



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
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KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.
SECRETARY

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Florida Department of Transportation Keeps Florida Moving in 2020

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) announced its transportation accomplishments in 2020 under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis.

“This year, the department continued to achieve many milestones that will undoubtedly shape Florida’s transportation system for generations to come,” said **Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E.** “Through the leadership of Governor DeSantis and support of our partners, the department has kept Florida moving while accelerating vital transportation projects throughout the state.”

FDOT’s accomplishments during 2020 include:

ACCELERATION OF KEY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- In 2020, Governor DeSantis directed the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to accelerate key construction projects as traffic slowed due to COVID-19, providing gainful employment to Floridians and saving the state more than 650 calendar days of construction. These projects included:
 - The Howard Frankland Bridge project in the Tampa Bay area.
 - The widening of Southern Boulevard (S.R. 80) in western Palm Beach County.
 - In Miami-Dade, the I-395/S.R. 836/I-95 Design Build Project in coordination with the local expressway authority.
 - The project at Sand Lake Road (S.R. 482) near the heavy tourist area of International Drive and Universal Boulevard in Orlando.
 - Phase one of construction on the US-1 Cow Key Bridge in Monroe County.
 - The Diverging Diamond Interchange on S.R 200 (A1A) at I-95 in Nassau County, the first of its kind in Northeast Florida.
 - Five new I-4/S.R. 408 flyover ramps as part of the I-4 Ultimate Project in Orlando.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- **Receiving its 10th consecutive [Perpetual Pavement Award](#)** from the Asphalt Pavement Alliance for the 9.4-mile section of I-95 in St. Johns County.
- **Being named one of the first participating states** in the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Automated Vehicle Transparency and Engagement for Safety Testing ([AV TEST](#)) Initiative.
- **Earning two Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) Regional Competition Awards** for the S.R. 82 Widening Project and SunTrax Phase 1.



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- **Winning a 2020 Toll Excellence Award from the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA)** for Technology for FDOT's Florida Turnpike Enterprise's (FTE) development of SunTrax.
- **FDOT/Florida's Turnpike Enterprise's employee Barbara Davis receiving the President's Transportation Award** for Research from the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO).
- **Being named the [10th most Bicycle Friendly State in America](#)** by the League of American Bicyclists for 2019. As part of this assessment, Florida ranked first in the Infrastructure and Funding category reflecting a strong statewide commitment to building a safe bicycle infrastructure using state and federal funds.
- **Earning two Transportation Communications awards from AASHTO** for the SunRail Safety Campaign – *Let's Go for Zero* Public Awareness Event and for the Sunshine Skyway Veterans Day Tribute.

STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

- Earning [Outstanding Project Awards](#) from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida for seven projects throughout the state.
- Receiving [Best in Construction Awards](#) from the Florida Transportation Builders Association for 14 projects throughout Florida.

USDOT GRANT AWARDS

- Receiving the USDOT Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment grant for the [Interstate 4 \(I-4\) Florida's Regional Advanced Mobility Elements \(I-4 FRAME\) project](#). I-4FRAME will deploy an advanced integrated corridor management system consisting of next-generation traffic incident management, work zone traffic management, road weather alerts, freeway back-of-queue warning, wrong-way driving, and speed harmonization message systems using groundbreaking technologies.
- **Attaining more than \$192,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)** in [Railroad Trespassing Enforcement Grants](#) to law enforcement agencies in Florida to support life-saving trespass abatement.
- **Being named as the recipient state of more than \$24 million in grant funding** by USDOT's FRA under the Fiscal Year 2020 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program. FRA will provide rail safety improvement grants for [multiple projects in Florida, including:](#)
 - St. Lucie and Palm Beach Counties
 - Rail Crossing Improvements and Dynamic Envelope Markings (Multiple Opportunity Zones) Up to \$2.3 million
 - Kissimmee
 - Central Florida Rail Corridor (CFRC)/SunRail Phase 2 South Capacity Improvements Up to \$5.6 million.
- **Leveraging state funding to attract \$91.12 million in federal funding for Florida's Seaports.**
 - Funds from USDOT's Port Infrastructure Development Program were directed to:



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- \$14.1 million to Port Canaveral for berth rehabilitation
 - \$43.9 million to Port Miami for cargo yard improvements and cold chain processing center
 - \$13.2 million to the Port of Palm Beach's on-dock rail facility development
- Funds from USDOT's Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program were directed to:
 - \$19.8 million to Port Tampa Bay's container terminal development project
- **Partnering with the Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works and the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority to help secure \$99.9 million and \$21.8 million, respectively, for the South Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Miami and the Central Avenue BRT in Pinellas, improving mobility and reducing travel times.**

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Improving Safety

- **Implementing [Operation STRIDE](#)** (Statewide Traffic and Railroad Initiative using Dynamic Envelopes), which was established by FDOT in December 2019 with the goal of preventing additional fatalities on or near rail crossings on state roads and state-owned land crossings. Operation STRIDE includes the implementation of engineering countermeasures called dynamic envelopes, education, and enforcement efforts.
 - Since the start of Operation STRIDE, more than 75 percent of the dynamic envelopes at crossings under FDOT's purview have either been completed or are in the process of being installed, and the department has preliminarily seen a reduction in rail crossing incidents across the state. As of November 10, 2020, 211 crossings have been completed.
 - In September, FDOT also joined other DOTs and organizations nationwide to recognize [Rail Safety Week](#), to inform Floridians on how to safely navigate all rail crossings and to highlight how a Dynamic Envelope provides a visual reminder of where to safely stop when approaching a rail crossing.
 - Over the duration of Rail Safety Week, the department [received media attention](#) from many news outlets across the state and earned over 239,000 impressions and garnered over 130,000 impressions on social media.
- **Deploying the first [Wrong-Way Driving Countermeasure Initiative](#)** to prevent wrong-way crashes, saving lives and reducing injuries statewide.
- **Adjusting SunRail and TriRail operations and increasing safety efforts during the pandemic** to assure a safe and healthy environment for passengers, crews, and staff. In addition to the increased safety measures, SunRail and TriRail continued to operate in the height of the pandemic on a reduced schedule, which ensured transportation was available for essential workers.
- **Completing all required inspections at airports** despite logistical complications and **assisting the Federal Aviation Administration with additional inspections** at commercial service airports.



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Enhancing Mobility

- **Accelerating critical infrastructure projects valued at more than \$2.1 billion due to a reduction in traffic volume throughout Florida.** Critical projects include:
 - The Howard Frankland Bridge project in Tampa Bay area;
 - The widening of Southern Boulevard (S.R. 80) in western Palm Beach County;
 - In Miami-Dade, the I-395/S.R. 836/I-95 Design Build Project in coordination with the local expressway authority;
 - The project at Sand Lake Road (S.R. 482) near the heavy tourist area of International Drive and Universal Boulevard in Orlando;
 - Phase one of construction on the US-1 Cow Key Bridge in Monroe County;
 - The Diverging Diamond Interchange on S.R 200 (A1A) at I-95 in Nassau County, the first of its kind in Northeast Florida; and
 - Five new I-4/S.R. 408 flyover ramps as part of the I-4 Ultimate Project in Orlando.
- **Distributing and administering more than \$55.6M in CARES Act funding for rural transit systems.** This funding allowed small rural systems to pay wages to employees during the pandemic, covered increased operating costs associated with cleaning and disinfecting buses, and purchased PPE for front line employees.
- **Recognizing space as an independent commercial mode of transportation.** The Spaceports Office was established as a separate office, independent of aviation, in late 2019 and made a bureau-level mode in early 2020.
- **Accelerating Southbound I-75 exit ramp to I-4 in Hillsborough County 80 days ahead of contract time,** providing increased safety and mobility on southbound I-75 approaching I-4.
- **Announcing Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will be joining the E-ZPass network,** bringing interoperability to motorists traveling along the east coast.
- **Opening two new I-95 interchanges at Ellis Road and St. Johns Parkway in Brevard County** relieving traffic congestion and providing a direct connection to the Orlando Melbourne International Airport and the St. Johns Heritage Parkway.

Inspiring Innovation

- **Expanding Florida's Electric Vehicle charging network** by installing Level 3 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging stations at the Turnpike's Service Plazas in Pompano Beach, West Palm Beach, Port St. Lucie, and Fort Drum as part of Governor Ron DeSantis' plan to provide a more robust statewide EV charging infrastructure. In addition:
 - FDOT, working closely with the Public Service Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, developed the state's EV Master Plan to support short- and long-range electric vehicle travel, encourage EV use in the state, and adequately serve evacuation routes.
- **Deploying Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV) projects,** including:
 - One of Florida's first CAV deployments in Gainesville, which contains multiple vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) applications.
 - Florida's first project to deploy cellular vehicle-to-everything (C-V2X) technologies in Pinellas County.



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- **Converting Florida Toll 589 to all-electronic tolling.** This roadway became the first fully cashless toll facility on the Turnpike System.
- **Upgrading the Statewide Intelligent Transportation System Communications** at tower sites throughout the state allowing regional transportation management centers to better monitor traffic conditions and enhance the efficiency of emergency response.

Planning for Florida's future

- **Submitting the final M-CORES Task Force reports to Governor Ron DeSantis and legislative leadership** ahead of schedule, following 15 months of Task Force meetings and extensive public engagement opportunities. The final M-CORES [Task Force reports](#) for the proposed Suncoast Corridor, Northern Turnpike Corridor, and the Southwest-Central Florida Corridor were submitted in November.
- **Completing Phases 1 & 2 of Jacksonville Harbor Deepening Project**, which deepened the St. Johns River miles 0 through 8 to a depth of 47 feet. To date, a total of \$71.45 million of state funds have been used to leverage federal, local, and private funding to complete these two phases of the project ahead of schedule.
- **Finishing the Port of Panama City's East Terminal in February.** The Port's new 40-acre terminal facility includes a 26,000-square-foot warehouse, new bulkhead, newly deepened channel, roadway connectivity, and rail access. More than \$26.5 million of state dollars were used to leverage local investment.
- **Approving a Resilience Policy to ensure that FDOT continues to adapt to changing conditions and recover from disruptions.** The policy for the resilience of the state's transportation system includes planning for the recovery from congestion and crashes in addition to weather events, other special events, or unforeseen circumstances.
- **Publishing the Vision Element of the [Florida Transportation Plan \(FTP\)](#)** in August and the Policy Element by the end of the year.
- **Updating the Strategic Highway Safety Plan in coordination with transportation and safety partners.** The updated plan is set to be published in early 2021.

Investing in Florida's businesses and workforce

- **[Investing More Than \\$1.2 Billion in Small, Veteran, Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Businesses](#)** providing opportunities for small and disadvantaged businesses and their employees within communities across Florida.
- **Launching the Statewide Workforce Development Program** to create career paths in the transportation construction industry. The program was modeled after a successful pilot program between FDOT's Tampa Bay District and the Gateway Expressway contractor.
- **Partnering with Space Florida to attract private investments in satellite and rocket processing facilities and in next generation launch structures.**

Outreach and Partnerships

- **Holding regular calls with Florida's seaports and public-use airports** to maintain open lines of communication during the pandemic.



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- **Partnering with the Florida Trucking Association and FHP to recognize professional commercial motor vehicle drivers** and provide free lunches to these essential workers. This event occurred in May.
- **Showing recognition for first responders and frontline workers** by illuminating FDOT facilities in red, white, and blue throughout the state.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA

- **Shifting northbound lanes into final configuration on Baldwin Bypass**, which has reduced delays and alleviated traffic congestion on U.S. 301 north of I-10.
- **Assisting with Hurricane Sally Recovery** to help remove debris, repair roads, inspect bridges, and perform underwater bridge evaluations. Teams transported and staged the communication hubs to the Panhandle District and 50 generators were provided for traffic signal restoration.

PANHANDLE

- **Beginning construction on S.R. 77 Widening in Washington County** from the Bay County Line to north of C.R. 279 (Moss Hill Road). Improvements will include widening the roadway from two to four lanes, upgrading drainage, adding an emergency signal at Spring Pond Road, upgrading the caution signal at Moss Hill Road, and relocating the park and ride facilities to Crystal Lake Drive.
- **Responding to the Pensacola Bay Bridge in the aftermath of Hurricane Sally** by deploying a multidisciplinary team of engineers and construction professionals to assess the damage and begin necessary repairs. FDOT remains committed to reopening the bridge to four lanes of traffic with a targeted completion date of March 2021 and is continuously working to improve traffic flow in the area. These efforts have reduced the average commute time by 25 percent.
- **Beginning the third segment to widen S.R. 390 from 23rd Street to east of the S.R. 77 intersection in Bay County.** Two additional phases are underway, which will extend the six-lane improvements from Baldwin Road south to 23rd Street, and from Jenks Avenue north to S.R. 77 in Lynn Haven.
- **Completing the U.S. 98 eastbound and westbound widening project between Airport Road and Matthew Boulevard in Okaloosa County** in October. This project widened and improved approximately seven miles of U.S. 98 in Okaloosa and Walton counties.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

- **Completing roundabouts in Flagler County at the intersections of U.S. 1 and Old Dixie Highway and at U.S. 1 and Matanzas Woods Parkway.** Educational outreach was conducted within the community.
- **Adding Halifax Heritage Byway as a new Florida Scenic Highway in Central Florida.** The Byway's new status is expected to bring additional tourism into nearby communities.
- **Receiving approval of the Tampa Interstate Study Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement from the Federal Highway Administration.** This approval allows planned improvements for Tampa's Westshore Interchange and Downtown Interchange as well as the I-275 corridor to proceed into design and construction.



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- **Opening U.S. 98/Trilby Road Roundabout in August** to reduce the number and severity of crashes at the intersection of U.S. 98 and Trilby Road.
- **Making I-275 operational improvements** by adding new lanes to eliminate merge areas and provide congestion relief on northbound and southbound I-275 between S.R. 60 and Lois Avenue.
- **Completing the I-4 Resurfacing and Ramp Extensions project** that repaved 11 miles of I-4 between 50th Street and McIntosh Road, milled and resurfaced many interchange ramps, including major interchanges at U.S. 301 and I-75, and lengthened the I-75 ramps entering onto eastbound I-4.
- **Informing the public about Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons along Park Boulevard in Pinellas Park** through a comprehensive education campaign reaching over 8,000 people.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

- **Repairing the Roosevelt Bridge** after cracks were discovered on the southernmost span of the southbound bridge during a routine biennial inspection in June. FDOT immediately closed the bridge, assembled a statewide team of bridge experts, and began inspections and testing to determine cause and origin. FDOT also created a multifaceted communications strategy and remained in regular communication with federal, state, and local elected officials as well as law enforcement partners and transportation stakeholders. In early November, the southbound span of the Roosevelt Bridge reopened to two lanes of traffic and full restoration is anticipated in January 2021.
- **Improving safety by completing the Hollywood Boulevard Complete Streets Project, which connects the downtown Hollywood business district with the entertainment district and City Hall.** The project included modifying and resurfacing the roadway as well as installation of decorative lighting, wider sidewalks, upgrading existing pedestrian signals with countdown timers, a four-foot bike lane, parallel parking, replacing the existing water main and connections at various cross streets, and upgrading signs and pavement markings to reflect the new roadway configuration.
- **Maximizing public engagement through a series of 13 hybrid (in-person or virtual) public hearings regarding the SW 10th Street Project**, a project that is vital to south Florida by providing connectivity between Florida's Turnpike/Sawgrass Expressway and I-95. This project is more than 30 years in the making and will improve safety and mobility for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
 - The hybrid meeting approach maximized the public engagement opportunities for the community and was also highlighted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as a model on how to best conduct public outreach during the pandemic.
- **Partnering with Palm Beach County and successfully performing a temporary roundabout and signal shutoff test to be used in future local hurricane emergency response and recovery plans.** The test used temporary traffic control devices in the event of a power failure and/or traffic signal malfunction, was performed at the intersection of Okeechobee Boulevard and Jog Road, and could serve as a model across the state as a safer and more efficient solution for intersections without power following a storm event.
- **Finalizing the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) New River Bridge Crossing Feasibility Study in conjunction with local, marine, and rail stakeholders.** Completing the study



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was important for the marine industry as the current bridge greatly impedes marine traffic and is an essential step to providing regional commuter rail connectivity on the FEC rail corridor.

- **Continuing work on S.R. 977/The Krome Avenue reconstruction**, consisting of 12 related projects spanning 36 miles in western Miami-Dade County from S.R. 25/Okeechobee Road to S.R. 5/U.S. 1 in Homestead. In January, work began along Krome Avenue between SW 236 Street and SW 312 Street. The Truck Bypass Project, which relocates oversized traffic from the historic Downtown Homestead area began in March.
- **Completing of the S.R. 874/NW 47 Avenue Reconstruction Project from S.R. 860/NW 183 Street to Premier Parkway in Miami-Dade County.** Work included widening the corridor from two to four lanes, upgrading the drainage system, constructing new medians, and installing new streetlights as well as dedicated bicycle lanes.
- **Increasing lane capacity of the Turnpike Mainline/State Road 821 to ease congestion in Miami-Dade County.** Two additional travel lanes in each direction were added in a five-mile section between Caribbean Boulevard/SW 200 Street and S.R. 874.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

- **Reconstructing State Road 80 from Dalton Lane to C.R. 833.** Located in Hendry County, this was the last 11-mile stretch of S.R. 80 to be improved by widening the roadway from two to four lanes, completing the statewide S.R. 80 widening project.
- **Resurfacing S.R. 951/Collier Boulevard from south of Judge Jolley Bridge to Fiddler's Creek in Collier County.** Additional improvements included widening turn lanes and adding new signals.
- **Completing Rye Road Roundabout on S.R. 64 in Manatee County** including a fourth leg to White Eagle Boulevard, providing drivers with another North-South route.

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