

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**HIGHWAY SAFETY CONCEPT PAPER**

500-085-17  
SAFETY  
12/15

**Applicant Agency:** City of North Miami  
**Implementing Agency:** North Miami Police Department  
**Concept Paper Title:** North Miami Police Department Occupant Protection Program  
**Amount Requested:** 50,000

**Priority Area for Concept Paper (Select Only One):**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging Road Users  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Traffic Safety Outreach                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning and Administration (FDOT Only)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distracted Driving  | <input type="checkbox"/> Police Traffic Services                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired Driving  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Traffic Safety Professionals Training  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle Safety   | <input type="checkbox"/> Speed/Aggressive Driving                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupant Protection and Child Passenger Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Driver Safety                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paid Media (FDOT Only)                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Records                               |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) |

**Type of Project (Select Only One):**

- Local       Statewide

**Type of Request (Select Only One):**

- Initial       Continuation – Year 2014

Previous Year's Project Number (if Continuation):

OP-15-02-06

**Ranking (if Local Project):**

- City - 31 of 96       County - \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

OR  Identified Need (Data outside of Fatalities and Injuries)

**Head of Agency:**

Name: Leonar Burgess  
Title: Chief of Police  
Address: 700 NE 124 Street  
North Miami, FL 33161  
Phone: (305) 891-0294 Extension: 24100      E-Mail: lburgess@northmiamipolice.com

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SAFETY OFFICE

**Project Contact:**

Name: Patricia Fishel  
Title: Sergeant  
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North Miami, FL 33161  
Phone: (305) 891-0294 Extension: 23201      E-Mail: pfishel@northmiamipolice.com

**FDOT USE ONLY:**

Concept Paper Number: 601

Postmark Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered Into Database: \_\_\_\_\_

Assigned Priority Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Planner Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

Planner Received: \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of the Problem:** (Provide details about the traffic safety problem that you want to address.)

Seat belts and child restraints, when installed and used properly can save lives and prevent injuries. North Miami is located in Miami Dade County. Haitian, Creole speaking families constitute 27% of the North Miami population and are the majority of the 70% of families who speak a language other than English in their home (U.S. Census Bureau Facts 2006-2010). In North Miami 70% of fatally injured motor vehicle occupants were not restrained at the time of the crash (DHSMV Florida Traffic Crash Facts). Miami-Dade County recorded the lowest occupant belt use, 85.4% in the Southern region, well below the 88.2% state average (Department of Transportation, 2013). Within Miami-Dade County, North Miami's ranking was #31 in the county for cities 15,000-74,999 in population (Highway Safety Matrix 2010-2014). North Miami also ranked #26 for total fatalities and injuries. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death in the U.S. More than 32,000 people died from motor vehicle crashes in 2014 alone (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2014). Compared with other age groups, youth 16-24 years of age have the lowest seat belt use rate (National Highway Traffic Safety and Highway Administration, 2009).

In 2015, the North Miami Police Department wrote 1531 safety belt citations and 192 child restraint citations, showing vehicles traveling in North Miami have many unrestrained occupants.

**Supporting Data:** (Include at least three years of crash, injury, fatality, and citation data, to show the extent of the problem. If outside the top 25% for your city or county, provide further details to support your identified need.)

The following data is provided from the Firesportal Data Base and North Miami Police Department Ticket Statistics (2013-2015)

Safety Belt Citations	2013 1532	2014 1707	2015 1508
Child Restraint Citations	2013 192	2014 177	2015 142
Injury Crashes	2013 394	2014 429	2015 469
Fatalities	2013 1	2014 2	2015 2

There is strong evidence that seat belt laws, child restraint laws, seat belt and safety seat education programs, community wide education and enforcement campaigns are effective in increasing safety belt and child safety seat use. (Safe Kids USA). In 2015, North Miami Police Department placed a greater focus on the enforcement of bicyclists and pedestrians resulting a 21% increase in the number of crashes, from 2014 (2203) to 2015 (2807). Therefore, the likelihood of motorists within the City not wearing a seatbelt being in one of these crashes has also increased. Additionally, the North Miami population is comprised of just under fifty percent Black (48%), with a seatbelt use rate of only 75% in comparison to their White and Other counterparts at approximately 88% (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration), 2009. This grave need for additional enforcement within the North Miami community is coupled with "less than half of pediatric car passengers suffering injuries from motor vehicle crashes were restrained, with the lowest rates among blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans, according to a research abstract presented by the American Academy of Pediatrics" (2011). The North Miami Population has shown these risk factors hold true within our community and the assistance of the enforcements gravey needed.

**Proposed Solution:** (Provide the specific countermeasure(s), chapter, and section you plan on implementing from the NHTSA Countermeasures That Work guide, found at: <http://www.ghsa.org/html/publications/countermeasures.html>. Explain how the countermeasure(s) that you plan to implement will address the problem and how the funding that you have requested will support those countermeasure(s). If no NHTSA countermeasure(s) exist, explain the basis of your selected strategy and how it will be effective.)

In accordance with Chapter two (2) of the NHTSA Countermeasures That Work Guide, the North Miami Police Department's Occupant Protection Program activities and enforcements integrate the most effective strategy for achieving and maintaining use at acceptable levels: coupling laws, enforcement, and publicity. More specifically, section 2.1, Short-Term High Visibility Seatbelt Law Enforcement, highlights an essential countermeasure of using "short, intense, highly publicized periods of increased belt law enforcement. The North Miami Police Department has implemented an occupant protection program in our city that mirrors this definition. Our continued efforts have shown a lasting reduction in injury crashes over the past several years. The North Miami Police Department plans to continue its commitment to the Occupant Protection Program and our partnership with the local schools, hospitals, fire department and faith-based organizations. Patrol, Motors, and COPS officers will perform weekly enforcements over a two (2) to four (4) hour span. Message boards will provide motorists with messaging to adhere to all State and Local use laws and warnings of the enforcements. Enforcements will also take place in the nontraditional evening or night time hours when "data suggests that belt use is lower at night (NHTSA Countermeasures That Work Guide, Chapter 2, Section 2, 2015).

Communications and outreach (NHTSA, Chapter 2, Section 3) will be a core component of the program. Within the COPS unit one of the officers on the detail is the North Miami Public Informations Officer (PIO). Serving in both capacities, the PIO provides the public with first hand knowledge about the enforcement in the rotation of local media that is used to promote adherence to all laws and notification of the enforcements.

Our Community Policing Unit's long standing relationships with community based organizations will further our participation in community events, school presentations, fairs, etc., to raise awareness and enforce the safety belt and child restraint laws. North Miami Police Department will participate in fairs, community events, school functions, etc. to promote safety belt usage. North Miami Police Department participated in all FDOT sponsored enforcement waves the last three years and will participate in the upcoming year. We are committed to enforcing these laws and reporting the data on time. North Miami Police Department will continue to issue safety belt and child restraint citations, provide an educational brochure to each person receiving a citation, and promote our zero tolerance policy.

**Sustainability:** (If local project, provide details about how you plan to continue the safety efforts after the initial funding period has ended. If you cannot continue the safety efforts, provide details about what will prevent you from continuing. Does not apply to statewide projects.)

The North Miami Police Department has successfully implemented and continued safety efforts for over seven (7) years. With safety of all on the road as a primary objective of the North Miami Police Department, program support is secured through the successful coordination of services with other agencies and continued cross-unit education and enforcements. The North Miami Police Department will continue to leverage several consistent financial resources, including state and local funding. Messaging message boards will reflect successes of the grant period, current events, and warnings pertaining to occupant protection. Community events such as the FACT festival where more than 2,000 residents are reached within a day, is a long standing initiative in conjunction with the Mayor and Parks and Recreation Department, will serve as consistent engagement with the community; a reminder of the need to remain alert and educated about the need and laws for occupant protection through seatbelt safety and child restraint use.

**Project Objectives:** (List the short term objectives that you have for the project. All objectives must be quantifiable, such as, "To reduce the number of crashes by 5% compared to the 3 year average of the most recent data by conducting 12 sobriety checkpoints during the sub-grant period; Providing 12 public education outreach events in the community during the sub-grant period.")

North Miami seeks to achieve the following short term objectives throughout the project period:

To increase safety belt use in North Miami, as seen in the decreased number of citations issued during the sub-grant period

To increase enforcement of Florida's safety belt and child restraint laws, by conducting at least monthly (12) High Visibility Enforcement Details throughout the subgrant period.

To participate in 12 community events promoting occupant protection safety throughout the sub-grant period.

**Evaluation:** (Explain how you will determine each project objective has been met by using one or more of the following methods: Formative, Process/Administrative, Impact, and Outcome. Details about the four methods of evaluation can be found at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/3-Grants/Grants-Home.shtm>)

The North Miami Police Department will evaluate the success of the Occupant Protection Program through process and outcome evaluations. The number of safety belt and child restraint citations; and presentations officers complete will be logged and accessed quarterly for progress towards the final outcomes. All developed materials will be placed on to a project timeline and distributed to the public with discussions on the reception of the material. Intervention through enforcements will be measured through a direct outcome evaluation as follows:

Record the number of safety belt citations issued

Record the number of child restraint citations issued

Record the number of occupant protection presentations and community events participated in promoting occupant protection safety

Record the number of attendees at all presentations and community events attended







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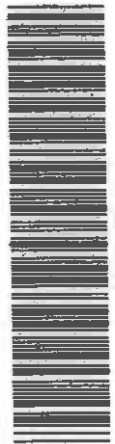
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**NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
 700 N.E. 124 STREET • NORTH MIAMI • FLORIDA 33161  
 (305) 891-0294



February 29, 2016

Florida Department of Transportation  
 Attn: Traffic Safety Administrator Safety Office  
 MS 53 605 Suwannee St.  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

RE: North Miami Police Department Occupant Protection Program

Dear FDOT:

The City of North Miami Police Department is interested in providing a Occupant Protection Program in North Miami, Florida. We have prepared a concept paper outlining the possibilities for which this funding could be utilized by our Police Department. I am in full support of the proposed project.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to any future invitation for funding from the Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

Leonard Burgess  
 Chief of Police

LB:cvc

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 RECEIVED  
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