

TSM&O DISSEMINATOR

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

November - December 2017

DISTRICT SIX WINS
ITS FLORIDA AWARD



DISTRICT FOUR PARTICIPATES
IN FIRST-EVER NATIONAL
TRAFFIC INCIDENT
RESPONSE WEEK



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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.

LOOKING TO BE A CONTRIBUTOR FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE TSM&O DISSEMINATOR?

Email Jennifer Rich
(Jennifer.Rich@dot.state.fl.us)
with your story subject and title.

We'd love to have your contribution be a part of the next edition.

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DISTRICT SIX WINS ITS FLORIDA AWARD

By Javier Rodriguez, P.E., District Six TSM&O Engineer

District Six was recognized with an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Intelligent Transportation Society (ITS) of Florida during their annual meeting for 'The Expansion of the Operations Task Manager (OTM) Software.'

The award was given because FDOT selected (OTM) as the official software application that will manage express lanes operations for all districts across the state.

FDOT performed a comprehensive review of several applications and determined that OTM met the agency's operational requirements for current and future projects.

The application was originally created in 2008 by in-house District Six staff to support the 95 Express Pilot Project in Miami-Dade County. Back then it was mostly used to set the project's dynamic tolling, monitor performance and generate reports. It has been enhanced throughout the years to support additional project needs such as customer service and its expansion into Broward County, among others. The software has been largely credited with 95 Express' on-going success for its ability to adapt to the project's changing needs.

In addition to its Express Lanes Manager module, OTM features eleven additional modules that were added to support the District's growing operations. These modules were designed to streamline staff and traffic operator workflow in order for them to meet their additional responsibilities in a timely and successful manner. They include modules for traveler information, incident management, ITS maintenance and others. Staff is able to access one easy-to-use software interface to select the module for their need.



From left to right: Ms. Yamilet Diaz, P.E., Mr. Javier Rodriguez, P.E. and Mr. Omar Meitin, P.E. of District Six receiving Outstanding Achievement Award at the FSITE and ITS Florida Annual Meeting in November 2017.

District Six staff has worked with FDOT and the Statewide Express Lanes Software Team to help with software transition to Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), which will be taking over the responsibilities for software support and enhancements statewide. District Six staff has facilitated meetings, assisted with deployment efforts, updated user manuals and given hands-on trainings to ensure a smooth implementation and user success. The software is scalable to meet individual project needs and will soon be used to manage FTE's Veterans Express Lanes and Homestead Extension of the Florida's Turnpike (HEFT) Express Lanes, District Two's I-295 Express Lanes, District Four's I-75 Express and District Six's Palmetto Express among others.

Miami-Dade Expressway Authority and the SunPass Customer Service Center are already using certain modules and features of OTM. FDOT plans on getting other District's in-line within the next few months

For more information contact Javier Rodriguez at (305) 640-7307 or by email Javier.Rodriguez2@dot.state.fl.us.

NATIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY AWARDS

By Raj Ponnaluri, P.E., PhD, PTOE, State Arterial Management Systems Engineer

National Roadway Safety Awards - Congratulations to the 2017 National Roadway Safety Award recipients! This year the National Roadway Safety Awards Program recognizes nine innovative, lifesaving projects submitted by agencies that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in road safety. The awards were conferred on November 15, 2017 in Washington, DC.

2017 National Roadway Safety Awards Winner (I&O): Florida's Wrong-Way Driving (WWD) Mitigation Initiative.

- The Safety Concern: Wrong-way driving (WWD) incidents statewide, and a spike in WWD particularly in the Tampa Bay area, which experienced 11 WWD fatalities in one year.
- The Solution: A comprehensive approach to mitigating wrong-way driving through infrastructure and operational improvements, as well as policy changes and ongoing research, implementation, and monitoring efforts.
- The Result: Sustained and proactive engineering countermeasures, education efforts, and enforcement actions helped mitigate WWD crashes statewide.

Recently, there was a spike in wrong-way driving (WWD) crashes in Florida, particularly in the Tampa Bay area during 2014. In one crash, four University of South Florida students were traveling on Interstate 275 when they were struck by a wrong way driver. All five-people involved died in this tragic crash. All totaled, in 2014 the Tampa Bay area experienced seven wrong-way crashes that resulted in 11 fatalities.

The rise in wrong-way crashes was not limited to the Tampa Bay area, but was observed statewide. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) responded with the launch of the Wrong-Way Driving Mitigation Initiative. This initiative involved a holistic approach based on innovations in three areas:

- **POLICY** - FDOT developed a high-level framework that focused Department policy and decision-making on reducing WWD crashes.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE** - The agency revised design standards to more aggressively discourage wrong-way entry onto limited-access facilities. In conjunction with these changes, FDOT installed and evaluated emerging and experimental traffic control devices that are specifically designed to mitigate WWD.
- **MONITORING** - The FDOT Transportation System Management & Operations (TSM&O) team continuously monitors the WWD infrastructure and tracks its progress.

Infrastructure improvements included (a) new minimum signing and pavement marking standards for statewide implementation, (b) FHWA-approved Request for Experiment (RFE) with Red Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon and Internally Illuminated Raised Pavement Marker installations in the state, (c) a statewide WWD study and three research projects with a focus on deployment and learning, and (d) developing best practices to implement WWD countermeasures. This systemic approach has resulted in a dramatic reduction in WWD incidents. In the Tampa Bay region, for example, in 2015 there were no WWD crashes, and in 2016 there was one WWD crash which resulted in two fatalities. The effectiveness of the innovative infrastructure improvements is continuously monitored by FDOT's State and District Traffic Engineering and Operations Offices to explore every possible avenue to mitigate wrong-way driving in the state.

For more information please contact Raj Ponnaluri at (850) 410-5616 or by email at Raj.Ponnaluri@dot.state.fl.us.



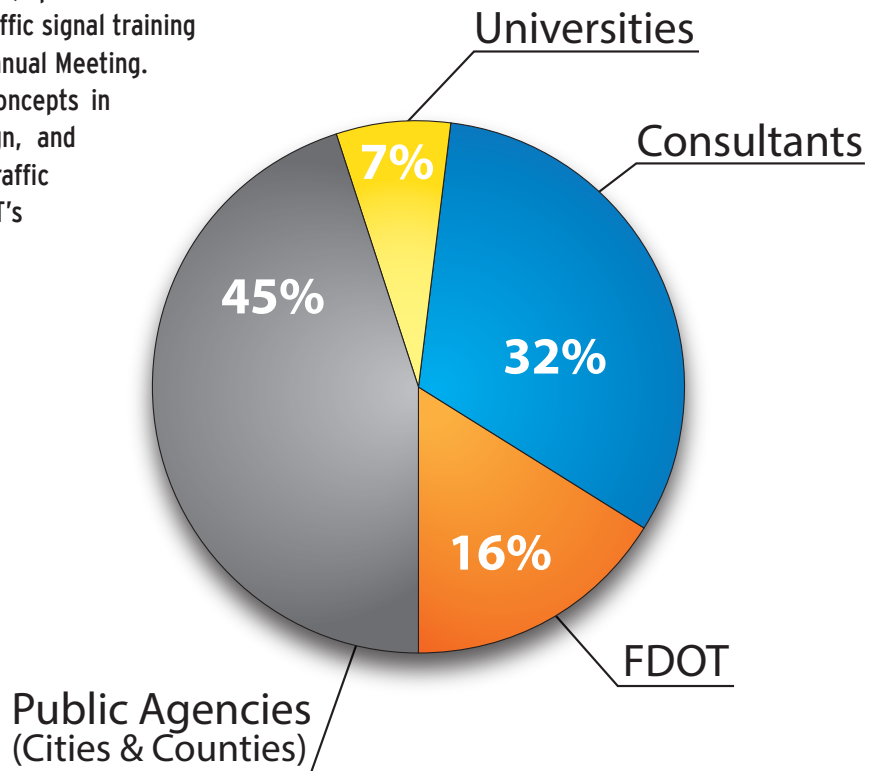
From left to right: Mr. Gregory Cohen, Roadway Safety Foundation, Raj Ponnaluri, FDOT, Ms. Brandye L. Hendrickson, FHWA, and Ms. Beth Alicandri, FHWA

TRAFFIC SIGNALS TRAINING AT THE FLORIDA SECTION OF ITE & ITS-FL ANNUAL MEETING

By Raj Ponnaluri, FDOT & Jennifer Rich, HNTB

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) partnered with the University of Florida's T2 Center to present two traffic signal training sessions at the Florida Section of ITE and ITS-FL Annual Meeting. The sessions provided training on fundamental concepts in traffic signals and warrants, traffic signal design, and covered traffic signal timing and coordination, traffic controllers' technologies and multi-modalism. FDOT's Traffic Engineering and Operations Office and Local Technical Assistance Program partnered with the UF T2 Center to make the training possible. The UF T2 Center advertised the training and provided qualified instructors for both training sessions. The instructor-led training was one half day.

As soon as the sign-up period for the training was opened, enrollment was brisk and it sold out quickly! The Florida Section ITE and ITS-FL were amazing hosts, working with FDOT to find more space at the venue to accommodate the training participants. The original seating limit per training session was 30 whereas both sessions ended up having over 90 attendees total. The percent of the attendees is in the pie chart below.



FDOT would like to thank both the Florida Section of ITE and ITS Florida for hosting such a successful training.

For more information about the traffic signal training, please contact Raj Ponnaluri at (850) 410-5616 or by email at Raj.Ponnaluri@dot.state.fl.us.



TRAFFIC SIGNALS TRAINING

In conjunction with Florida Section ITE & ITS-FL Annual Meeting
[Meeting Registration Here](#)
 Brought to you by: FDOT & UF T2 Center

Training Overview

This training provides fundamental concepts in traffic signals and warrants, traffic signal design, and introduces traffic signal timing and coordination, traffic controllers technologies, and multi-modalism.

Sign Up Today!

11/1/2017
8:30AM-12:00PM
Seating Limit: 30

11/2/2017
1:30PM-5:00PM
Seating Limit: 30

[Register for Traffic Signals Training Here!](#)

Traffic Engineering and Operations Office (TEOO)
Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

Public agencies are encouraged to attend this LTAP supported training.

2018 FTBA CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

Join us in Orlando for the 2018 Construction Conference February 8 & 9, 2018! We have a great selection of sessions this year and will be featuring a safety track again as well as a DBE track for those interested.

Early bird registration fees are as follows: (Ends January 5th)
FTBA Members/FDOT Employees - \$65, Non-Members - \$180

Regular registration fees are as follows: (Ends January 31st)
FTBA Members/FDOT Employees - \$85, Non-Members - \$205

If you miss the online registration window you may still register on-site!

On-site registrations fees are as follows:
FTBA Members/FDOT Employees - \$105, Non-Members - \$230



No Refunds Are Available For This Event.

Hotel accommodations are not included in your registration fee. FTBA room rates start as low as \$229 per night. Reserve a room at the Hyatt Regency Orlando, 9801 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819. The FTBA Room block tends to fill up quickly, so reserve your room ASAP.

For any questions you may have please contact, Stacy Heidel of Florida Transportation Builders' Association at 850-942-1404 or sheidel@ftba.com.

****Please note that Continuing Education Credits are not issued by FTBA. You can provide your PE number during registration and FDOT will provide you with credit. You may contact Heather Hicks (Heather.Hicks@dot.state.fl.us) from FDOT with any questions regarding the issuing of credits.****

BREAK TIME



"WHAT DID YOU THINK I DID THE REST OF THE YEAR?"

CONGRATULATIONS

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Matt DeWitt as the Traffic Devices Certification Manager for the Traffic Engineering Operations Office. Matt has been with the Department of Transportation and the Traffic Engineering Research Lab for 5 years.

Matt has extensive experience in the review and evaluation of traffic control devices for APL consideration, assistance in the development and implementation of department research projects, and creation and modification of standard specifications as well as those for innovative products for IPL listing. Matt is a voting member of NTCIP ASC working group and an active NTPEP member. Matt also had nearly ten years of experience in the installation and maintenance of traffic control devices with Polk County Traffic Ops.

Please join me in congratulating Matt in his new role.

Elizabeth Birriel, P.E.,
Traffic Engineering Research Laboratory Manager

DISTRICT FOUR PARTICIPATES IN FIRST-EVER NATIONAL TRAFFIC INCIDENT RESPONSE WEEK

By *Natalie Cortes, FDOT*

As the occurrence of incident-responder crashes increases at an alarming rate, the District Four TSM&O Unit participated with Florida's Turnpike in the first annual National Traffic Incident Response Week during November 13-19, to assist in raising awareness about the dangers incident responders face.

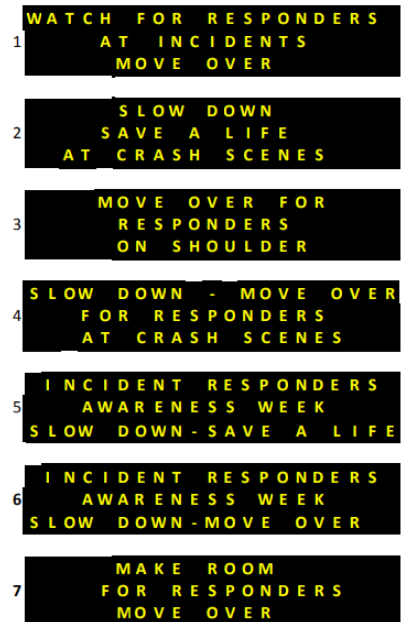
The week was designated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) after incident responder-crashes increased by 7.2 percent in nearly 50 years. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 35,000 crash-related deaths occurred in 2015 alone. District Four felt compelled to participate in the awareness week, after six noteworthy incident responder crashes occurred within 2017; one tragically ending in a fatality after an on-scene incident responder fell from an overpass. Neighboring District Six had 51 Road Ranger-related crashes since November 2016.

In order to maximize awareness, District Four posted "Move Over" law messages on Dynamic Message Signs across the district along with awareness-week specific messages such as "Slow Down, Save a Life at Crash Scenes." Several outreach events in coordination with District Four's Towing and Fire Rescue partners were also created to target the motoring public.

"We realized the best way to make an impact would be to reach out to incident responders directly and spread the word through the people they encounter every day," said Michael McGee, District Four Traffic Incident Coordinator.

It is estimated that more than 500 individual outreach impressions were reached through District Four's awareness efforts.

For more information please contact Nicole Forest, TSM&O Incident Management Program Manager at (954) 847-2631 or email at Nicole.Forest@dot.state.fl.us.



FDOT RECEIVES THE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COUNCIL EDMUND R. RICKER AWARD FOR FLORIDA'S WRONG-WAY DRIVING MITIGATION INITIATIVE

The main purpose of the Florida Wrong-Way Driving Mitigation is to approach wrong-way driving (WWD) in a methodical and scientific way to comprehensively address the WWD concern. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has been continually exploring ways for developing and deploying countermeasures while proactively identifying areas to help mitigate WWD. The initiative is data-driven, cross-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary, replicable, and decision-centric. The WWD evolving practice from FDOT has garnered interest from several states, with Caltrans paying a two-day visit to FDOT to see the field deployments and interact.

For more information please contact Raj Ponnaluri at (840) 410-5616 or by email at Raj.Ponnaluri@dot.state.fl.us.



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