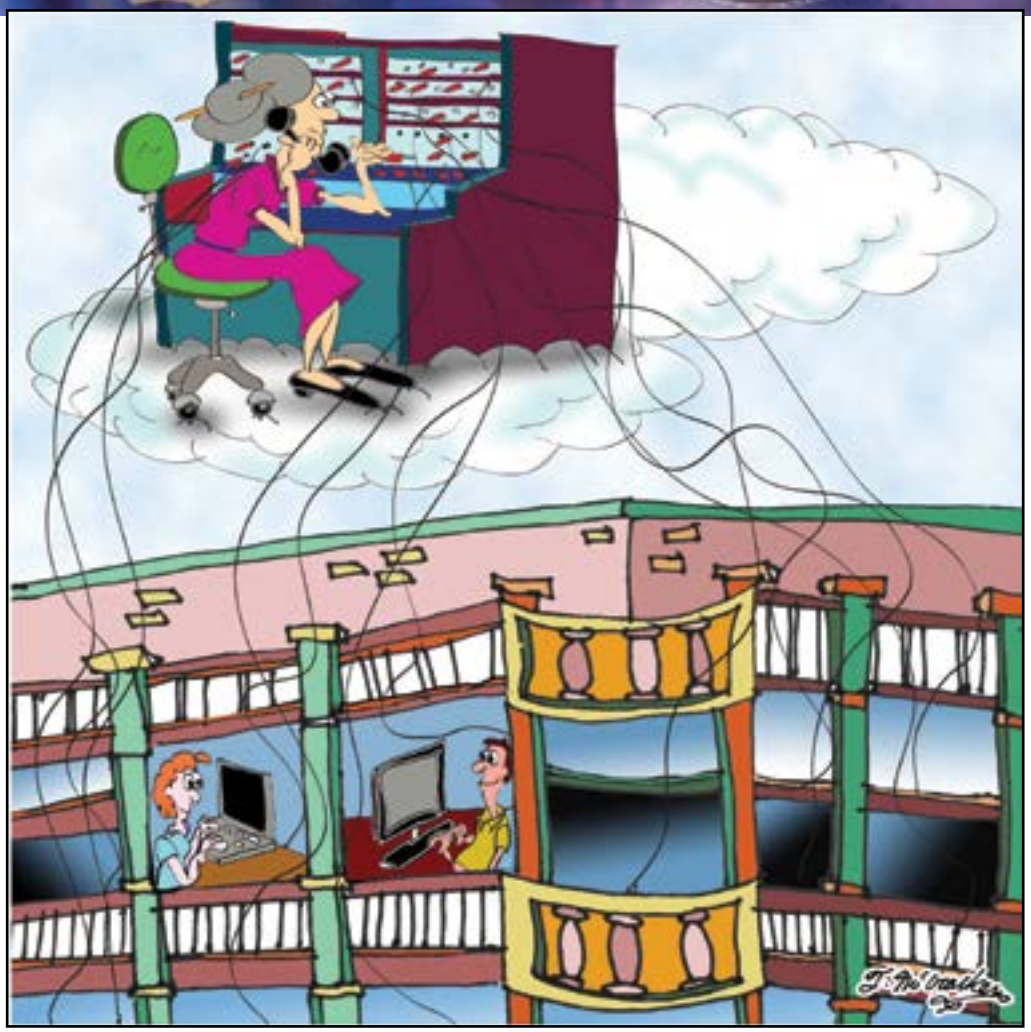
FDOT District Six outreach.

SunGuide® Disseminator Word Challenge



The □□□□□—to connect or not to connect.
That is the question!

We invite you to have some fun and complete the *SunGuide Disseminator* Word Challenge!

Unscramble the letters to complete the word for the clue found under the boxes. Use the letters in the red circles to complete the final puzzle. The answers can be found on the page 6.

Enjoy
and
Good Luck!

D A
□□

L L A F R I O
□□□□□□□

In 1513, Ponce de Leon found this.

L U T S O I N S O
□□□□□□□□□

FDOT is “analyzing, building, and deploying” these one step at a time.

V A C D A T G I O N
□□□□□□□□□□

The Safe Mobility for Life Coalition is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ for the safety and mobility needs of our aging population.

C L E R I C
□□□□□□

FDOT is a founding member of the Leadership _ _ _ _ _ _.

ITS Florida: The Best (and Newest) of ITS in Florida

By Erika Birosak on behalf of ITS Florida

Photo Contest for ITS Florida 2014 Calendar

ITS Florida is calling all members to be creative and submit photos demonstrating the best (and newest) of ITS in Florida. Florida is an ITS powerhouse and we wants to showcase this in the ITS Florida 2014 Calendar.

This annual ITS photo contest will select the best photos to be used in the ITS Florida 2014 Calendar. This is a chance to showcase the best work of ITS Florida members. Each winner will be awarded with placement of their photo in the calendar to be seen all over Florida and potentially the southeast.

How to Enter

Please submit photos in high-resolution, landscape[1] format (jpg, png) along with a document identifying each photo with a short caption that can be used in the calendar. Please also include contact information for the submitter of the photo(s) should ITS Florida have any questions. Photos should be submitted on CD/DVD via mail delivery to:

Ms. Sandy Beck
ITS Florida
215 NW Monroe Circle North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
Phone: (727) 430-1136
Email: itsflorida@itsflorida.org

Deadline for submittals is Friday, June 14, 2013, by 5:00 p.m.

Photos will be judged by a panel that will represent all geographical regions of the state. Winners will be announced at the ITS Florida Annual Meeting and Technical Forum (Dates to be announced next month).

Photos submitted in last year's contest may be resubmitted for consideration; ITS Florida will not consider any photos submitted last year unless they are resubmitted.

For questions, please contact Ms. Erika Birosak at Erika.Birosak@transcore.com or Ms. Sandy Beck (contact information previously provided).

Please keep in mind that ITS Florida will soon be requesting sponsors for this calendar. Don't let your company's name be left off of the 2014 calendar!

[1] Photos in portrait format may be used as an insert-only as this format does not fit the calendar layout.

All photos submitted to ITS Florida for the calendar photo contest shall become property of ITS Florida. No copyrighted photos will be accepted.

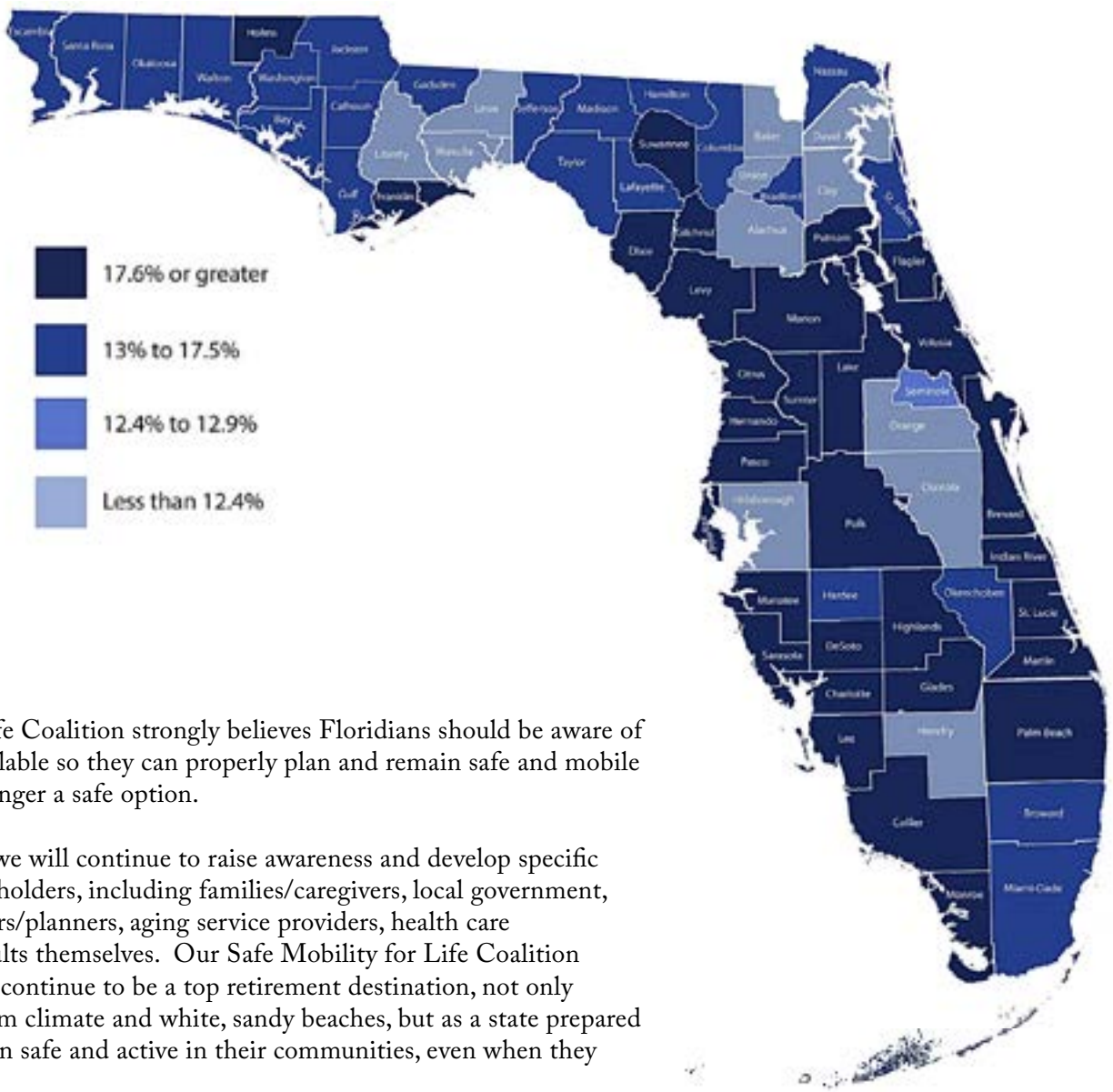
Editorial Corner: Advocating for Safe Mobility for Life

By Gail Holley, FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations

To effectively promote safety and mobility for all road users, the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition is advocating for state leaders to understand the impact that aging has on safe driving and how we can prepare our state to meet the mobility needs of our aging population. In 2011, over 17 percent of Florida's population was 65 years and older compared to 13 percent for the rest of the nation. In 2030, Florida's Demographic Database projects that Florida's older adults will number over 5.7 million, becoming over 27 percent of our population.

To assist in our advocacy efforts, before the legislative session started, we sent program materials to the home offices of all the members of the Florida Legislature. In addition to sharing our resources and the Aging Road User Strategic Safety Plan, we had the opportunity to raise awareness on the specific skills needed for safe driving, such as vision, memory, strength, flexibility, and reaction time; and how these ***changes do not affect all drivers in the same way or at the same time***.

Florida's 65+ Population by County (2011)



Our Safe Mobility for Life Coalition strongly believes Floridians should be aware of the broader solutions available so they can properly plan and remain safe and mobile even after driving is no longer a safe option.

With that view in mind, we will continue to raise awareness and develop specific resources for all our stakeholders, including families/caregivers, local government, law enforcement, engineers/planners, aging service providers, health care community, and older adults themselves. Our Safe Mobility for Life Coalition would love to see Florida continue to be a top retirement destination, not only known for our sunny, warm climate and white, sandy beaches, but as a state prepared to help older adults remain safe and active in their communities, even when they have retired from driving.

For information, please visit our web site at www.SafeandMobileSeniors.org/FloridaCoalition.htm or contact Mrs. Holley at (850) 410-5414 or e-mail Gail.Holley@dot.state.fl.us.

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Inside the TERL

By Alan El-Urfali, FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations, and Ron Meyer, Atkins

Latest Approvals and Notable Activities

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Traffic Engineering Research Lab (TERL) continually evaluates, certifies, and adds new products authorized for sale in the state of Florida to FDOT's Approved Product List (APL). Since the beginning of 2013, a number of devices have been approved, including the following:

The InSync and InSync Fusion Adaptive Signal Control system (shown below) from Rhythm Engineering became the first adaptive signal control system to be approved and listed on the FDOT APL. The approval was issued after successful field trials in Pinellas County and evaluation at the TERL.

The Autodome VG5 high-definition and standard definition internet protocol (IP) dome-type camera (shown below) from Bosch Security Systems was approved and added to the APL.

TERL staff have also been working with stakeholders on specification changes and processes that promote consistent minimum requirements and consistently applied approval criteria. The specification updates and centralized approval of equipment at the TERL allows new products to be introduced and incorporated in Florida transportation projects in an efficient and low-risk manner while still complying with state laws.

TERL recently developed consistent FDOT requirements for IP video cameras and is also developing common requirements for cameras with thermal imaging features. Thermal cameras allow roadway operators to view and respond to incidents that may not be clearly visible using traditional cameras alone.

The TERL is working to ensure that transportation agency users can select APL-listed equipment for use when power over Ethernet (PoE) is required. Approvals for field Ethernet switches are being expanded to include product variants with PoE features following successful product evaluations. In addition, the TERL is working with vendors who produce media converters capable of transmitting Ethernet data over coaxial cable. These "Ethernet over Coax" media converters allow IP cameras to be quickly and easily installed in place of older, traditional analog cameras.

For information, please contact Mr. El-Urfali at (850) 921-7354 or email to Alan.El-Urfali@dot.state.fl.us.

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Announcements

Mark Your Calendar Now!

Join the nation's leading transportation officials, technology providers, policy makers, and researchers at the Intelligent Transportation Society of America's (ITS America) 23rd Annual Meeting and Exposition on April 22-24, at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. ITS America is proud to partner with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and ITS Tennessee to host this important event.

More information is available at http://www.itsa.org/annualmeeting.

Make Plans for August

The 2013 National Rural ITS Conference is set to take place in Saint Cloud, Minnesota, on August 25-28. More information is available at http://www.nritsconference.org/index.html.

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FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations Mission and Vision Statements

Mission:
Provide leadership and serve as a catalyst in becoming the national leader in mobility.

Vision:
Provide support and expertise in the application of Traffic Engineering principles and practices to improve safety and mobility.

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