



Al and Crash Mitigation in Work Zones

Tracy Joseph, D7 Safety Studies Engineer Hossein Amiri, D7 Safety Studies Consultant Transportation Symposium Website



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Presenters:



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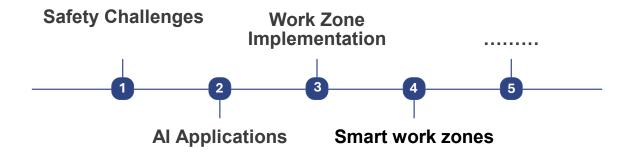
Hossein Amiri, MSCE, El

ELEMENT Engineering Group

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Roadmap



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Physical TTC Changes



Channelizing Devices

Barrels, cones, and barriers guide traffic through work zones



Lane Shifts

Temporary geometry changes demand driver attention



Shoulder Closures

Reduced recovery space increases risk



Temporary Pavement

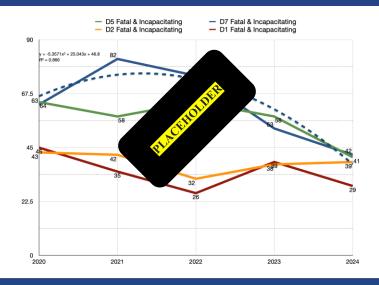
Surface changes affect vehicle handling characteristics

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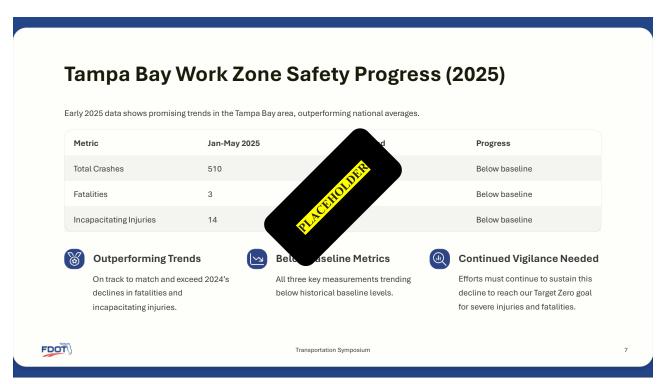
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Work Zone Fatal and Incapacitating Crashes



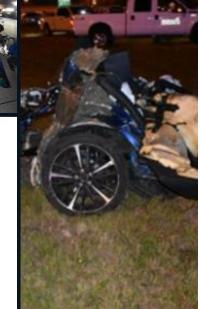
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Major crash in I-4 construction zone on April 2024

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5 injured after car going over 100 mph in I-4 construction zone causes major crash: FHP

April 2024

The Florida Highway Patrol said a trooper witnessed a sedan traveling west on I-4 at 102 mph. When troopers attempted to initiate a traffic stop, the driver attempted to flee, reaching 130 mph.

Troopers said the car continued west until reaching an active construction zone, where all lanes except for one were closed off. It then entered the closed portion of the work zone and collided with two tractor-trailers inside the construction zone.







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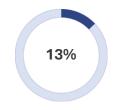
Work Zone Safety: Injuries & Potential Solutions

According the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) Survey released May 2025, Nationally:



Injury Statistics

30% of contractors experienced worker injuries from collisions.
71% reported driver or passenger injuries.



Fatality Reports

13% of contractors reported at least one worker fatality. 24% noted driver or passenger deaths.



Increasing Risk

47% of contractors believe work zones are more dangerous than a year ago.



Recommended Solutions

- Greater police presence (80%)
- Stricter enforcement of existing laws (70%)

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The Project Lifecycle

Planning Intelligent pavement management, safety studies tools, systemic analysis Planning tools, TTC design tools, safety reviews Safety monitoring, before after studies, generate reports

Project Inception

GIS analytics, intelligent estimates based on historic data, draft scheduling

Construction

Work zone AI, tools and strategies for construction monitoring

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FDOT's Al Policy - Overview

Human in the loop

Must supplement or complement work accomplished by human

Must engage human throughout the process

Human are fully responsible for the work and product involving AI



Transparency and Accountability

Must be transparent and disclose if the products are generated partially or fully by an AI tool



Ethics

Must be ethical and comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies



Privacy and Data Protection

Must protect people's privacy and comply with all applicable data protection regulations

Human validation of the Al data and output

Must protect information that is exempt from public disclosure per FL public records laws



Security

Employees, vendors, consultants, and contractors are prohibited from attempting to gain access to Al applications not approved by the Department



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Some Common Terminology



Learning from Examples = Machine Learning



Seeing the World = Computer Vision



Learning by Practice = Reinforcement Learning



Layered Pattern-Finding = Deep Learning



Reading & Writing Like Humans = NLP and LLMs



Task-Chaining Helpers = Al Agents



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Camera and Sensor Deployment Types



Static Cameras and Sensors



Portable Camera Systems



Smart Work Zone Systems

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Where is the data processed?



Processing Services



TMC-Side Processing



Devices with Edge Processing

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Surrogate Safety Use

What Are Surrogate Measures?

Quantifiable "near-miss" indicators (e.g., Time-to-Collision, Post-Encroachment Time, speed variance) that identify potential conflicts or hazardous behaviors before an actual crash occurs.

Why Not Rely Solely on Crash Data?

Work zones often have low crash frequencies and rapidly changing layouts, making multi-year crash analyses impractical. Surrogates provide early, behavior-based insights when crash counts are insufficient.



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Al Applications



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Trajectory Recording & Heatmaps

Traffic Monitoring & Flow Analysis



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Wrong Way Driving & Work Area Violations

Work Zone and Worker Monitoring



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Identifying Unsafe Behavior

Traffic Monitoring & Flow Analysis







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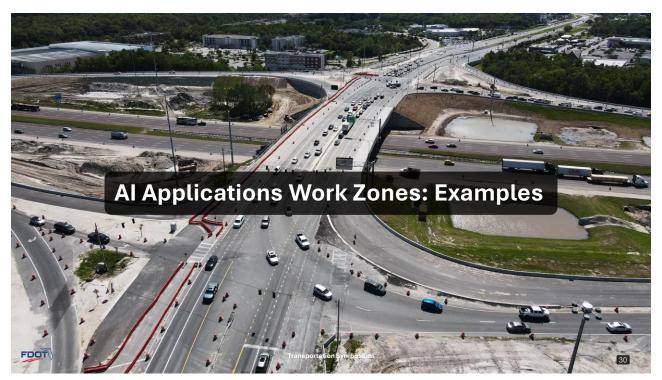
Entrance/Exit of Construction Equipment

Work Zone and Worker Monitoring



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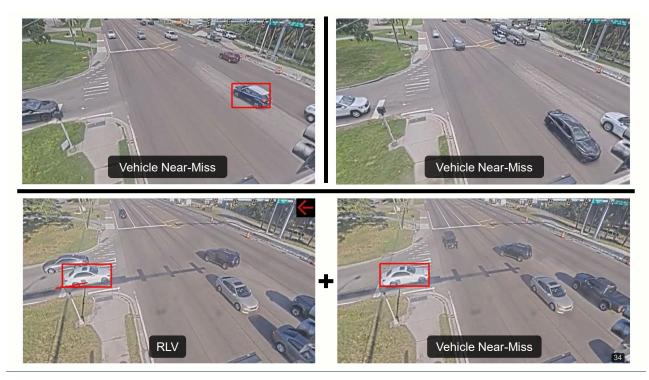
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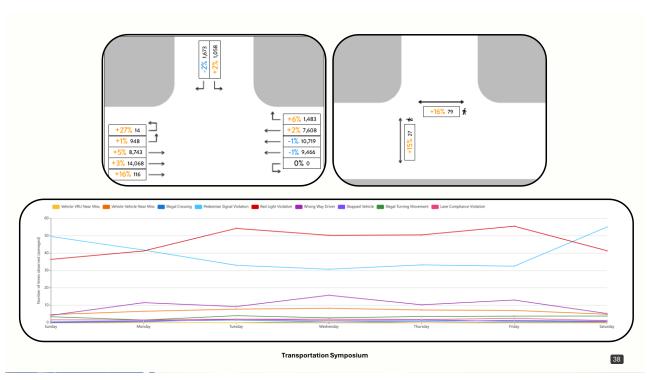
Intersection Work Zones – VRU Near-Miss



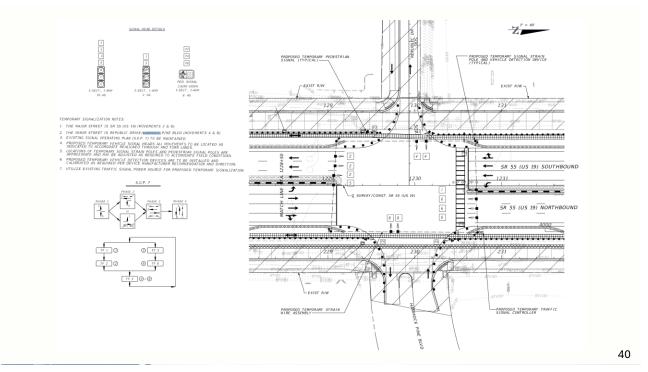
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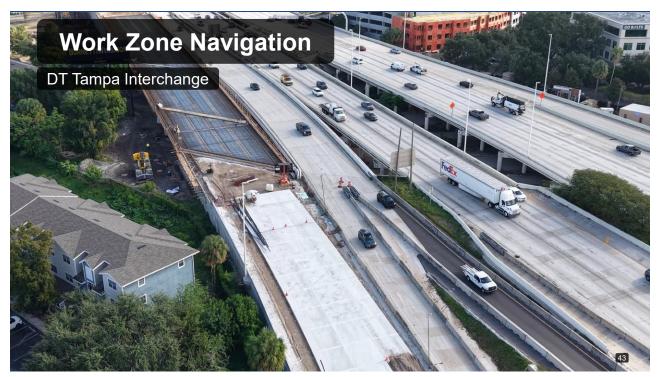


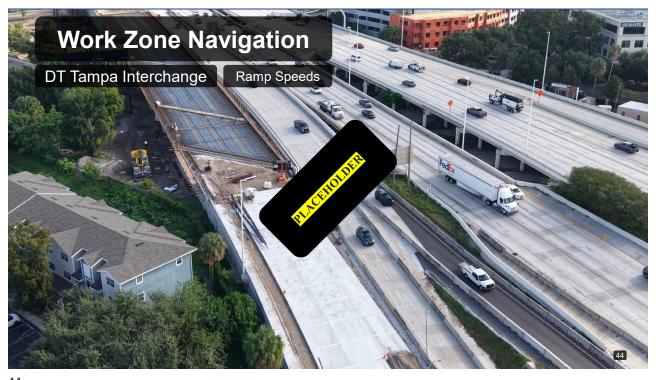


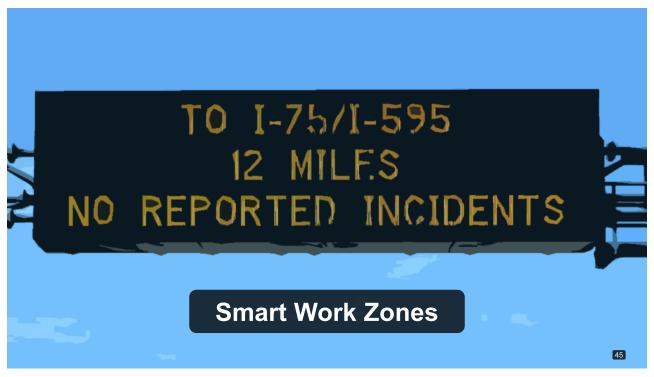












Smart Work Zones Overview

- Dynamic Lane Merge
- 3 Speed Harmonization
- 5 CV & AV Operations in Work Zones
- Queue Detection and Warning
- 4 Variable Speed Limit
- 6 Speed Safety Cameras

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Variable Speed Limit (VSL)





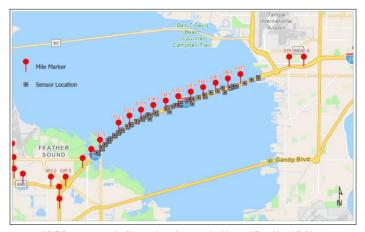
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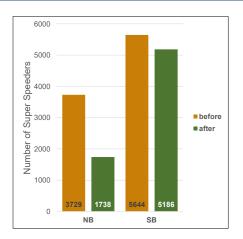
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HFB Project Speed Data Analysis



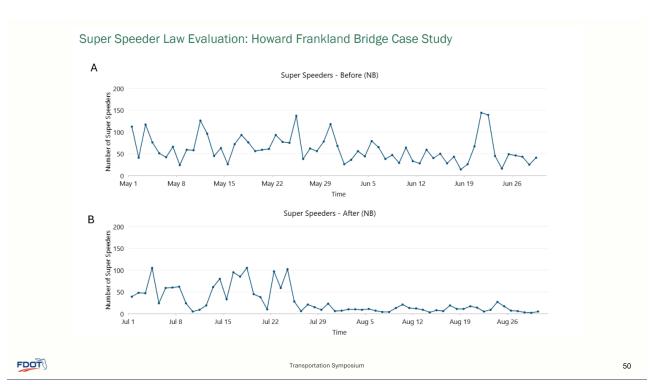


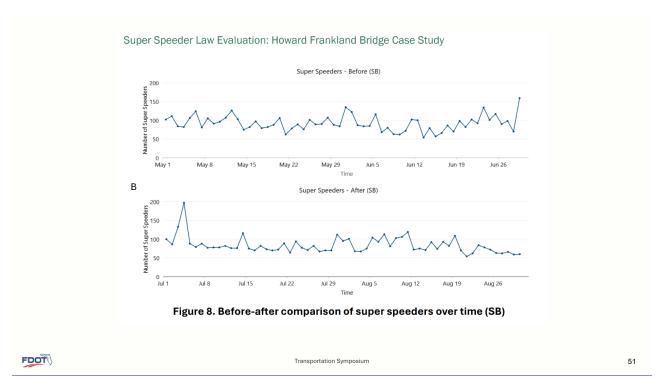
MVDS sensors and milepost locations on the Howard Frankland Bridge

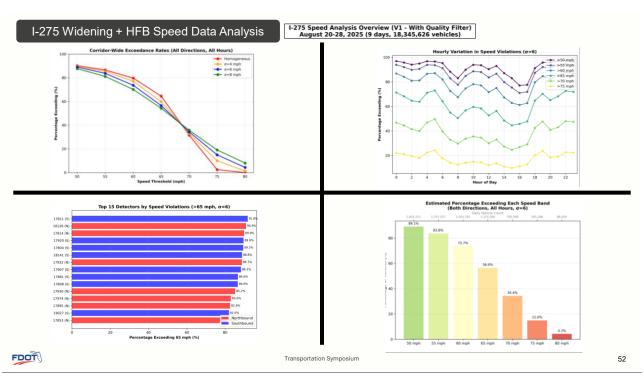
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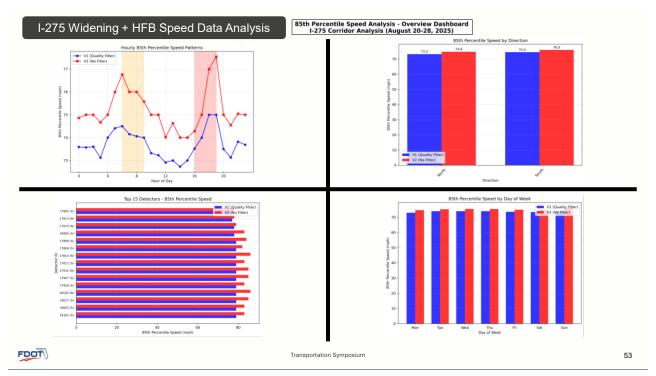
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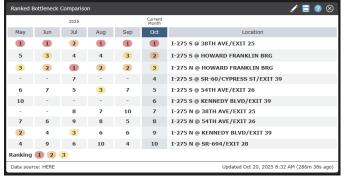






I-275 Widening + HFB Probe Data Dashboard

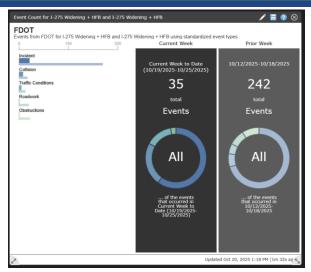




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I-275 Widening + HFB Probe Data Dashboard





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Key Takeaways



AI Technologies Offer New Solutions

Computer vision, sensors, and AI analytics can detect issues in real-time, providing valuable data for safety improvements in work zones.



Smart Work Zone Systems Show Promise Promise

Dynamic queue detection, speed harmonization, harmonization, and variable speed limits help help manage traffic flow and reduce crash risks in risks in construction areas.



Agentic Workflows Enhance Data Processing

LLMs and intelligent systems can analyze crash data, generate reports, and identify problem areas more areas more efficiently than traditional methods.

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Safety Message



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Questions & Answers

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