

**Central Florida Safety Strategic Plan
Steering Committee Meeting #1
Minutes**

Date: October 4, 2024
Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location: FDOT Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC)
4975 Wilson Rd.
Sanford, FL 32771

Committee Members in attendance – Loreen Bobo, Don Willis, Craig Curry, Craig Estep, Bob Dallari (alternate for Cheryl Grieb), TJ Fish, Kelly Brock, Tammy Reque, John Rogers, Noel Cooper, Maria Tejera, Humberto Castillero (alternate for Brett Blackadar)

Committee Members not in attendance – Matt Reinhart, Christopher Thibodeau, Alex Tiamson, Charlotte Gillis

Others in attendance – John Tyler, Jim Stroz, Cindi Lane, Tim Freed, Britney Jones, Stephanie Phillips, Libertad Acosta-Anderson, Colleen Nicoulin, Gary Huttman, Georganna Gillette, Janey Walls, MK Burgess, Britney Jones, Andy Dance, Dan Gallagher

PowerPoint Presentation

- Loreen Bobo welcomed the Steering Committee to the meeting.
- Jim Stroz, the FDOT District Traffic Operations Engineer, provided a general overview of the RTMC and provided the safety briefing.
- FDOT Secretary John Tyler thanked the Steering Committee members, explained why we are here, and shared a video from the Transportation Summit by Jason Barger regarding “where you look is where you go”.
- Secretary Tyler shared 2023 data regarding fatalities and discussed how it will require all of us working together to make a difference through the work of the Safety Strategic Plan (SSP). Secretary Tyler emphasized that the SSP is Central Florida’s SSP, not solely an FDOT SSP, and it will require all of us working together to help the region “get to zero”.
- Loreen Bobo then shared the “Call to Action” from the Safety Summit, which called for the formation of the Central Florida SSP Steering Committee.
- Loreen Bobo explained the purpose of the Steering Committee and shared a draft mission statement with the Committee that stated:
 - *“Central Florida partners will work together to increase collaboration, think beyond infrastructure, and continue to focus on safety to “get to zero” throughout the region.”*
 - The Committee offered several suggestions such as eliminating the word “partners” and changing the word “continue” to “pursue”.
- Loreen Bobo shared the anticipated schedule rotation for future Steering Committee meetings as being January, May (the Safety Summit), and September and detailed key focus areas and agenda items for each meeting. *(Since the 10/4 meeting, we are proposing an additional Steering Committee meeting in April)*
- Loreen Bobo explained the need to consider focus groups to assist the Steering Committee in “digging deeper” into key action steps.

- Loreen Bobo recapped the Safety Strategic Plan, key data, core themes, and discussed how the action steps were developed.
- Andy Dance from Flagler County shared his perspectives on the Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTSTs) and the monthly work these teams do. Andy explained the importance of the CTSTs and how they discuss specific ideas and emerging issues across a variety of disciplines.
 - Several Committee members had questions and comments. Questions and comments included:
 - Humberto Castellero noted that we often have short-term, mid-term, and long-term improvements but when there is a crash or fatality, there is often a desire to accelerate a response. He asked if there might be a funding source that could be exercised by local governments to rapidly address these issues. Loreen noted that these types of items can be sent to FDOT maintenance and if it is beyond a maintenance issue, a push button response might be an appropriate way to address some of these requests.
 - Another question revolved around whether there are meeting minutes for the CTSTs. Loreen noted that FDOT is now assisting with CTST meeting minutes and agendas, and these are posted online.
 - Another question focused on whether “best practices” have been developed for CTSTs so that each county could be working towards those best practices. Loreen noted that this is a good idea and something we can look into further.

Facilitated Discussion - Action Step Progress in 2024 and 2025 Action Step Brainstorm

- Dan Gallagher discussed the progress to date regarding the 2024 action steps. Dan shared the Action Step Progress tracking spreadsheet with the Committee and discussed how each of the 21 action steps have been categorized based on their level of completion using a green, yellow, and red coding system.
- Dan noted that the 21 action steps have all seen a level of progress this year (to date) that categorizes them as green if they are completed and yellow if the work on that action step is underway and expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year. Dan noted that earlier this summer, a number of the action steps were classified as red, meaning that the work on them had not yet been initiated. During the summer, work was initiated on all action steps to advance them to either the green or yellow level.
- Dan noted the SSP is a plan that has a bias towards action and is constantly evolving. Now as we approach the end of the calendar year, is the time to begin to think about 2025 action steps and identify areas for the focus groups to “dig deeper” as we think about evolving existing action steps and introducing new action steps for next year.
- As part of the facilitated discussion, Dan posed the following three questions to the group:
 - **Question 1 - What efforts have you seen in your communities toward getting to zero, that are working well?**
 - Feedback to this question included:
 - Educational activities and community events that teach others about safety
 - Data driven approaches are helping more people to better understand safety issues
 - Groups like Best Foot Forward have been a great asset
 - Opportunity to broaden the messaging of Vision Zero to being about quality of life, and expanding the tent of supporters and advocates.
 - There have been improvements in the way the MOT unit (Maintenance of Traffic) is deployed to crash sites and there is room to do more training on how to manage a traffic scene amongst more organizations.

- There has been a lot of improvement on how we share information with law enforcement and how they share information with us.
- Craig Curry of Marion County explained that they are excited about the work they are doing in Marion County. Some examples he shared included the use of school resource officers conducting driver education classes for new drivers on weekends, the use of “drunk goggles” to demonstrate what impaired driving looks and feels like, and providing educational materials to new drivers. Several of these examples seemed to be ideas that might be able to transfer to other communities.
- Secretary Tyler noted that there have also been many successes with projects. He noted the US441 Pedestrian Safety Project recently won a SASHTO Award and the project included an array of safety features. One feature he noted was pedestrian fencing that was included as part of the many pedestrian safety features that were included in the project. Since the project was implemented, there have been no pedestrian fatalities. Secretary Tyler noted that the pedestrian fencing “tool” might be applicable in other locations and something we could explore for other projects, where appropriate, at both the state and local level.
- The group discussed the need for more before/after studies to be completed that describe the benefits of different countermeasures. Dan noted that one of the 2024 Action Steps specifically identifies the need for more before/after studies and data and that before/after study work comparisons has been initiated on a number of safety interventions across the District.
- Other ideas included:
 - Increase education and understanding around intersection lighting as opposed to corridor lighting.
 - FDOT should consider developing a professional video on the intent/goals of improving safety and invite partners to speak to why this is important to them.
- ***What topic areas would you like the Focus Groups to concentrate on in the future and is there anyone on your team that you want make sure is involved in this effort?***
 - Attendees listed several ideas including expanding grant writing training to create a multi-jurisdictional organization to help write grants that can help more communities. It was noted that some small communities just do not have the staff to write grant applications and fully understand all the grant requirements.
 - Additional training and support on how/what to do with SS4A/safety grants.
 - How can we simplify the steps for making improvements either through LAP or other mechanisms?
 - How can we create messaging that is focused toward different generations/ages?
 - Can there be safety contracts set up so local municipalities can tap into to expedite safety improvements more quickly? Is there a way to “share” contract terms so each community is not starting from scratch? How do we make this cheaper/faster/easier?
 - How might we continue to improve multimodal facilities to reduce cars on the road, and potentially reduce crashes?

- ***As we look to the future, are there any new Action Steps you would like to be considered in 2025?***
 - Creation of a safety contract to expedite projects and reduce costs.
 - Review of how roads can be developed/designed so they can meet future operational needs, but still be safe while an area is developing.
 - Expand safety education with tourists and seasonal visitors.
 - Consider how the region might continue to use automated speed enforcement technology, building upon the school speed zone camera work that has been initiated by several communities in Central Florida, and determine if that is something they would want to individually (or collectively) approach the legislature on.
 - Consider developing a best practices list for CTSTs so that the CTSTs can learn from each other and share information on what is working well and what can be improved upon. This idea was linked back to the information that Andy Dance presented earlier in the agenda.

- Loreen Bobo discussed next steps for the Steering Committee. She noted the next meeting would be January 10th, 2025 and that work would begin with specific focus groups regarding specific Action Steps over the next few months. Loreen also noted that coordination work would begin with Central Florida partners on the Safety Summit that is tentatively scheduled for 5/2/24 (*this has since been updated to 5/9/2025*).