

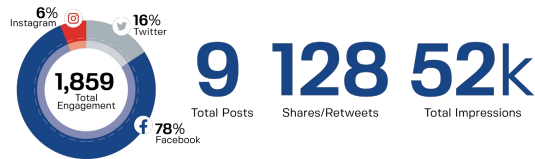


News from FDOT's Modal Development Office | September 2022



### Expanding the Modal Social Media Presence

The Modal Development Office, in partnership with FDOT's Public Involvement Office, has taken a proactive approach to interacting with the public online. Each week, FDOT's social media accounts publish modal posts through a #fastfactsfriday campaign on Twitter, Facebook and social media. While this initiative has just started it has resulted in the following numbers from May and June:



Look for #fastfactsfriday for posts spotlighting the efforts of each of the modal offices. Also, let us know if there are topics or posts ideas you would like to include.

## KEY STORIES

**FDOT Receives Grants Totaling \$37 Million to Enhance Transportation Safety**

## MODAL HIGHLIGHTS



### UAV Corp (UMAV) To Build the Largest Lighter Than Air Drone Hanger in The State of Florida

The completion of Florida's first 100-foot high and 300-foot long Lighter than Air Drone hangar is a big step for the continued growth of UAV Corp as a premier global builder of unmanned systems for domestic and international customers. "Our company will become a one stop shop for our clients that can come to Costin Airport in Port St. Joe, Florida to feel, touch and experience the excitement of their new drone launching over the Gulf of Mexico," stated Michael Lawson CEO. For more information, [click here.](#)

#### Other News

- [Rozansky Shares Benefits of General Aviation with Congress](#)
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### New Statewide Rail Operations and Programs Administrator

The Freight and Rail Office (FRO) has named Kelli Phillips as the new Rail Operations and Programs Administrator, starting July 26. She has worked with FDOT for nearly 22 years, starting as a senior in high school. She has served in Administration, Public Information and Professional Services (Procurement). She most recently served 9 years in the FDOT District Two Rail Office.

#### Other News

- Rail-Transit [public listening sessions](#) have been completed.
  - [SERTA announced](#) David Dech as the new Executive Director.
  - On July 14<sup>th</sup> the [Florida Freight Advisory Committee](#) discussed Florida's Supply Chain challenges & opportunities, and set the stage for the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - [Rail Safety Week](#) is September 19-25.
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## Positioning Florida as a Global Trade Hub

Supply chain disruptions have had a significant effect on the global economy over the last few years. These disruptions have resulted from a variety of factors including a global pandemic [COVID 19], geopolitical unrest [Russia's invasion of Ukraine], and transportation system failures [Suez Canal blockage, ongoing West Coast congestion]. Preparation for any one type of disruption can take significant resources. For Florida's seaports, this has consisted of an ongoing decades long effort to continue to grow and modernize, deepening and widening navigation channels, expanding terminal capacity and operational efficiency, improving on-port/on-dock intermodal rail service, and streamlining first/last mile roadway access for trucks.

The State of Florida, through FDOT, has been a key funding partner for the last 30 years, helping to accelerate key maritime projects throughout the state [PortMiami Tunnel and deep dredge, JAXPORT deep dredge, Port Everglades Southport Turning Notch, Port Tampa Bay Crosstown Connector]. In addition to key connector and terminal improvements, the state also has led efforts to prepare and expand the inland logistics systems necessary to move cargo to market [truck parking availability system, improved access to intermodal terminals, expansion of key highway corridors]. Other key partners, including the Florida Chamber Foundation, have worked to advance the state of the Florida as a global trade hub through efforts like the recently completed third installment of the Florida Trade and Logistics Study [T&L 2030].

Currently, FDOT has an initiative underway to further explore the state's intermodal logistics center (ILC) strategy to help promote and enhance further growth in international trade. This will complement efforts by Florida's seaports, like PortMiami's NetZero Cargo Supply Chain Program. In addition, the state will host a statewide supply chain symposium in January 2023 to bring the state's industry and government agencies together to further enhance the state's preparedness and competitiveness.

## Other News

- [JAXPORT has avoided supply chain disruptions through diversification of trade lanes](#)
- Florida's neighboring states ([GA](#), [AL](#), [SC](#)) are investing in inland port/logistics centers to support their seaports.



## Blue Origin, Composites Assembly Facility Project

Cape Canaveral Spaceport

Blue Origin's Composites Assembly Facility Project was approved for funding in the FDOT Spaceport Improvement Program. This project is part of the overall Orbital Launch Site & Support Facility that will support heavy lift launch operations, space vehicle composite manufacturing, and a production test support facility. When constructed, it will create greater capability to reuse rockets, expands launch capacity and cadence at Cape Canaveral. The facility is designed to support customer specifications and meet a production rate of at least 12 launches per year.

The FDOT Spaceport Office provided a total of \$9.25 million (\$2.32 million in FY22 and \$6.93 million in FY23).



Project	FY22 & FY23 FDOT Spaceport Office	Space Florida/Private Partner Funding	Estimated Project Total
Composites Assembly Facility	\$9.25 million	\$171.75 million	\$181 million

#### Other News

- [US Space Force tests robot dogs to patrol Cape Canaveral](#)
- [Space Florida aims to expand role in financing aerospace projects](#)



#### Graduates from FDOT's Transit Supervisor and Leadership Training

The inaugural class of FDOT's Transit Supervisor and Leadership Training gathered in Tallahassee on July 11-12, 2022. The two-day training was hosted by Star Metro and included attendees from Escambia County Area Transit (ECAT), Big Bend Transit, and Wakulla Senior Citizens Council as well. Topics included leadership, coaching and mentoring, teamwork, interpersonal skills, communication, written communication, radio communication, business ethics, union management, discipline, and evaluations and performance assessments.

"The FDOT believes in providing training opportunities for Florida's future transit leaders," commented Bobby Westbrook, Deputy State Public Transit Manager.



*Transit supervisors from Star Metro, Escambia County Area Transit (ECAT), Big Bend Transit, and Wakulla Senior Citizens Council spent two-days in Tallahassee at Supervisor and Leadership Training for Florida Transit Agencies training.*

#### Other News

- **Liz Stutts to Retire:** *The Modal Development Office would like to wish a positive farewell and well wishes to Transit Office Manager, Liz Stutts as she retires from the Department this month. Liz, we wish you nothing but the best! Thank you for creating a motivational team atmosphere and for your vast contribution to FDOT. You will be missed!*
- [FL: Attention Tampa Bay, Orlando and Miami: You can now book a bus through Uber](#)

