



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

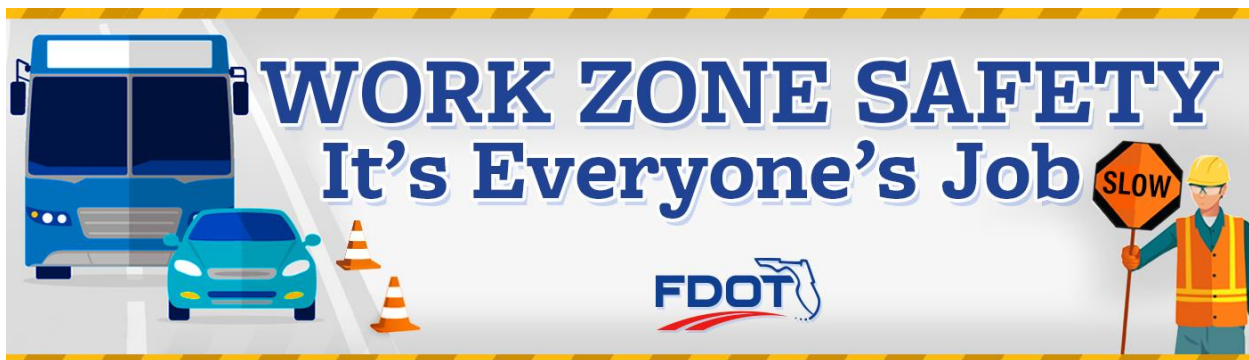
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.
SECRETARY

For Immediate Release
April 26, 2021

Contact: Beth Frady
Beth.Frady@dot.state.fl.us

FDOT Commemorates Work Zone Awareness Week, Reminds Motorists Safety is Everyone's Job



TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – This week, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is commemorating Work Zone Awareness Week to remind motorists to practice extra caution when traveling through work zones. Governor DeSantis signed an official [proclamation](#) recognizing **Work Zone Awareness Week** with the goal of protecting vulnerable workers as they build and maintain Florida's transportation infrastructure.

"Work zone safety is everyone's job," said **Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E.** "Florida invests billions of dollars each year in construction projects to improve our transportation system, creating numerous ongoing work zones. As workers do their part to improve, rebuild, and maintain our roadways, motorists should use extra caution, adhere to all posted work zone speed limits, and remove all distractions for safety."

According to 2016-2019 statewide crash data, Florida experienced more than 47,000 work zone-related crashes, including more than 300 fatalities and more than 1,800 severe injuries. To reduce crashes in work zones, FDOT's current practices include supporting traffic laws within the work zone with signage, public awareness and education regarding work zone safety, and partnering with law enforcement to strategically address driver behavior, locations, and conditions most common or hazardous in speeding-related crashes.

Improve Safety, Enhance Mobility, Inspire Innovation
www.fdot.gov | Twitter: @MyFDOT | Facebook: @FLDOT

The Florida Department of Transportation's mission is to provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of the state's environment and communities. The department is committed to building a transportation system that not only fits the current needs of Florida's residents and visitors, but also enhances mobility throughout the state to accommodate its consistent and rapid growth. The unique nature of the Sunshine State and its year-round warm climate provides numerous opportunities to achieve the department's mission through multiple transportation modes including highways/streets, air, rail, sea, spaceports, transit, and the ever-expanding deployment of bicycle & pedestrian facilities.

“The workplace for thousands of men and women across Florida is alongside our roadways. Each time you travel through a work zone, remember, you are entering their workspace, and their safety is in your hands,” said **Colonel Gene S. Spaulding, Director of the Florida Highway Patrol**. “The Florida Highway Patrol recognizes the importance of work zone safety and asks each motorist to slow down, stay alert, and eliminate distractions when approaching a work zone to create a safer driving environment for all.”

FDOT has comprehensive standard guidelines and procedures for temporary traffic control at work zones. Temporary traffic control plans include intelligent transportation systems and connected and automated vehicle (CAV) applications to create smart work zone projects. FDOT has been including CAV and emerging technologies in more construction and road work projects to improve safety.

National Work Zone Awareness Week began in 1999 when the Federal Highway Administration, the American Traffic Safety Services Association, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials signed a Memorandum of Agreement pledging to increase public awareness of work zone safety issues through a national media campaign. Since then, awareness has continued to grow, with state agencies and other organizations sponsoring high-visibility education and outreach initiatives. FDOT has partnered with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration on education and outreach, with billboards in targeted areas with active work zones, digital highway message signs, social media, and earned media efforts throughout Florida.

Work zone safety is everyone’s job. Motorists can do their part by:

- staying alert,
- slowing down,
- avoiding distraction,
- never tailgating,
- not changing lanes aggressively; and
- being prepared to stop if necessary.

For more safety tips and resources for Work Zone Awareness Week, visit www.fdot.gov/workzone.

###

Improve Safety, Enhance Mobility, Inspire Innovation
www.fdot.gov | Twitter: @MyFDOT | Facebook: @FLDOT

The Florida Department of Transportation’s mission is to provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of the state’s environment and communities. The department is committed to building a transportation system that not only fits the current needs of Florida’s residents and visitors, but also enhances mobility throughout the state to accommodate its consistent and rapid growth. The unique nature of the Sunshine State and its year-round warm climate provides numerous opportunities to achieve the department’s mission through multiple transportation modes including highways/streets, air, rail, sea, spaceports, transit, and the ever-expanding deployment of bicycle & pedestrian facilities.