

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

Applicant Information

Applicant Agency: Monroe County Sheriff's Office
Implementing Agency: Monroe County Sheriff's Office
Concept Paper Title: Motorcycle Safety
Priority Area for Concept Paper: Motorcycle Safety
Amount Requested: \$103,000.00

Type of Project: Local
Type of Request: Continuation - 2022
Previous Year's Project Number (if Continuation): MC-2022-00044

Head of Agency

Name:	Richard Ramsay	State:	Florida
Title:	Sheriff	Zip:	33040
Address 1:	5525 College Rd	Phone:	(305) 292-7012
Address 2:		Extension:	
City:	Key West	Email:	rramsay@keyssso.net

Project Contact

Name:	Greg Korzen	State:	Florida
Title:	Sergeant	Zip:	33040
Address 1:	5525 College Rd	Phone:	(305) 289-2410
Address 2:		Extension:	
City:	Key West	Email:	gkorzen@keyssso.net

Statement of Problem

Monroe County and The Florida Keys consist of a series of islands connected by 47 bridges that traverse 123 linear geographical miles. Annually, 2 million people visit the Florida Keys to experience life in paradise. The City of Marathon lies in the middle of the Florida Keys and is considered the heart of the Keys. In recent years, the Florida Keys have experienced an increased volume of traffic due to increased national advertisements by the Chamber of Commerce and dangers of travel to other destinations like Mexico and Central America. By land, The Florida Keys can only be accessed via one highway of US-1. The highway runs through several small islands, bridges, and some larger cities, to include the City of Islamorada, Key Colony Beach, and Marathon. Consequently, all vehicular traffic must pass through smaller and congested cities and islands to access the Lower Keys and Key West. The speed limit in the Florida Keys often changes between 55 miles per hour (MPH), 45 MPH and in some areas 35 MPH. In addition, there are several School Zone speed limits on US-1 during school days that affect the flow of traffic and contribute to traffic congestion. Many areas in the Keys are growing with new resorts opening, and an increased volume of tourists visiting the Keys.

Due to the nature of the Keys, there is no land to widen the US-1 or make engineering improvements. Therefore, enforcement, saturation patrols and education are the only option available to the Sheriff's Office to minimize and reduce crashes.

The data offered by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Highway Safety Matrix-ranking of Florida Counties (population 50,001 - 200,000) illustrates that motorcycle safety was a major contributor to traffic crashes and fatalities in Monroe County. Monroe County ranked 3 out of 15 counties of a similar size in the State of Florida.

Additionally, the City of Marathon ranked 8th highest area for motorcyclist safety out of 118 cities with population of 3,000 to 14,999. The City of Marathon falls within Monroe County and is within Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) law enforcement jurisdiction. MCSO is the Law Enforcement Agency for the County of Monroe and all cities, excluding Key West and Key Colony Beach.

With motorcycle crashes continuing to be at such a priority in Monroe County and the State of Florida, there is a need for increased motorcycle safety education and enforcement to save lives and improve safety of the county's roadways.

Supporting Data:

According to Signal 4 Analytics, Monroe County had the following data, which illustrated a rising number of crashes in the county. The 2020 shows a decrease due to COVID-19 checkpoint in operation, limiting access to the Florida Keys and overall decrease in travel due to COVID-19 related restrictions. However, 2021 indicates an increase to pre-pandemic levels with over 2,000 crashes and one of the highest fatality numbers for our county. 2021 also indicates pre-pandemic level for motorcycle related crashes.

2021 data: 2,004 crashes with 324 injury crashes and 18 fatalities and 63 motorcycle related crashes

2020 data: 1,688 crashes with 305 injury crashes and 11 fatalities and 49 motorcycle related crashes

2019 data: 2,203 crashes with 344 injury crashes and 16 fatalities and 74 motorcycle related crashes

2018 data: 2,243 crashes with 454 injury crashes and 15 fatalities and 84 motorcycle related crashes
2017 data: 2,446 crashes with 418 injury crashes and 12 fatalities and 66 motorcycle related crashes

The data collected by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office 911 Communications Center illustrates a steady increase, year over year, in Reckless Driver Calls received for the County of Monroe.

2021 – 5,123

2020 - 3,452 - (lower number due to COVID-19 checkpoint into Monroe County and restrictions on travel)

2019 - 4,654

2018 - 4,412

2017 - 4,343

Proposed Solution

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) seeks funding to engage in a three-pronged, proactive approach to reduce the numbers of motorcycle related serious injuries/fatality crashes in Monroe County. The Sheriff's Office seeks to engage in both enforcement, Social Media communication, display message boards, and educational efforts.

As listed in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Countermeasures That Work guide Chapter 5 Motorcycle Safety and Chapter 3 Speeding and Speed Management, we intend to employ the following:

Chapter 3 section 2.2 High-Visibility Enforcement and 2.3 Speed Enforcement

Chapter 5 Section 2.1 Alcohol-Impaired Motorcyclist Detection, Enforcement and Sanctions

Chapter 5 Section 3.1 Motorcycle Rider Licensing

Chapter 5 Section 4.1 and 4.2 Communication and Outreach by utilizing the Sheriff's Office Social Media, Message board, and distribution of safety brochures during enforcement and education efforts.

We intend to utilize a blend of countermeasures listed in NHTSA guide to increase motorcyclist safety and therefore reduce the number of crashes and injuries related to motorcycles. The countermeasures listed above have high probability of effectiveness as defined by NHTSA and we anticipate that the funds provided by this subgrant will allow us to implement listed strategies and improve motorcyclist safety.

The Project Director will utilize the Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit personnel during high crash times and days to have maximum effect on the traffic and reduction of crashes. The Traffic Unit consists of 4 Police Motorcycles, 3 unmarked aggressive driving enforcement units and 2 marked traffic units that will be used for the enforcement. The motorcycles and unmarked vehicles will be used to monitor motorcycle traffic and any unsafe behavior.

Officers will show zero tolerance to any motorcycle or scooter operator who commits traffic violations which can be deemed unsafe in nature to include, but not limited to: passing within occupied lanes, riding in bicycle lane, aggressive driving, stunting, excessive speed, driving under the influence (DUI), etc. Personal protective equipment violations and motorcycle equipment violations will also be enforced.

All motorcyclists who are stopped will be checked for proper licensing and will be cited accordingly for any violations. Officers will educate all motorcyclists and scooter operators who are stopped on various motorcyclist safety issues. Officers will also contact motorcycle and scooter vendors in the area to ensure they are giving proper information to motorcycle purchasers and renters as it relates to licensing requirements.

Officers will also be targeting other motor vehicle drivers committing violations deemed dangerous to motorcyclists and scooter operators related to motorcyclist awareness and will educate those drivers appropriately.

We will conduct enforcement on a 28-day pay cycle to eliminate accounting errors and ensure accuracy:

The plan is to conduct High Visibility Enforcement Operations throughout the month with minimum of 9 officers participating in the operation at 6 to 8-hour shifts during the high crash or high motorcycle traffic times as determined by the detailed analysis. Operations may need to be adjusted to individual enforcement efforts rather than group saturation patrols due to the nature of Monroe County Road system. Monroe County consists mainly of a single US Highway 1 with limited motorcycle traffic volume when compared to other populated counties like Miami-Dade and Broward counties. During special events like Poker Run or other motorcycle rallies, MCSO will conduct multi-officer saturation patrols.

Project Objectives:

- a. Start enforcement activities within 60 days of subgrant award, unless otherwise approved by the FDOT State Safety Office.
- b. Conduct a minimum of 4 motorcyclist safety focused overtime enforcement operations each month.
- c. Conduct and/or participate in a minimum of 2 educational/community outreach events to increase motorcyclist safety awareness during the project period.
- d. Provide motorcyclist safety information and education to the public each month utilizing multimedia outlets (social media, message boards, and printed materials, etc.).
- e. Strive to decrease motorcycle crashes and fatalities county wide by 5% when compared to the previous three year average.

Evaluation:

- a. Enforcement activity start date.
- b. The number of motorcyclist safety focused enforcement operations conducted monthly.
- c. The number of educational/community outreach events conducted or participated in to increase motorcyclist safety awareness during the project period.
- d. The number of instances that motorcyclist safety messaging information and education was provided to the public.
- e. Crash data will be collected and analyzed at the end of the project period to determine the increase or decrease of motorcycle crashes compared to the previous three year average.

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BUDGET CATEGORY	NARRATIVE:	FEDERAL FUNDS	MATCH	TOTAL	INDIRECT ELIGIBILITY
A. Personnel Services					
Overtime Salary and Benefits	Overtime Salary and Benefits for law enforcement officers, benefits to include FICA (Social Security and Medicare) and Retirement.	\$103,000	\$0	\$103,000	
Subtotal		\$103,000	\$0	\$103,000	
B. Contractual Services					
None	None	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0	
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.					
None	None	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0	
D. Equipment Costing \$5,000 or More					
None	None	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0	
E. Indirect Cost					
0%		\$0		\$0	
Subtotal		\$0		\$0	
Total Cost of Project		\$103,000	\$0	\$103,000	