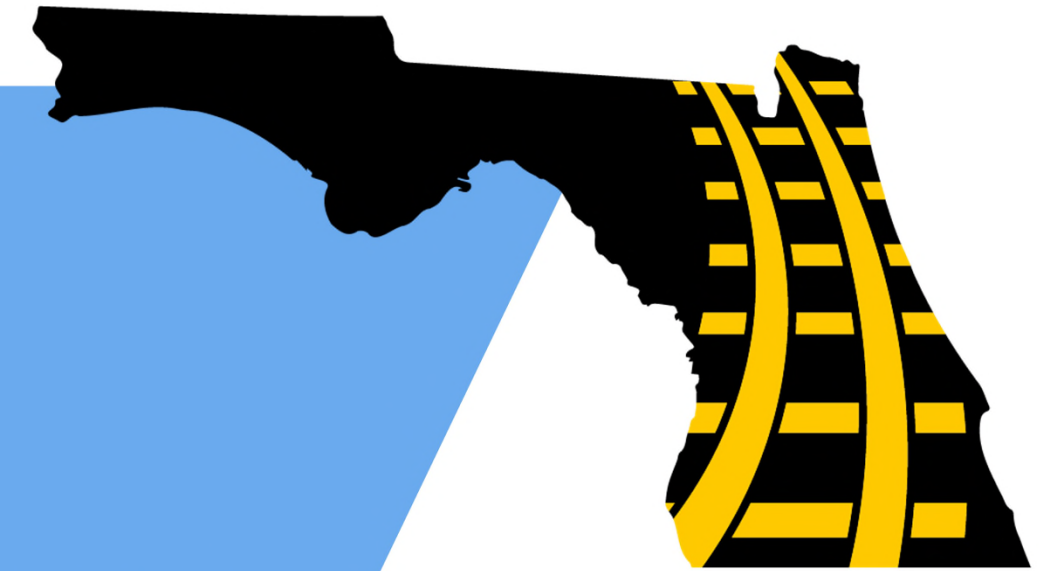


Florida Rail Safety Coalition



**FLORIDA RAIL SAFETY
COALITION**

November 14, 2024



**FREIGHT
& RAIL**

FDOT.GOV/FRSC

The background is a blue-tinted photograph of a highway. In the foreground, there are traffic lights and a sign that reads "REPORT A PROBLEM OR EMERGENCY 1-877-235-7245 DOT# 6221571 CTFC A785 64". The highway has yellow and blue diagonal stripes on the shoulder.

Welcome, Agenda Review & Opening Remarks

Agenda



CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME



FRSC PROGRESS OVERVIEW



STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT



SUBGROUPS & MEMBERSHIP



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



COMMENTS (MEMBER & PUBLIC)



CLOSING



The background is a blue-tinted photograph of a highway interchange. In the upper right, there are traffic lights and a sign that reads: "REPORT A PROBLEM OR EMERGENCY 1-877-235-7245 DOT# 622157Y CFRC A785-64". At the bottom, there are yellow and blue diagonal stripes.

Progress Overview

Key Accomplishments

Rail Safety Coalition Video: [YouTube](#)

FRSC website: [FDOT.GOV/FRSC](https://www.floridadot.gov/frsc)

Membership application: Developed & available

Scheduling: Next meeting Feb 25, 2025

Strategic Plan Development: First steps



Strategic Plan Overview

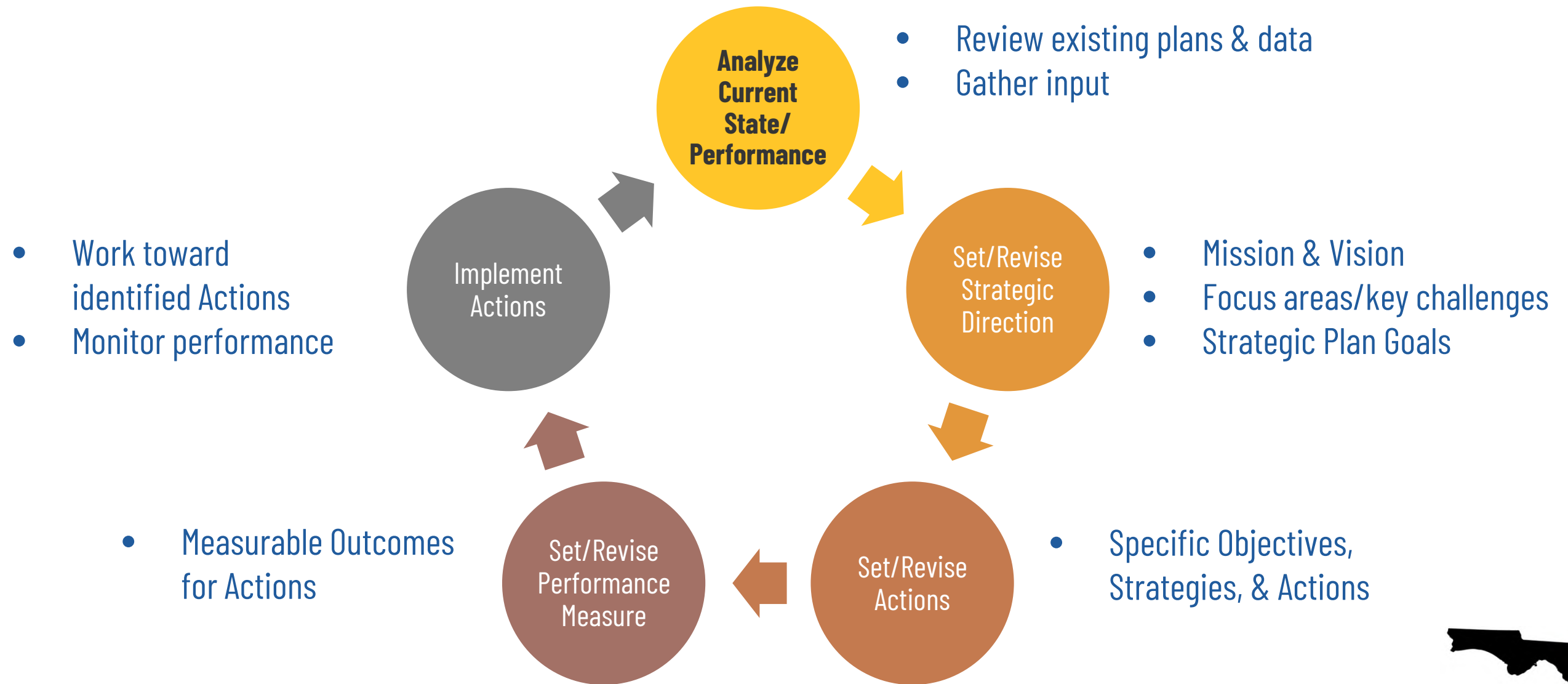
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What is Strategic Planning?

- Strategic planning is a process to determine what an organization wants to accomplish over a given time period, and how to do that.
- A valuable aspect is the periodic process of confirming goals, assessing progress toward an outcome, evaluating what is effective and what is not, and adjusting strategies to improve performance.



Strategic Planning Process



Strategic Plan Input Opportunity



- **Time Period**

- Goals, Objectives, Strategies, Performance

- **Identified Safety Challenges**

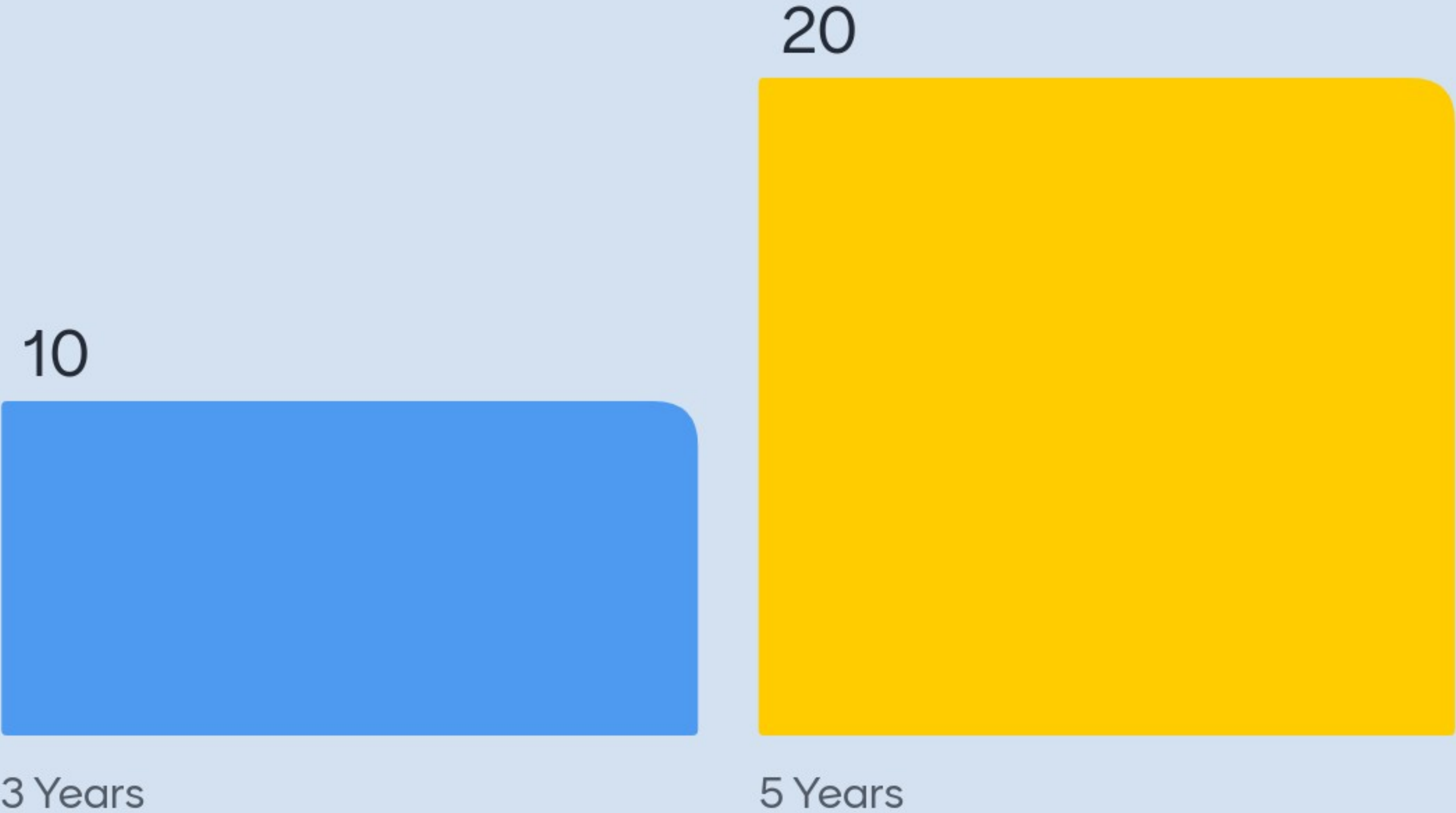
- Priorities, Gaps

- **SWOT Analysis**

- Strategic Planning exercise to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats



What is your preferred reevaluation period for the Florida Rail Safety Coalition Strategic Plan?



Strategic Plan Elements – Mission

The **Florida Rail Safety Coalition (FRSC)** was established in 2024 as an initiative of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to improve public safety around rail operations throughout Florida.

Recognizing the critical role of railroads in America's economy and communities, the Coalition seeks to **address safety challenges through collaboration** with diverse stakeholders.



Strategic Plan Elements – Vision

FDOT's vision is to be **THE national leader in rail safety** by eliminating fatalities and injuries involving Florida's railroads. To be successful, we know we have five areas of focus:

- Rail crossing safety
- Trespassing prevention and enforcement
- Standards
- Innovation
- Partnerships



Partners

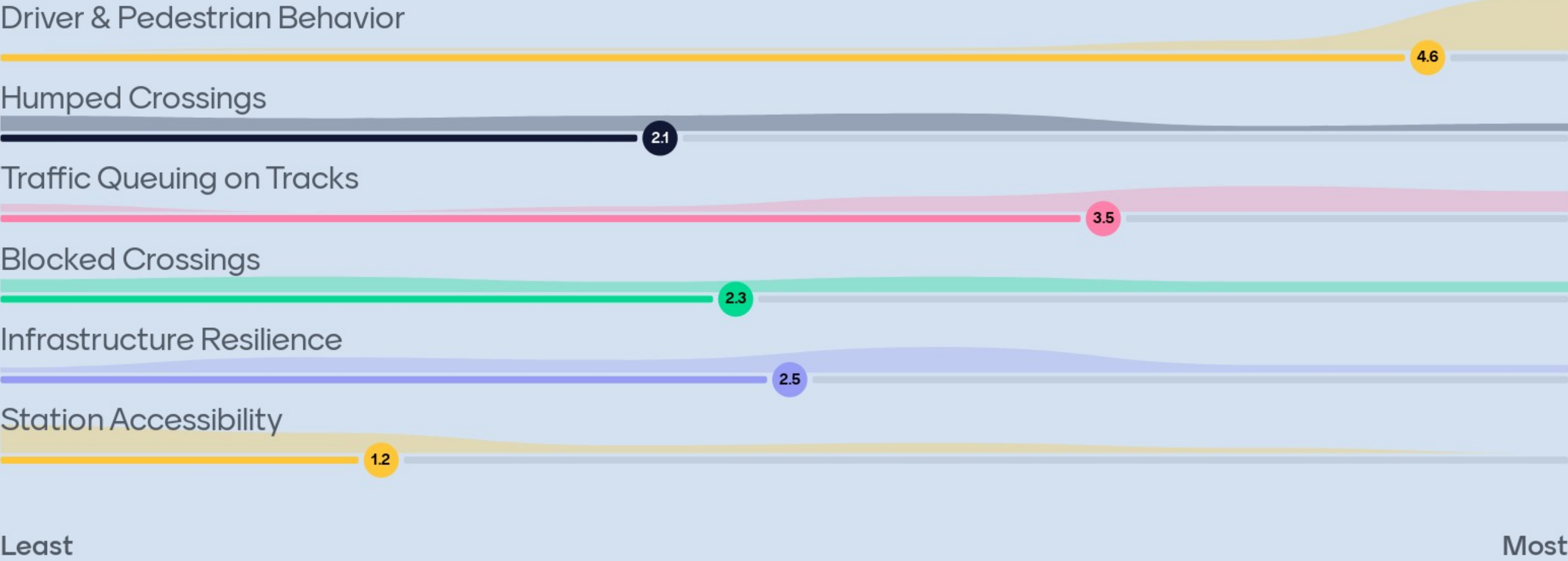


Key Safety Challenges

- Driver and pedestrian behavior
- Humped crossings
- Traffic queuing on tracks
- Blocked crossings
- Infrastructure resilience
- Station Accessibility



Which previously identified safety challenges are most critical for the FRSC to address?



What additional safety challenges should the FRSC consider?

Growth that impacts traffic patterns

Suicides on tracks.

Suicides

Partner with Mental Health providers

Suicide by train
Encampments on railroad property
Red light camera deployment at crossings

Trespass and suicide

Suicides

Suicide prevention
Trying to install pre signals and queue cutters per new MUTCD guidance

What additional safety challenges should the FRSC consider?

Suicide prevention

Alternative Safety countermeasures for sidewalk needs.

Trespassing

Trespassers / Suicide

Outside of the box mitigation alternatives to help with trespassing.

Trespassing

Trespass & Suicide

Specifically driver awareness at railroad tracks

What additional safety challenges should the FRSC consider?

Trucks and vehicles ignoring the signals and gates because they don't want to stop.

Grant opportunities

Trespassing and suicide

Suicide prevention

Access to rail crossing while train is approaching/crossing

Suicide

Community growth around rail tracks due to population growth

Trespassing

What additional safety challenges should the FRSC consider?

Safety countermeasures for sidewalk needs.

Trespassing on rail corridors.

Citizen education

Safety measures during crossing maintenance and construction.

Installing Pedestrian gates
Sidewalk infrastructure
Mounting signal heads with cantilever RR arms

Modifying FDOT rules to make it easier to install fencing on FDOT roadways to prevent access to tracks

Pedestrian behavior

SWOT Analysis

- A common technique that combines internal and external assessment is “SWOT analysis,” short for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

Via a SWOT analysis we:

- identify internal factors (strengths and weaknesses) and external factors (opportunities and threats) that may impact our ability to achieve results.
- develop strategies that capitalize on positive factors (strengths and opportunities) and mitigate adverse factors (weaknesses, risks and threats.)



SWOT Analysis - Strengths

Collaborative Effort: The FRSC brings together a diverse set of rail industry partners for greater communication and sharing of ideas

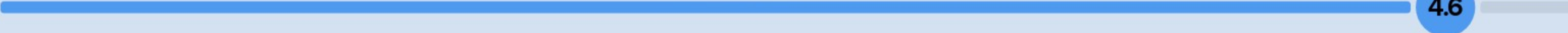
Outside the Box: Emphasis on consideration of new/innovative safety technology and the implementation of pilot projects to test countermeasures

Infrastructure Enhancements: Recommend strategic solutions to reduce incidents and accidents around rail that can be considered for existing infrastructure program resources

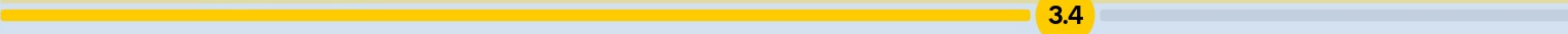


Do the draft Strengths adequately capture the characteristics of the FRSC?

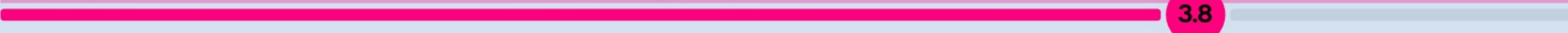
Collaborative Effort



Outside the Box



Infrastructure Enhancements



Disagree

Agree



What changes or additions would you suggest to better capture the FRSC's Strengths?

Industry knowledge and expertise

Multidisciplinary membership

Knowledge

Florida's unique rail network

Support from Tallahassee

Rail Experience and knowledge

Knowledge and upper level support

Education

What changes or additions would you suggest to better capture the FRSC's Strengths?

Industry experts with the tools and funds to make positive changes

Statewide support

Changes to FAC giving the Department and railroads collectively more authority.



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SWOT Analysis - Weaknesses

- **Resources:** Limited dedicated funding and staff
- **Unique Needs:** Some solutions may not apply statewide across diverse regions and rail systems of Florida



Do the draft Weaknesses adequately capture the characteristics of the FRSC?

Resources



Unique Needs



Disagree

Agree

What changes or additions would you suggest to better capture the FRSC's Weaknesses?

Lack of public knowledge when it comes to rail safety

Could be constrained by federal regulation

Consensus required across all service types for freight, commuter, and intercity passenger

Need law enforcement involvement, they are critical to the biggest issue that the state has

lack of local community participation

Limited volunteer help

Slow pace of change at FDOT and general bureaucratic hurdles of large infrastructure and policy changes

Implementing new standards can/will be hindered by funding

What changes or additions would you suggest to better capture the FRSC's Weaknesses?

Lack of enforcement opportunities

Can use safety funds if there is an identified crash pattern with either railroad infrastructure or the train itself.

Education of the public

Lack of local government support

Law enforcement

Enforcing and fines

Possibility of political adgnedas.

Limited local level funding (city/county vs. state)

SWOT Analysis - Opportunities

- **Policy Support:** Potential for policy support and to address recommendations supported by the FRSC
- **Education & Outreach:** Increasing public awareness and education on rail safety can lead to safer behaviors



Do the draft Opportunities adequately capture the characteristics of the FRSC?

Policy Support



Education & Outreach



Disagree

Agree



What changes or additions would you suggest to better capture the FRSC's Opportunities?

Potential to lobby in Congress

Potential to change state standards

Engaging and involving other stakeholders such as law enforcement who can help on that area of challenge

leveraging social media for outreach and awareness

Definitely changes in laws to provide FDOT more authority to make safety changes; such as crossing closures

PSA's for public education.

Understanding what is the existing legislation and how we can improve those policies

Raise the standards in rail safety and start a nationwide trend!
Our mission is to be THE nationwide leader in rail safety!
Woot woot!

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What changes or additions would you suggest to better capture the FRSC's Opportunities?

Local stakeholder participation

Potential to bring creative solutions from both inside and outside of state. Bring fresh perspectives to rail safety issues

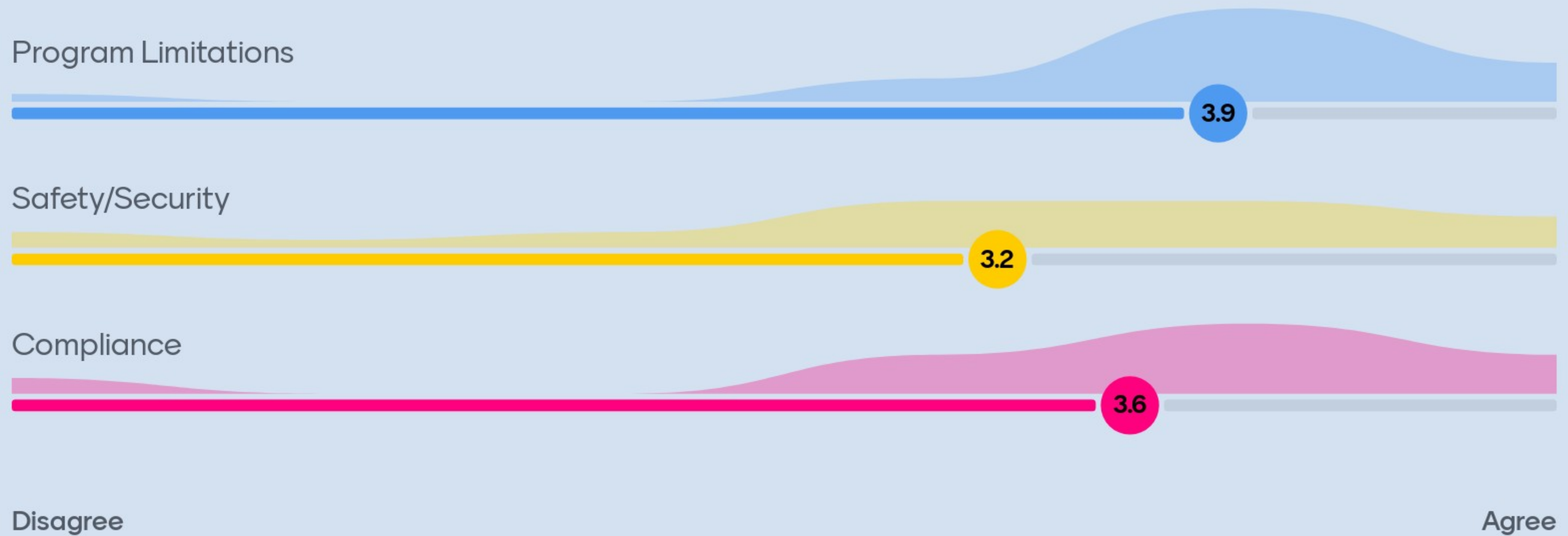


SWOT Analysis - Threats

- **Program Limitations:** Recommended solutions will need to be matched with programs based on priorities and eligibility requirements
- **Safety/Security:** New technology/countermeasures could lead to solutions that are unsuccessful or create unforeseen hazards
- **Compliance:** Ensuring adherence to safety guidelines and measures can be challenging



Do the draft Threats adequately capture the characteristics of the FRSC?



What changes or additions would you suggest to better capture the FRSC's Threats?

Harmful legislation and the risk of hackers for technology security

federal mandate

Do we need to be concerned with federal changes due to change in federal administration?

Changes in Federal Administration could change discretionary grant programs and funding

Understanding on whether new technologies will introduce new liabilities for the railroads

No support from the local communities

Ensure that any FDOT manuals have adopted recent national guidance like MUTCD

Lack of support or interest from secretary or governor's office



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What changes or additions would you suggest to better capture the FRSC's Threats?

Better local government support.



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Membership & Subgroups

FRSC Subgroups

- Policy
- Outreach
- Standards, Innovation, & Engineering
- Law Enforcement
- Mental Health



Subgroups – Policy

- Review current policies to identify potential opportunities
- Support policies that address key safety issues, including penalties for trespassing
- Work with legislative bodies to secure support for rail safety initiatives.



Subgroups – Outreach

- Partner with Operation Lifesaver and local organizations to deliver targeted education campaigns.
- Increase awareness on topics such as rail crossing safety and trespassing dangers.
- Engage with high-risk communities to implement grassroots safety outreach.



Subgroups - Standards, Innovation, & Engineering

- Develop and implement safety standards for infrastructure, such as addressing humped crossings.
- Assess and integrate new safety technologies and engineering solutions.
- Collaborate on projects to mitigate trespassing and improve grade crossings.

Subgroups - Law Enforcement

- Organize enforcement actions, such as safety blitzes, in areas with high trespassing incidents.
- Collaborate with law enforcement on safety protocol enforcement.
- Support policy efforts aimed at enhancing rail safety compliance.



Subgroups – Mental Health

- Train rail personnel on mental health awareness and intervention strategies.
- Partner with mental health organizations for outreach and support.
- Develop targeted mental health and suicide prevention programs within rail settings.



What subgroup(s) would you like to join?



Lessons Learned: Hurricane Preparedness

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Discussion



Member Comments

Public Comments

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Closing Remarks



Save the Date!

Next FRSC In-Person Meeting

- February 25, 2025 – Turnpike Enterprise HQ

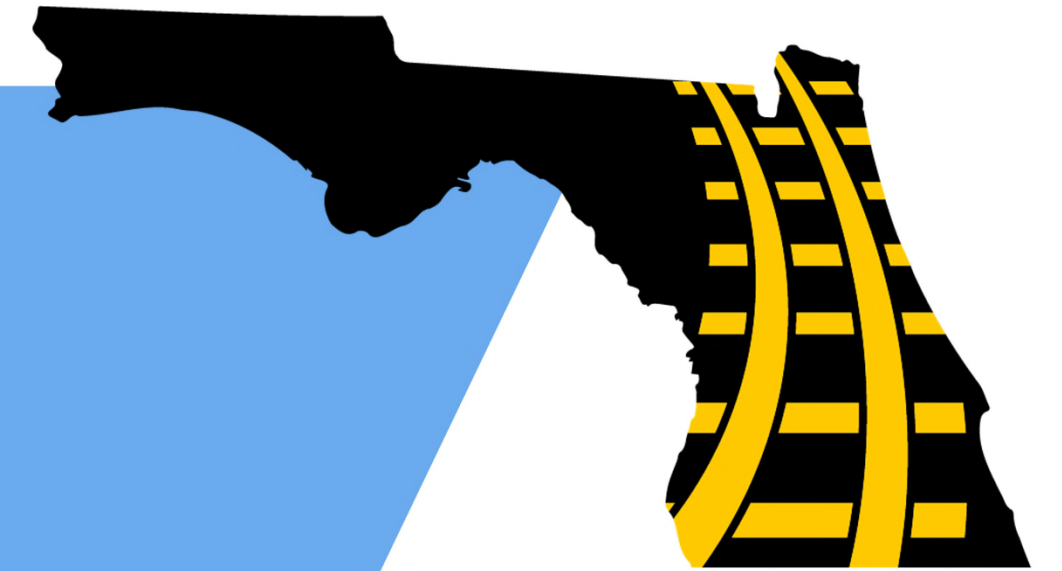
2025 Future Meetings:

- June
- August (Virtual)
- November



Thank you!

*Kim Holland, PE
Assistant Secretary of Strategic
Development
Florida Department of
Transportation*



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