

S A F E T Y
Happy New Year from
SECRETARY
DAVID GWYNN
2023



Happy 2023! I hope each of you had an opportunity to spend some well-deserved time off with family and friends. I've been thinking about the new year and how we can continue to improve safety in District Seven. Preliminary numbers indicate that fatalities decreased last year, however, as we all know, they are still too high. Some of the investments we are making today in our designs, construction, maintenance, education, enforcement, and personal behaviors will take awhile to produce the results we strive for, but we need to remain vigilant and keep Target Zero at the forefront of our efforts. Keep up the good work and I am confident we will get there.

You probably get tired of hearing me remind people to wear their seatbelts, but I do believe that it is the biggest area for improvement we have. Over half of the people who die in car crashes are not wearing their seatbelts. It's an easy fix that we can all help promote. Please practice safe behaviors and encourage your friends and family to do the same—make 2023 a safe year!



Mr. Hsu goes to Washington!

Florida Department of Transportation District Seven Safety Administrator Peter Hsu, attended the National Transportation Research Board meeting in Washington, DC this past November. Peter joined many other safety leaders from around the country to participate in the review of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) infrastructure R&D. Among the many topics discussed, the group heard about FHWA's long-term field data collection efforts and updates to the high-level data portal, as well as how the administration is collaborating with different states and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). To top off his grand experience, Peter also toured our nation's Capitol!



Peter visiting a mock Oval Office.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- **Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement program supports enforcement efforts**
- **How FDOT helps with Hurricane Ian recovery**
- **What's on the project horizon in District Seven?**
- **Scholarships give driver ed access a boost in the Tampa Bay region**

...and more!



Master of Ceremonies Leigh Spann, WFLA News Channel 8, introducing FDOT D7 Secretary David Gwynn to a packed auditorium.

ELEE 2022: Celebrating law enforcement agencies enhancing roadway safety

In February 2022, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven launched the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program. The purpose of ELEE was to recognize local law enforcement agencies that were conducting enhanced enforcement of traffic safety laws known to reduce traffic crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities. For six months, agencies throughout District Seven logged their enforcement efforts on state roadways and interstates, demonstrating how they promote traffic safety in their respective communities and earning points redeemable toward safety equipment. For enforcement efforts to earn points in the ELEE program, law enforcement agencies had to conduct two-hour traffic details with at least three officers per detail, focus on specific traffic violations, and document the outcomes of their efforts.

At the conclusion of the ELEE program, an awards ceremony with more than 150 attendees was held October 27, 2022, in the FDOT District Seven Auditorium. During the event, representatives from participating agencies received awards and were given the traffic safety items each agency selected. Leigh Spann, WFLA News Channel 8, served as Master of Ceremonies; guest speakers included Secretary David Gwynn, FDOT District Seven, Sergeant Steve Gaskins, Florida Highway Patrol, and Bill



Each participating law enforcement agency received an award in addition to equipment.

Gieseking with Pepin Distributing Company, and George Edmiston with Benesch who is also a retired sergeant with the Largo Police Department.

THANK YOU ELEE Event Sponsors:



FDOT ELEE TEAM:

Peter Hsu & Mike Zinn •
FDOT District Seven

Julie Bond, Brentin Mosher & Vanessa Wheeler •
Center for Urban Transportation Research

Susan Boda & George Edmiston •
Benesch

Craig Allred & Lori Palaio • JMT

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Florida Highway Patrol - Hillsborough

Plant City Police Department

Tampa Police Department

Temple Terrace Police Department

Indian Shores Police Department

Kenneth City Police Department

Largo Police Department

Pinellas Park Police Department

Saint Petersburg Police Department

PASCO COUNTY

Florida Highway Patrol - Pasco

Dade City Police Department

Port Richey Police Department

Tarpon Springs Police Department

Treasure Island Police Department

HERNANDO COUNTY

Florida Highway Patrol - Hernando

Hernando County Sheriff's Office

PINELLAS COUNTY

Florida Highway Patrol - Pinellas

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

CITRUS COUNTY

Citrus County Sheriff's Office

Clearwater Police Department

Gulfport Police Department

MULTI-COUNTY

Florida Highway Patrol – Special Operations



(Above) Secretary Gwynn presented an award to representatives of each participating law enforcement agency (Plant City Police Department featured here); photos were taken and then representatives received their awarded safety equipment.

(Right) Members of the ELEE planning team in photo: Brentin Mosher & Juliana Webber, CUTR; Peter Hsu, FDOT; Lori Palaio, JMT; George Edmiston, Benesch; Julie Bond, CUTR; Mike Zinn, FDOT.



WALK BIKE & ROLL TO SCHOOL

FDOT highlights safety for local students who “Walk & Roll” to school

Every October, schools around the country celebrate Walk & Roll to School Day, a national event that encourages and celebrates students who walk or ride their bikes to school. Several schools in Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) District Seven participated—many with the involvement and support of FDOT staff and agency partners.

Tina Russo, Pasco County MPO, along with Julie Bond and Jason Jackman, Center for Urban Transportation Research at University of South Florida, supported Walk & Roll to School Day at Starkey Ranch K-8 School in Odessa, Florida on behalf of District Seven. Hundreds of students arrived on foot and two wheels, making it a great day for the latest generation of commuters building habits that include active transportation.

“Starkey Ranch K-8 is a large modern school with lots of sidewalks and trails connecting it to nearby neighborhoods, making it ideal for students to walk and bike to class,” explained Julie. “We expected there would be a lot of students participating—but today’s event was beyond expectations!”

Michael Zinn, Community Traffic Safety Program Manager with District Seven, also attended Walk & Roll to School Day events held at Westside Elementary and later Challenger K-8 in Hernando County. Students who walked and biked to all three schools received certificates and bright colored vests, highlighting for both parents and students the importance of safety and being seen by motorists.

(Below) Bike parking area at Starkey Ranch K-8 School.



Starkey Ranch K-8 student filling out a participation certificate.



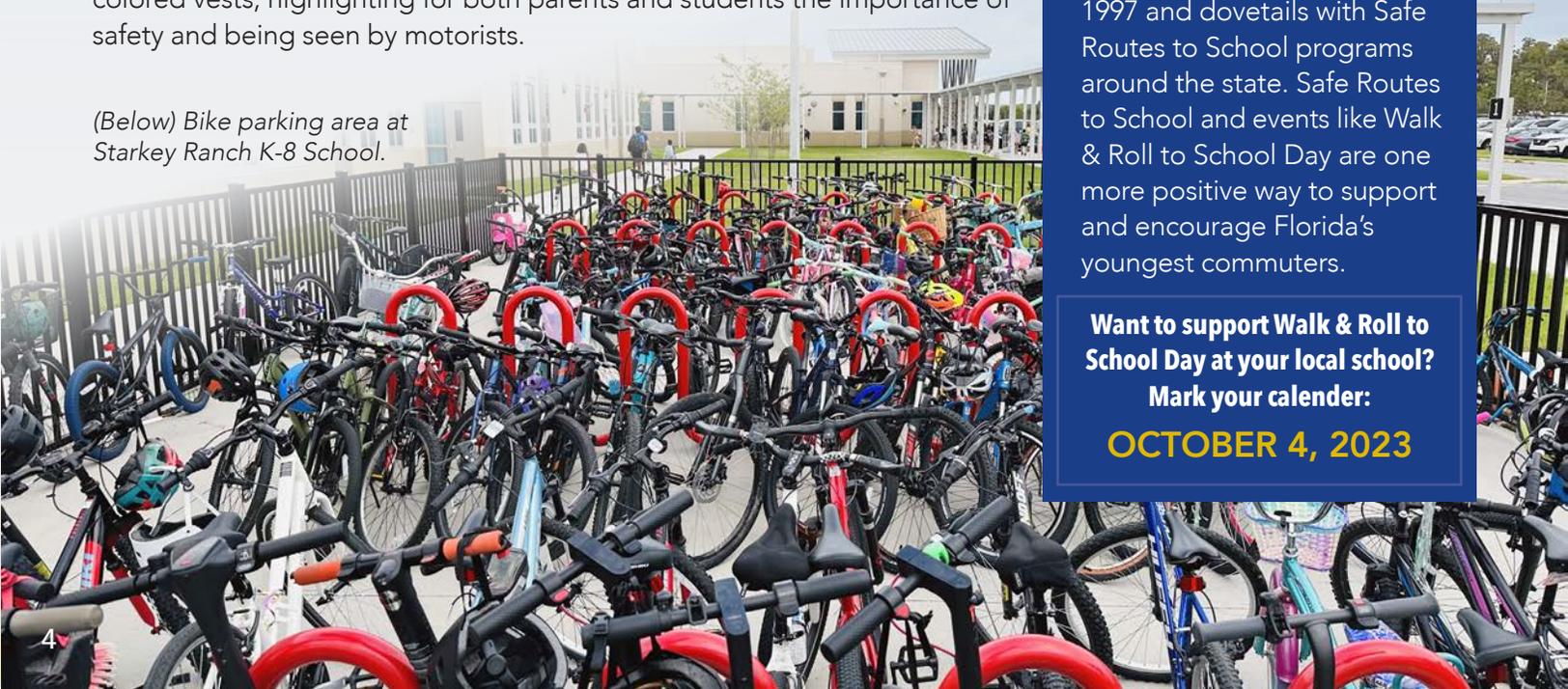
Starkey Ranch K-8 students showing off their safety vests and certificates.

ABOUT THE EVENT

The Walk & Roll to School Day event was first held in 1997 and dovetails with Safe Routes to School programs around the state. Safe Routes to School and events like Walk & Roll to School Day are one more positive way to support and encourage Florida’s youngest commuters.

**Want to support Walk & Roll to School Day at your local school?
Mark your calendar:**

OCTOBER 4, 2023





FDOT staff assisted a motorist on SR 72 who had run off the roadway into the water still rising around the Myakka River.

HURRICANE IAN: FDOT's role in putting Florida back together after a major storm

2022 was a relatively calm hurricane season for Florida. Early in September, Floridians might have believed the state had escaped hurricanes altogether for the year. Then Tropical storm Ian formed in the Central Caribbean Sea. In a few short days, Tropical storm Ian had become a deadly Category 4 Hurricane. Hurricane Ian has been touted by many news outlets as the second-deadliest storm to hit the U.S. since 2000, behind Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) staff from District Seven and all around the state played a crucial role in preparing for and reacting to the aftermath of the storm. Preserving the safety of FDOT staff and the public at large was a significant priority as FDOT staff dealt with flooding, downed trees, and washed-out bridges. Thanks to all of the FDOT staff, consultants, and contractors who came together to keep everyone safe during an incredibly difficult time.



Downed trees on SR 72. FDOT staff safely maneuvered through roadways such as this completing crucial disaster assessment and repair operations.

QUICK ACTION FOR BRIDGES IN PERIL



FDOT, in partnership with Lee County, completed swift emergency repairs to several damaged bridges, including Sanibel Causeway, Pine Island Bridge, Big Carlos Pass, Big Hickory, Little Carlos Pass, and New Pass bridges in the Lee County area.



Eric Henry, FDOT, talks about safety with a student at Hillsborough Community College.



Go team! Target Zero safety campaign progress

Each month, a team of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) staff and representatives from numerous community partner organizations meet to discuss how to achieve Target Zero—the goal of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries on Florida’s roadways. During these meetings, team members discuss topics like partner agency safety campaign activities, ongoing statewide brand awareness efforts, and the results of the FDOT Employee Ambassador Program. The team also evaluates the ongoing effectiveness of the Target Zero campaign, remaining nimble and responsive to new opportunities.

In the early days of the Target Zero initiative, the team focused on identifying strategies for how to reach the vast and diverse road user population around the state. The team worked hard to develop an engaging Target Zero brand, including testing various messages to see which were the most broadly and favorably received by the public. While the Target Zero campaign will continue to evolve, the results of the team’s efforts are now being seen at events throughout Florida!

Want more info about Target Zero? Here’s a video providing a detailed overview of FDOT’s Target Zero approach and the history behind the development of the Target Zero campaign.



Example of a Target Zero social media message.



(Above) Sprint for Safety participants stop to view one of the many signal cabinets around the district featuring safety messaging.



The “Ride to the Rescue” Cure on Wheels, Inc. bicycle ride was held December 11, 2022. Inspired by Rush Roberts, a cyclist and local fireman, the event benefited The Firemen’s Benevolent Association of Tampa and featured two route options, with all rides starting and ending at the Tampa Firefighter Museum. Bicycle and pedestrian safety information was shared with event participants.

Tarpon Springs PD supports bike giveaway & helmet-fitting event

The Tarpon Springs Police Department (TSPD) and representatives from Center for Urban Transportation Research at University of South Florida attended a bicycle giveaway for local children at Advent Health North Pinellas. Both organizations provided helmets, which were adjusted to each recipient's head to ensure a snug fit. Over 150 children received a bicycle, a helmet, and a water bottle, with funding provided by Florida Department of Transportation District Seven.



(Left and above) Photos of law enforcement fitting helmets on event attendees.



Sprint FOR SAFETY

OCTOBER 2022
Sprint FOR SAFETY



The second annual Sprint for Safety Challenge was a fun success! The 5K challenge was held October through November and anyone working or living in District Seven could participate. Great job to the 47 people representing Florida Department of Transportation team—many encouraging others to join the challenge, too!



(Above) FDOT Team members wearing their completion medals: Bharathi Gundurao, Daniel Lauricello, Melissa Ross, Margaret Cox, Zabrina Penton.

(Right) Kasey Cursey, AECOM, and son, Ethan, created this fun photo area out of bike tires and volunteered to help out at the rest stop hosted by the Center for Urban Transportation Research at University of South Florida.



(Above) Tampa Police Department members and bicyclists riding in the Ride to the Rescue event stopped for refreshments at the University of South Florida rest stop.



View of intersection at Land O' Lakes Boulevard & Bell Lake Road.

Corridor safety prioritized as FDOT prepares for construction on US 41

At any given time, there are numerous construction projects underway in the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) District Seven. In advance of some projects—particularly those where there are safety concerns, such as motorists speeding—FDOT will opt to provide members of the public who travel on or live near the affected corridor with safety education and information about construction on the horizon. This kind of engagement gives FDOT an opportunity to solicit motorists' feedback to better understand their perspectives and provide motorists with information about applicable laws and how to drive safely.

One recent example is US 41, also known as Land O' Lakes Boulevard, in Pasco County. In early 2023, FDOT plans to begin repaving more than three miles of this major travel corridor, from County Line Road to Bell Lake Road, in Land O' Lakes, Florida. Speeding has been a significant issue on US 41 so FDOT decided to launch an educational campaign in advance of starting construction. To reach motorists, a variety of tactics were utilized, including delivering social media messages to those traveling on or near US 41. For two months in 2022, nearly one million motorists received messages encouraging them to slow down and reminding them of the potential consequences of speeding.

Messages were also linked to a motorist survey, which over 400 people completed.

Slower speeds benefit everyone. Encouraging motorists to establish safe driving habits prior to beginning the resurfacing project means safety for those driving and less risk to the construction workers who will be working on the road while traffic is also navigating the work zone.

CAMPAIGN METRICS

Total Impressions:
734,837

Total Link Clicks:
2,332

Surveys Taken:
453

Additional Safety Messaging Mailed
64



Message examples:

Slow down on US 41. LEAVE A COMMENT HERE   **WALK BIKE DRIVE**

Slow down on US 41 so we all get home safely.



LEAVE A COMMENT HERE



WALK BIKE DRIVE



Drive on US 41?

Slow down. Minimum fine \$163.00

Drive on US 41? LEAVE A COMMENT HERE



Slow down. LEAVE A COMMENT HERE

RSA evaluates safety concerns at Land O' Lakes High School

Ongoing growth of the Land O' Lakes area has led to transportation-related safety concerns for Land O' Lakes High School students. Representatives from Florida Department of Transportation District Seven and other partner organizations, like the Pasco County MPO, JMT, and the Center for Urban Transportation Research at University of South Florida, gathered



Tina Russo, Pasco County MPO, chatting with Jo Ellyn Guthrie, FDOT District, after the meeting.



RSA meeting attendees participate in discussion on how to improve access and safety for Land O' Lakes High School students and staff.

with Land O' Lakes High School representatives on November 28, 2022, to begin the Road Safety Audit (RSA) process on behalf of Land O' Lakes High School. RSAs are a comprehensive way to evaluate both the function and safety of a small road segment—in this case, an RSA committee has been forged to assess access to the school, which is just off US 41, and includes Gator Lane, a private road owned by the school district.

Sunshine Skyway Bridge lit with Target Zero colors in honor of World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims

November 2022





Scholarships help teachers access driver ed certification

For many young motorists, their first introduction to driving is through their local high school where they receive access to a vehicle and instruction on how to drive safely. Driver education has long been taught in high schools, often by teachers who already teach other subjects. Teachers who also



Joey Jaime, Chamberlain High School (Left) and Kenneth Crawford, Pinellas Park High School (Right) received scholarships and completed the certification.

wish to educate students on how to drive are required to obtain an additional teaching certificate, which takes time and money. In an effort to ensure local school districts can continue to provide this crucial service to teen motorists, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is providing scholarships to cover tuition for teachers to become driver ed instructors.

Here are the 2022 scholarship recipients in FDOT District Seven who have stepped up to the challenge. These teachers have invested their time and talent to become driver ed teachers, educating the next generation of safe Florida drivers.

TEACHER NAME	SCHOOL DISTRICT
Augustin Sanchez	Pinellas
Kenneth Crawford	Pinellas
Michael Collins	Pinellas
Brandon Mize	Pinellas
Joey Jaime	Pinellas
Steve Ziesenheim	Pinellas
Cody Chernoff	Pinellas
Simon Stamper	Hillsborough



View of completed mural.

Tampa's Wellwood Neighborhood installs street mural to highlight intersection safety



Community members of all ages joined the effort.

The City of Tampa Mobility Department recently teamed up with the Wellwood Civic Association to develop the neighborhood's first painted mural, located at Wishart Boulevard and West Cimmeron Drive. Painted intersections are a community-driven method to help slow down traffic in neighborhoods and instill community pride while increasing pedestrian safety and walkability. Painted intersections can also be a placemaking strategy, creatively transforming a roadway into a neighborhood asset.

The Wellwood Community has been working on the mural project for over a year. Artist, Latonya Hicks, created the mural, with assistance from Angie Cannata who additionally painted a mural on the side of the Wellwood community building. Support was provided by Tampa's Mobility Team, including Kelly Fearon, Joyce Rumfola, William Porth, Henry Caballero, and Ewan Samuels.

Murals are a go-to strategy for slowing down traffic in the City of Tampa, which also has a Crosswalks to Classrooms Program that involves painting traffic-calming murals on crosswalks near schools. For more information about the mural, visit wellwoodcivic.com.

St. Petersburg expanding path to pedestrian safety

The City of St. Petersburg in Pinellas County identified safety and mobility concerns in the city's transportation network and formed a Complete Streets committee to assist in addressing these concerns. The committee is comprised of representatives from partnering agencies and members of the public who diligently worked to develop the Complete Streets policies that the city uses today. After completing this important foundational task, committee members continue to collaborate on enhancing transportation safety in the City of St. Petersburg.

Most recently, the Complete Streets committee has undertaken the task of developing a Sidewalk Master Plan on the city's behalf. The Sidewalk Master Plan is an important component for the accessibility and safety of pedestrians. This planning effort will result in developing a primary guide with more comprehensive strategies for the design, construction, and maintenance of the city's sidewalks, ensuring pedestrian facilities are up to code and ADA compliant. The committee's process will include taking inventory of existing facilities, conducting outreach with community stakeholders, identifying needs and challenges, and seeking grant opportunities and other funding sources.

The Sidewalk Master Plan will prioritize safety, accessibility, and equity, and will be another significant step in enhancing the walkability of St. Petersburg.



Sidewalk and crosswalk providing access to popular walking trail at Crescent Lake Park in St. Petersburg.

FDOT TENTATIVE FIVE-YEAR WORK PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR 2024 TO FISCAL YEAR 2028

WHAT'S NEXT IN DISTRICT SEVEN?

Check out this informative video from Secretary David Gwynn who provides an overview of the projects ahead.





Mature driver making safety adjustments in her personal vehicle.

Safe Mobility for Life: Mature defensive driving courses

Did you know that 20 percent of Florida’s population is aged 65 or older, making Florida the state with the most residents in this age group? By the year 2030, it is projected that one in four drivers will be 65 years or older. Senior drivers are among the safest drivers on the road and often reduce their risk of injury by wearing safety belts, not driving while intoxicated, and by observing speed limits. Older drivers, however, are more likely to be injured or killed in a crash due to age-related fragility.

SO HOW CAN AGING MOTORISTS INCREASE THEIR SAFETY BEHIND THE WHEEL?

In 2009, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) partnered with the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy at Florida State University to create a statewide coalition, called Safe Mobility for Life. The coalition was formed to help address the specific needs of Florida’s aging road users and includes professionals from the engineering, enforcement, safety, health, education, transportation, and aging agencies and organizations that share a commitment to aging road user safety and mobility. The main goal of the coalition is to help Floridians maintain mobility, independence, and remain active.

Driving is a skill that can and should be continually improved. As we age, our ability to drive safely is affected by natural changes to our bodies over time. Taking a comprehensive driving improvement course can help by providing the most up-to-date driving techniques and address the latest vehicle technologies. It is important for mature drivers to know and understand how to adjust for slower reflexes, weaker vision, and other changes.

Click [HERE](#) to view a list of courses

Traffic Incident Management

safe
reliable
travel smooth
fast response
timely
cost-saving
efficient



Traffic incidents create unsafe situations, put lives at risk, and cause delays.

Know your role:

- 1** Move your car to a safe place – out of the travel lanes – if you are involved in an incident, and there are no injuries.
- 2** When you see flashing lights ahead of you, you need to slow down and/or move over. You can be ticketed for failing to do this!
- 3** Help keep your loved ones safe and avoid a ticket. Tell your friends and family about these laws.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Buckle up: Wearing seat belts saves lives.
http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/eto_tim_pse/timtoolbox/

A little light goes a long way in intersection safety during power outages

Hurricane Ian proved yet again the importance of preparing for power outages during an emergency. When traffic signals are out due to a loss of electrical power, drivers are required by Statute to treat the intersection as a four-way stop. This becomes even more complicated when outages occur at night, making intersections difficult to see. To aid in getting drivers’ attention both day and night, Hillsborough County has [and is continuing to] install flashing red dual single heads on the overhead span wire or mast arms that operate during outages. During hurricanes Ian and Nicole, this power outage emergency lighting solution aided driver compliance with the four-way stop statute and reduced the potential for crashes.

New roundabout facilitates safe navigation through US 98 & Citrus Way

A new roundabout has been installed in Hernando County to make traffic at the intersection of US 98 and County Road 491 (CR 491) move more smoothly and safely. The year-long roundabout construction project was completed on December 13, 2022, and traffic is flowing through all portions of the intersection except for the south connection to CR 491, known locally as Citrus Way. Access to the south side of Citrus Way remains closed with a detour still in effect; the connection is expected to be open by mid-January at the latest.



December 6, 2022, photo before traffic was placed into the final configuration

Aerial view of new roundabout on US 98 & Citrus Way.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven posted social media messages to educate and inform the public about the intersection alterations. FDOT urged motorists to stay within the 25 MPH posted speed limit, be extra alert as fellow road users become accustomed to the changes, and to watch out for construction workers and equipment as paving and intermittent flagging operations continue for the southbound connection. The messages also inform southbound Citrus Way travelers who wish to turn onto westbound/northbound US 98 that they will not need to enter the roundabout as US 98 has its own direct connection; drivers using this connection, however, were told they will need to yield to traffic on US 98 coming out of the roundabout.

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), roundabouts are the leading solution to reduce high-speed right-angle crashes and resulting fatalities at intersections. The FHWA has conducted studies that demonstrate tremendous benefits of the roundabout design, including up to a 90% reduction in fatalities, a 76% reduction in bodily injury cases, a 30-40% reduction in pedestrian crashes, and 75% fewer conflict points than traditional four-way intersections. Roundabouts have become steadily more popular in District Seven and have been a great proven solution to help drivers safely navigate major intersections with ease.



SAVE THE DATE!

9TH ANNUAL

bike with the mayor

March 17 2023

At 7:30 a.m.



Join Mayor Andy Ross for a casual bike ride through Temple Terrace in honor of Florida Bike Month!

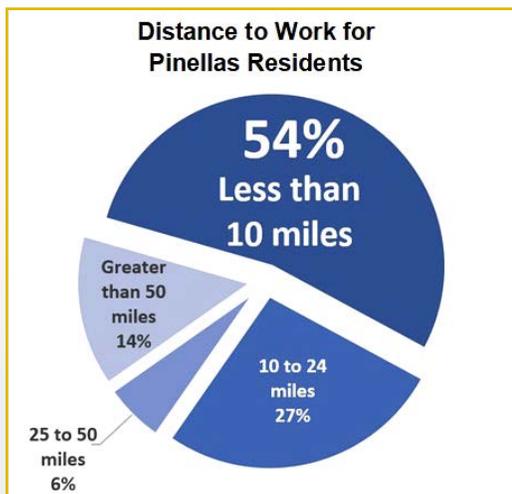
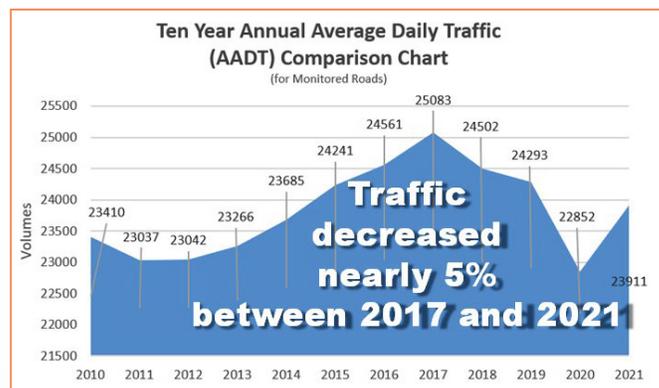


Safety: More than just a trend in Pinellas County

Did you know that, on average, two people are killed or seriously injured on Pinellas County roadways every day? Forward Pinellas, the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) that oversees transportation planning for Pinellas County, keeps a close eye on transportation trends. In a recent Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting, Forward Pinellas staff and BPAC members examined the latest data from 2017 through 2021. On average, over the past five years, Pinellas County has seen an overall decrease in the number of crashes involving vulnerable road users—particularly motorcyclists. Unfortunately, when a crash involving a vulnerable road user has occurred, the likelihood of fatality has increased when compared to past trends.

Involving	Percentage	Trend
Impairment		Up 8.6%
Distracted Drivers		Up 9%
Aggressive Drivers		Up 5%
Teens		Up 11%
Aging Drivers		Up 14%

Motorist factors attributed to fatal crashes (*2017–2021). *Five year rolling average.

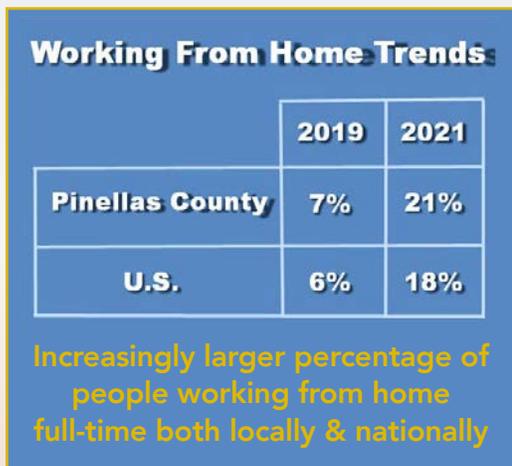


How is Forward Pinellas changing safety outcomes?

Protecting vulnerable road users is a top priority. The Forward Pinellas board of directors adopted a Safe Streets Action Plan in March 2021 which stems from the MPO's Safe Streets Pinellas initiative, a collaborative effort to develop a countywide transportation system that is safe for everyone. The Safe Streets Action Plan will help Forward Pinellas identify and implement changes that positively impact the transportation landscape in Pinellas County and lays out a path to fulfilling the MPO's commitment to zero deaths and serious injuries in Pinellas County by 2045.

Identifying opportunities

Data collected by Forward Pinellas shows that 77% of the county's residents primarily drive to work alone, with many commuting less than ten miles from home. Given the significant expansion of the trail network and other bicycle facilities currently underway in Pinellas County, there is ample opportunity to expand the bike commuter population. More people commuting by bike would mean fewer motorists and more bicyclists on roadways, further normalizing the bicycle as a viable means of transportation and increasing overall awareness of bicyclists.



While transportation trends show that there is still much work to do, understanding the data is a crucial step in Forward Pinellas's commitment to safety on Pinellas County roadways.

St. Petersburg BRT heads to the beach

The long-awaited launch of the SunRunner Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line has finally arrived in St. Petersburg. Years in the making, the new BRT line connects the city to St. Pete Beach, a community to the west with access to the popular Gulf Coast shoreline. Service began on Friday, October 21, 2022, following a ribbon-cutting event in downtown St. Petersburg. The service is operated by the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) and development of the SunRunner involved coordination with leaders from local municipalities and partnerships with numerous community organizations, including Forward Pinellas, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, and the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce. To help encourage SunRunner ridership, fares are being waived for the first six months of operation.



A key component to the SunRunner BRT line is that it has a dedicated lane for much of its service route, making travel more efficient for passengers

as it is not constrained by traffic conditions. This required significant changes to be made to the existing roadway infrastructure, including how and where personal vehicles may be driven. In preparation for the launch, PSTA developed a series of educational tools to guide motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians on how to safely navigate the streets that have significantly changed as a result of the project.

For added safety and efficiency, raised platforms were installed at each stop to make boarding and disembarking the SunRunner faster and easier—especially for bicyclists and those using mobility devices, such as a wheelchair. The raised platforms provide a separated space apart from vehicular traffic for people to travel, making it less likely for SunRunner users accessing the service to be involved in a crash with a motor vehicle. Racks are located inside the bus to make it easy to bring bikes onboard. The buses are also quiet and utilize low-emissions technology, helping keep the street environment healthier and more inviting for pedestrians and bicyclists.

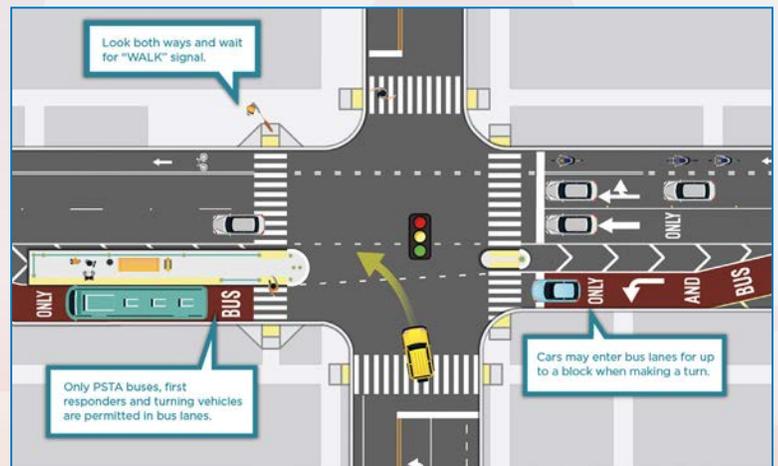
BRT systems are widely touted as an ideal hybrid between light rail and traditional bus services. While BRT is not a new concept, the SunRunner remains one of the few BRT services in Florida.



Have you heard of a solar sidewalk?

The City of Tampa recently installed a solar sidewalk at the intersection of Cass Street and Jefferson Street near Perry Harvey Sr. Park. The sidewalk is comprised of solar panels that absorb sunlight and convert it into energy to power the intersection's traffic lights.

For now, the solar sidewalk installation is just a pilot project to test how the city can take advantage of Florida's many sunny days. If the pilot is a success, solar sidewalks might become a key component to safety, sustainability, and resilience during power outages and storms. Maintaining traffic signal functionality when the power grid is down, such as during or following a hurricane, would remove a key safety obstacle for first responders and others who must travel during storm conditions.



SunRunner educational information shared with the public.

JANUARY

1	Happy New Year!
1-	Move Over, Florida! Month (<i>through February 28</i>)
1-31	Driver Safety Education (Safe Mobility for Life)
1-31	Vision Zero Paid Media Campaign (Alert Today Florida)
4	The Tampa Bay Area University CTST - In Person
5	Pinellas CTST Meeting - Virtual
8-12	Transportation Research Board Conference (Washington, DC)
11	West Central CTST Meeting - Virtual
18-20	SAE Government/Industry Meeting (Washington, DC)
22-29	National Passenger Safety Week
25	Hillsborough CTST Meeting - Virtual
25	Pasco CTST Meeting - Virtual
29	Kick Off Event for the 2022 Mayors Fitness Challenge

FEBRUARY

1-28	Hit and Run Awareness Month: Stay at the Scene
1-28	Walking Safety Education (Safe Mobility for Life)
1	The Tampa Bay Area University CTST - Virtual
2	Pinellas CTST Meeting - Virtual
3	Safe System Symposium with Space Coast TPO
3-6	Winter Legislative & Technology Conference (Washington, DC)
5	Florida School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day
8	West Central CTST Meeting - Virtual
12	Super Bowl LVII Impaired Driving Campaign (NHTSA)
20-26	National Engineers Week
22	Hillsborough CTST Meeting - Virtual
22	Pasco CTST Meeting - Virtual
TBD	Safe Walking for Life Workshop (Safe Mobility for Life)

MARCH

1-31	Bicycling Safety Education (Safe Mobility for Life)
1-31	Florida Bicycle Month
1	The Tampa Bay Area University CTST - Virtual
2	Pinellas CTST Meeting - In Person
6-12	Vehicle Safety Recalls Week
8	West Central CTST Meeting - In Person
17	St. Patrick's Day Impaired Driving Campaign (NHTSA)
21-	Rail Grade Crossing Campaign (NHTSA) (<i>through April 11</i>)
22	Hillsborough CTST Meeting - In Person
22	Pasco CTST Meeting - In Person

Dates subject to change. More details at: [FDOT](#) | [CTST](#) | [NHTSA](#)

APRIL

1-30	National Alcohol Awareness Month
1-30	National Distracted Driving Awareness Month
2-4	Lifesavers 2023 Conference (Seattle, WA)
3-10	Distracted Driving Awareness Campaign (NHTSA)
5	The Tampa Bay Area University CTST - In Person
6	Pinellas CTST Meeting - Virtual
10-16	National 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
11-16	National Work Zone Awareness Week
12	West Central CTST Meeting - Virtual
20	Drug-Impaired Driving Campaign (NHTSA)
26	Hillsborough CTST Meeting - Virtual
26	Pasco CTST Meeting - Virtual

MAY

1-31	National Bicycle Safety Month
1-31	National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
1-31	Older Americans Month
1-31	National Youth Traffic Safety Month
1	National Heatstroke Prevention Day
3	The Tampa Bay Area University CTST - Virtual
4	Pinellas CTST Meeting - Virtual
4	National Bike to School Day
6	International Female Ride Day (IFRD)
10	West Central CTST Meeting - Virtual
15-	Click It or Ticket Campaign (NHTSA) (<i>through June 4</i>)
14-20	National Police Week
17	National Bike to Work Day
24	Hillsborough CTST Meeting - Virtual
24	Pasco CTST Meeting - Virtual
31-	National EMS Week (<i>through June 4</i>)

JUNE

1	Hurricane Season Begins
1	Pinellas CTST Meeting - In Person
1-31	National Safety Month
6	National Secure Your Load Day
7	The Tampa Bay Area University CTST - Virtual
14	West Central CTST Meeting - In Person
20	National Ride to Work Day (Motorcycle Safety)
26-29	Annual Education & Technology Expo (Grand Rapids, MI)
26-	Tire Safety Week (<i>through July 3</i>)
28	Hillsborough CTST Meeting - In Person
28	Pasco CTST Meeting - In Person

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