

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**HIGHWAY SAFETY CONCEPT PAPER**  
**Concept Paper Summary**

**Applicant Information**

<b>Applicant Agency:</b>	Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
<b>Concept Paper Title:</b>	Operation Trident: Outreach, Education, and Enforcement
<b>Priority Area for Concept Paper:</b>	Impaired Driving
<b>Amount Requested:</b>	\$360,000.00
<b>Type of Project:</b>	Local
<b>Type of Request:</b>	Continuation - 5
<b>Previous Year's Project Number (if Continuation):</b>	M5HVE-2023-00016

**Head of Agency**

<b>Name:</b>	Chad Chronister	<b>State:</b>	Florida
<b>Title:</b>	Sheriff	<b>Zip:</b>	33605
<b>Address 1:</b>	2008 East 8th Avenue	<b>Phone:</b>	(813) 247-8999
<b>Address 2:</b>		<b>Extension:</b>	
<b>City:</b>	Tampa	<b>Email:</b>	cchronister@teamhcsso.com

**Project Contact**

<b>Name:</b>	Hugh Gross	<b>State:</b>	Florida
<b>Title:</b>	Sergeant	<b>Zip:</b>	33619
<b>Address 1:</b>	10128 Windhorst Rd.	<b>Phone:</b>	(813) 318-5451
<b>Address 2:</b>		<b>Extension:</b>	
<b>City:</b>	Tampa	<b>Email:</b>	hgross@teamhcsso.com

**Statement of the Problem:**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) 2020 Traffic Safety Fact Alcohol-Impaired Driving reported that Florida had a total of 3,331 traffic fatalities in 2020, the third highest of all states. This represents approximate 8.6% of all traffic fatalities in the United States in 2020. Of the fatalities in Florida, 871 (approximately 26%) were alcohol-impaired driving. Legal alcohol impairment occurs when the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is more than 0.08 g/dL.

NHTSA 2020 data further reported that of the 53,890 nationwide drivers involved in fatal crashes, in the 26,630 that occurred at nighttime (6pm to 5:59am), 31% of drivers were found to be alcohol-impaired drivers; of the 26,920 daytime fatal crashes (6am to 5:59pm), 10% of drivers were found to be alcohol-impaired.

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**HIGHWAY SAFETY CONCEPT PAPER**  
**Concept Paper Summary**

Alcohol-impaired fatalities increased 8.8% from 2018 to 2020 in the United States per 2020 Traffic Safety Fact Alcohol-Impaired Driving. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Traffic Crash Facts Annual Report 2020 reported that in Hillsborough County, alcohol, drug, and both alcohol and drug confirmed crashes decreased 15.1% from 2018-2020, while alcohol, drug, and both alcohol and drug fatalities increased 40.0% for the same time frame.

### **Supporting Data:**

The Florida Department of Transportation's FY2024 Highway Safety Matrix-Ranking of Florida Counties ranked Hillsborough County second (out of 26 counties) for impaired driving serious injuries and fatalities during 2017-2021.

Signal Four Analytics reported that there were 1,444 drug/alcohol impaired crashes in Hillsborough County in 2022, and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) responded to 52.4% of those crashes. This represents a 6% increase in drug/alcohol impaired crashes in Hillsborough County from 2021. The percentage of drug/alcohol impaired fatal crashes that HCSO responded to increased from 37.8% in 2021 to 42.3% in 2022. While the number of drug/alcohol impaired fatalities decreased from 82 to 55 from 2021 to 2022, 41.8% of the fatalities in 2022 occurred within HCSO jurisdiction.

HCSO's Central Breath Testing Unit (CBTU) reported 3,313 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests in 2021 and 3,570 DUI arrests in Hillsborough County in 2022. This is a 7.8% increase in the number of DUI arrests countywide. Out of ten agencies, HCSO was responsible for 48.4% of CBTU arrests in 2021 and approximately 51.0% of the CBTU arrests in 2022. The average blood alcohol concentration (BAC) for drivers tested by CBTU was 0.143 g/dL in 2021 and 0.147 g/dL in 2022.

CBTU provides a breakdown of the types of incidents that prompts a DUI arrest by crash type. In 2021, 76.0% of impaired driving arrests in Hillsborough County were the result of non-crashes, and again in 2022, approximately 76.0% of arrests were made prior to a possible impaired driving crash occurring. Non-crash data indicates that law enforcement was able to intercept an impaired driver prior to a crash occurring.

After an analysis of time of day impaired driving crashes, HCSO impaired driving enforcement operations would start at 3pm and continue to 6am, as the majority of impaired driving crashes, injuries, and fatalities in Hillsborough County occur between 4pm and 6am. Enforcements operations and saturations patrols will begin at 3pm to allow HCSO deputies to prepare and position themselves in highly visible locations on Hillsborough County roadways in an effort to prevent/reduce incidents of crashes occurring at approximately 4pm and/or later (peak times).

### **Proposed Solution:**

HCSO will implement the following strategies as outlined in the NHTSA Countermeasures that Work, specifically from Chapter One: Alcohol- and Drug-Impaired Driving:

#### **2.2 High-Visibility Saturation Patrols**

HCSO will use Operation Trident to conduct a multi-operational approach to inform the public about safe driving habits and decrease impaired driving on Hillsborough County roads. Through the use of highly visible

saturation and patrols, deputies will be better able to identify alcohol and drug-impaired drivers. Enforcement locations will be identified through data-driven analysis by HCSO. As the majority of impaired driving crashes, injuries, and fatalities in Hillsborough County occur between 4pm and 6am, HCSO will work to have the majority of saturations during this time to deter and recognize impaired drivers. With support from data driven analysis, enforcements and saturations beginning at 3pm will allow HCSO deputies to prepare and become highly visible on Hillsborough County roadways in an effort to prevent/reduce the increase of crashes occurring at approximately 4pm and/or later (peak times). If deputies are able to show a presence on roadways prior to evidenced hours of related crashes, impaired drivers and/or impaired driving related crashes may be deterred.

## 5.2 Mass-Media Campaigns

Through the use of agency media in conjunction with the Public Affairs Office, HCSO will inform the public about the potential consequences of impaired driving. HCSO will also post information regarding DUI saturations and heightened patrols. Operation Trident will work to inform the community about the dangers of driving impaired through presentations at local high schools and community events and HCSO will post on social media about these activities.

## 7.1 Enforcement of Drug-Impaired Driving

With the increase in usage of illegal substances, including opioids, drug-impaired driving is a deadly threat to Florida roadways. By utilizing a variety of techniques, deputies will work to identify impaired drivers and intercept them prior to the occurrence of a crash. HCSO deputies will enforce all drug-impaired driving policies to prevent harm to drivers and reduce the number of crashes and fatalities associated with alcohol- and drug-impaired driving.

### **Sustainability:**

HCSO remains dedicated to reducing the number of impaired drivers on Hillsborough County roads and the number of crashes, injuries, and fatalities that are a result of impaired driving. The agency is committed to implementing safety and educational presentations in the Hillsborough community during community events and high school presentations. Through data-driven enforcement, deputies will continue to enforce traffic safety laws in high-crash corridors using overt and covert patrol activities and operations. Participation with the Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTST) in Hillsborough County will allow HCSO to continue to provide and receive important local transportation information to better influence traffic safety.

### **Project Objectives:**

1. Start enforcement activities within 60 days of subgrant award, unless otherwise approved by the FDOT State Safety Office.
2. Strive to decrease impaired driving crashes and fatalities countywide by 2% when compared to the previous three-year average.
3. Conduct at least thirty-five (35) impaired driving high visibility overtime enforcement operations during the project period.
4. Participate in the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign through impaired driving overtime enforcement

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**HIGHWAY SAFETY CONCEPT PAPER**  
**Concept Paper Summary**

operations and educational/community activities.

5. Conduct and/or participate in five (5) educational/community outreach events/activities to increase impaired driving awareness during the project period.

6. Provide impaired driving information and education to the public through the use of multimedia outlets (i.e., message boards, local media outlets, social media, press releases, printed materials, etc.) at least eight (8) times during the project period.

### **Evaluation:**

1. Enforcement activity start date. (FDOT Program Evaluation Guide Objective 1)

2. Impaired driving-related crashes and fatalities are reduced by 2% countywide, compared to the previous three-year average. (FDOT Program Evaluation Guide Objective 4)

3. The number of impaired driving high visibility overtime enforcement operations conducted during the project period. (FDOT Program Evaluation Guide Objectives 2, 3, 4)

4. The number of impaired driving overtime enforcement operations conducted, and education/community activities conducted/participated in the during Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign. (FDOT Program Evaluation Guide Objectives 1, 2, 3)

5. The number of educational/community outreach activities conducted and/or participated in to increase impaired driving awareness during the project period. (FDOT Program Evaluation Guide Objective 1, 3, 4)

6. The number of instances that impaired driving information and education is provided to the public through the use of message boards, local media outlets, social media and/or press releases during the project period. (FDOT Program Evaluation Guide Objective 2)

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**HIGHWAY SAFETY CONCEPT PAPER**  
**Concept Paper Budget**

BUDGET CATEGORY	NARRATIVE:	FEDERAL FUNDS	MATCH	TOTAL	INDIRECT ELIGIBILITY
<b>A. Personnel Services</b>					
Overtime Salary and Benefits	Overtime salary and benefits for law enforcement personnel, alcohol breath analysis technicians, and prisoner transport units to include FICA (Social Security and Medicare), Retirement, and Worker's Compensation.	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	
<b>B. Contractual Services</b>					
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>C. Expenses - Any purchase with a per item unit cost of \$200 or more from any line item within this Category, excluding software, must have FDOT State Safety Office written approval, prior to purchase.</b>					
Preliminary Breath Test and peripherals (15)	For the purchase of Preliminary Breath Test and peripherals required for program implementation	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000	
Pedal Cart (1)	For the purchase of 1 pedal cart for the use of impaired driving education	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	
<b>D. Equipment Costing \$5,000 or More</b>					
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>E. Indirect Cost</b>					
%		\$0		\$0	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Total Cost of Project</b>		<b>\$360,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$360,000</b>	