





# Florida Transportation Plan Policy Element

December 2015

The Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) is the single overarching statewide plan guiding Florida's transportation future. It is a plan for all of Florida, created by, and providing direction to, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and all organizations that are involved in planning and managing Florida's transportation system, including statewide, regional, and local partners. The FTP includes a 50-year Vision Element, a 25-year Policy Element, and a five-year Implementation Element.

www.floridatransportationplan.com



## Florida Strategic Highway Safety Plan

August 2016

The Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) was developed as a part of the FTP Implementation Element to address highway safety and aligns with the FTP Vision Element and FTP Policy Element. The SHSP is a statewide, data-driven safety plan for all of Florida's road users. The plan is the state's five-year comprehensive roadway safety plan for achieving Florida's vision of zero traffic-related fatalities. The SHSP includes 13 Emphasis Areas that guide Florida's safety efforts.

www.fdot.gov/safety/



For more information regarding the Strategic Highway Safety Plan please contact:

FDOT Safety Office (850) 414-3100

www.fdot.gov

For more information on the Florida Transportation Plan please contact:

FDOT Office of Policy Planning (850) 414-4800





## Letter From the FDOT Secretary

Dear Traffic Safety Partner:

Thank you for being a part of Florida's transportation and traffic safety team and making the Florida Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) a reality. Safety is our top priority.

Florida's safety belt usage rate continues to move toward nearly 90 percent, almost three percent higher than the national average. In recent years we have strengthened our traffic safety laws by requiring booster seats for children up to six years old and by prohibiting texting while driving. We have increased awareness about traffic safety, especially in the area of bicycle and pedestrian safety. The condition of our state roads and bridges is among the best in the nation. However, our collective vision of a fatality-free transportation system will continue to require a united emphasis on traffic safety, using all the tools we each have in our toolboxes.

The four Es of traffic safety – engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency services, working together – is the vehicle that will ultimately get us to a fatality-free transportation system. **Driving Down Fatalities**, a Toward Zero Deaths initiative, is our traffic safety vision. One life lost is too many. Continuous collaboration with federal, state, regional, and local governments, advocacy groups, law enforcement, and emergency responders across the state makes us all more effective in reducing fatalities.

Florida continues to rank among the top travel destinations in the world and our beautiful climate and strong economy make us a sought-after place to live. We recognize, however, that being a great place to live, learn, work, and play also requires a safe and reliable transportation system. As technology moves forward with new and exciting ways to travel, Florida will remain a leader in embracing innovations while also ensuring the safety and security of the people who use our roadways. To that end, we thank each and every one of our traffic safety partners for your tireless work.

Whether you drive, walk, or ride: Look for Motorcycles, Buckle Up, Drive Sober, and Put it Down.

Sincerely

Jim Boxold, Secretary



# Traffic Safety Partner Pledge

# Vision:

# **A Fatality Free Transportation System**

We support the national vision of

"Toward Zero Deaths"

We share the vision of a

fatality-free roadway system

We serve as ambassadors of traffic safety, including the promotion of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan and its goals

n Boxold, Secretary

Florida Department of Transportation

Terry L. Rhodes, Executive Director

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Colonel Gene Spaulding, Director

Florida Highway Patrol

Sheriff Bobby Schultz, Chairman

Florida Sheriffs Association

Mayor Susan Haynie, Chair

Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

James Christian, Division Administrator

Tom Byron, P.E., Executive Director

Florida Rail Enterprise

**Carmen Hayes, Regional Administrator** 

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Chief Brett Railey, President 2015-2016

Florida Police Chiefs Association

Ramon D. Gavarrete, P.E., Past-President

Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents

**Underson**, Division Administrator

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration



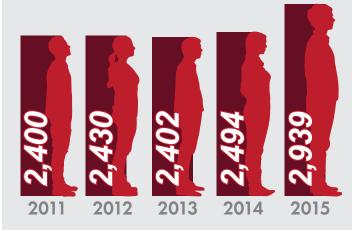
Florida shares the national traffic safety vision, "Toward Zero Deaths," and formally adopted our own version of the national vision, "Driving Down Fatalities," in 2012. Between 2011 and 2015, 12,665 people died on Florida's roadways and an additional 102,759 were seriously injured. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and its partners are committed to eliminating fatalities and reducing serious injuries with the understanding that the death of any person is unacceptable.

The Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is the statewide plan focusing on how to accomplish the vision of eliminating fatalities and reducing serious injuries on all public roads. The SHSP is updated at least every five years by FDOT in coordination with statewide, regional, and local safety partners. The SHSP is focused on the roadway component of transportation safety. Safety on other modes of transportation is covered by other plans. The SHSP and safety plans for other modes align not only with the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) but also with national programs funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The data-driven SHSP focuses on 13 Emphasis Areas, which reflect ongoing and emerging highway safety issues in Florida. Key strategies related to each Emphasis Area are identified, as well as overarching strategies that apply across Emphasis Areas. These strategies align with the "4 Es" – engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response. The SHSP also defines a framework for implementation activities to be carried out through strategic safety coalitions and specific activities by FDOT, other state agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, and other partners.

# DRIVING DOWN FATALITIES

Number of People Killed on Florida's Roadways (2011-2015)



Vision: ZERO DEATHS

Source: Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (2016).

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# How Was the Strategic Highway Safety Plan Developed?

The 2016 SHSP was updated through collaboration with Florida's safety partners. It is aligned with and builds on the recently adopted FTP, the state's long-range transportation plan. Both the FTP and the SHSP share the vision of a fatality-free roadway system to protect Florida's 20 million residents and more than 105 million annual visitors.

The SHSP update process included:

- Analysis of safety data collected by FDOT, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), and other sources to identify trends in
  the number of traffic fatalities and serious injuries and factors often associated with these events. All data presented in the SHSP are from DHSMV for 2011
  to 2015 unless otherwise noted. This plan was developed using the most recent data available at the time of plan approval.
- Consideration of extensive partner and public input gathered through the FTP update process in 2015. This process engaged more than 15,000 participants through a 35-member Steering Committee, four advisory groups, three statewide events, 13 regional forums and workshops, and more than 350 partner briefings. This input reaffirmed the state's commitment to maintaining a safe and secure transportation system for residents, visitors, and businesses. The process also highlighted several safety issues of concern to the public, including bicycle and pedestrian safety, commercial vehicles, the impacts of changing technologies, and the role of design and operational decisions in creating a safe environment.
- Coordination with eight strategic safety coalitions representing statewide, regional, and local partners from both the public and private sectors. These
  coalitions provided targeted input on the emphasis areas specifically related to their current strategic plans, and defined key strategies for the next five years.
- Coordination with Florida's 27 metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), including review of safety-related goals, objectives, and strategies in MPO plans and targeted outreach sessions through Florida's Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council.
- Review and approval by:















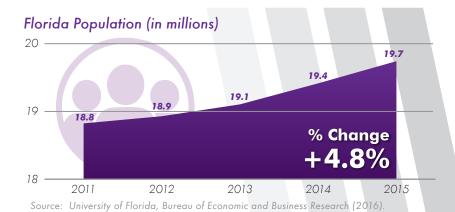




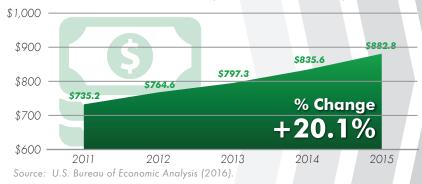




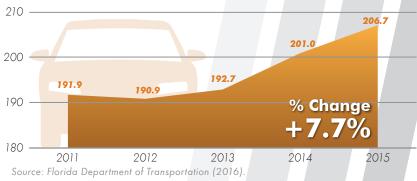




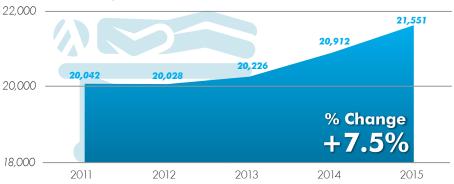
#### Florida Gross Domestic Product (in billions of dollars)



#### Florida Vehicle Miles Traveled (in billions)



#### Florida Serious Injuries



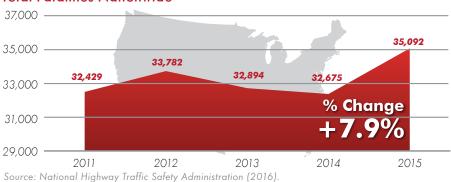
Source: Florida's Integrated Report Exchange System (FIRES) (2016).

#### Florida Fatality Rate

# 1.42 per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled

Source: Florida Department of Transportation;
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (2016).

#### Total Fatalities Nationwide

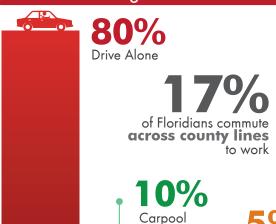




# What Key Trends Are Shaping Florida's Transportation System?

Home

#### Floridians' driving habits



Floridians
live in urban areas
Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2014).

3%
Transit
Walk

Licensed Drivers 65+



increased by 12.0% (2011-2015)

Licensed Teen Drivers



decreased by 4.6% (2011-2015)

Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, (2016).

#### Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2013).

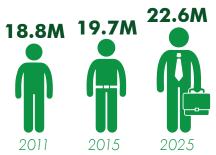
#### More aging road users on Florida's roads



These users tend to have a harder time seeing, reacting to, and recovering from events that cause crashes.

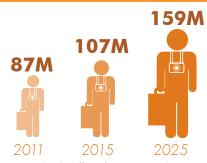
Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research (2016).

#### Growth in population



Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research (2016).

#### Growth in visitors



Source: Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research (2015).



#### Technology is changing how we move

of Americans age 18-29 have used on-demand ride sharing services

Frequent users are less likely to own a car and more likely to take transit, walk, or ride a bike

Source: Pew Research Center (2015).



#### Floridians are choosing non-automobile modes more often

Transit Boardings

between 2011 and 2014 Source: FDOT (2015

Motorcycle Endorsements

**413**%

between 2011 and 2015

Source: Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (2016)

Seaport - Florida Ports Council Five Year Seaport Mission Plan (2011).

Walking to Work

between
2011 and 2014
Source: Bureau of Economic
and Business Research (2016).

Bicycling to Work

**39%** 

between
2011 and 2014
Source: Bureau of Economic

Google has autonomously
Self-Driving Car driven more than

# 1.5 Million Miles Nationally

Source: Google Self-Driving Car Project (2016).

90% of the U.S. population

owns a cellphone and **20%** use their phone for real time traffic or transit information

Source: Gartner, Inc., "Predicts 2015: The Internet of Things" (2014).

#### Freight growth is putting more trucks on Florida's roadways

**627.6** million tons Truck \$724.8 billion dollars **100.3** million tons Seaport \$85.9 billion dollars Growth in Freight **58.1** million tons Rail \$2,643 1,306 \$22.0 billion dollars \$963 774 billion million million billion 2.3 million tons Avigiion 2011 \$71.1 billion dollars 2011 2040 2040 by Weight (tons) by Value (dollars) Sources: Truck and Rail - FHWA Freight Analysis Framework 3.4 (2011); Aviation - FAA Air Carrier Activity Information System (2011);

Source: Federal Highway Administration, Freight Analysis Framework 3.4 (2011).



Florida's transportation system is large, multimodal, and owned by a number of entities including the state government, local governments (cities and counties), the federal government, and the private sector. When someone travels on a roadway, they rarely think about who owns it. Roadway ownership, however, matters because improvements and maintenance are the responsibility of the owner.

Florida's SHSP is aimed at all public roads. Federal Highway Administration safety funding can be used for state and local safety projects. In developing the SHSP, efforts were made to reach out to local engineers and planners and the state's 27 MPOs to provide information on ways to improve safety. Local roads account for 39 percent of roadway fatalities. That is why coordination and collaboration through the SHSP is important as it helps achieve a shared vision for safety.

Florida has some of the largest urbanized areas in the country as well as many rural areas. Strategies for improving safety on urban roadways are different than the strategies used for improving safety on rural roads and each have their own set of challenges. Rural areas, for instance, often have more narrow, two-lane roadways and can lack shoulders alongside the roadway. Florida is focused on reducing crashes on all roads including high risk rural road segments. The state implements safety countermeasures based on funding availability and works closely with local governments and agencies to support efforts for local road system enhancements.

#### **Arrive Alive Initiative**

Florida's safety partners and stakeholders have come together to revitalize the Arrive Alive initiative. Arrive Alive is an education campaign Florida has used in the past that will be improved by including data analytics, data-driven concepts, and consistent statewide messaging and best practices. The new Arrive Alive initiative will include an identification of corridor segments with a high number of fatalities, roadway safety assessments (RSAs) to identify the major safety issues with those corridor segments, and targeted education and enforcement efforts to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

#### Florida's Transportation System

#### State Highways

**12,116** Centerline Miles

10% of All Intersections

**60%** of Total Fatalities

#### Local Roads

**108,264** Centerline Miles **88%** of All Intersections **39%** of Total Fatalities

#### Rail-Highway Crossings

**3,731** Public At-Grade Crossings **1,245** Private At-Grade Crossings

#### Bicycle/Pedestrian

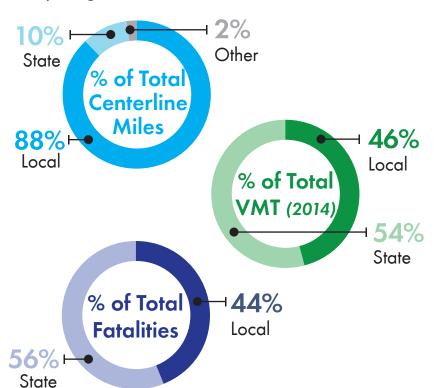
7,418 Miles of Bicycle Facilities on State Highway System3,627 Miles of Pedestrian Facilities on State Highway System

Source: Florida Department of Transportation (2016).

# 8



#### Comparing State and Local Roads



Source: Florida Department of Transportation (2015)



The SHSP guides state and local governments in addressing safety, helps them coordinate the safety performance measures required for states and MPOs, and addresses federal funding through the Highway Safety improvement Program (HSIP). To qualify for HSIP funding, a project must be reflected in the SHSP.

Involvement and coordination with the SHSP serves local constituencies by improving the transportation system and the quality of life for residents and visitors. Most importantly, it saves lives.





# What Are the SHSP Emphasis Areas?

Thirteen Emphasis Areas are the primary focus for Florida's traffic safety improvement efforts. The Emphasis Areas were identified through a collaborative process that included:

- Review of fatality and serious injury data from 2011 to 2015 to identify and set priorities among Florida's most serious crash problems;
- Input from the existing strategic safety coalitions, MPOs, and other partners; and
- Consideration of public input from the FTP update process.

Safety coalitions oversee many emphasis areas and develop detailed strategic plans that identify targeted strategies and actions to reduce fatalities and serious injuries for each Emphasis Area. Florida relies on the "4 Es" – engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response – as a tool to guide decision-making for improving roadway safety. The "4 Es" are used to help identify and organize overarching strategies that help guide the safety coalitions and other partners.

A Leading E is identified for each Emphasis Area to help focus implementation activities. The Leading E reflects the most common and most effective safety solutions related to each Emphasis Area. Identification of the Leading E does not limit the types of actions that can be undertaken to improve safety for that Emphasis Area.

TP update process.	Serious Injuries	5-Year Period of <b>2011-2015</b>	Fatalities	
	34,276	Lane Departure Crashes	5,940	
	7,252	Impaired Driving Crashes	4,030	
	12,499	Pedestrians and Bicyclists	3,365	
	34,183	Intersection Crashes	3,053	
CRASH REPORT	9,456	Unrestrained Occupants	2,932	
CRASH KLI OKI	12,093	Motorcyclists	2,402	
Lane Departure	12,228	Aging Drivers	2,320	
Speeding and Aggressive Driving	7,190	Speeding and Aggressive Driving Crashes	s 1,873	
☐ Aging Road User  ☐ Teen Driver	7,247	Commercial Motor Vehicle Crashes	1,4111	
Distracted Driving	12 <i>,7</i> 41	Teen Driver Crashes	1,148	
☐ Intersection Crash	15,236	Distracted Driving Crashes	994	
Teen driver was distracted by a cell phone.	<b>2,0</b> 99	Work Zone Crashes	340	
He was speeding around a curve with departed the roadway colliding with a tree.	Note: A	Multiple factors are involved in almost every	y crash.	

Note: Multiple factors are involved in almost every crash. Source: Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (2016).





For example, while Enforcement is identified as the Leading E for Speeding and Aggressive Driving, many Education and Engineering actions also can be taken to reduce fatalities and serious injuries caused by these types of crashes.

Emergency Response is a unique "E" because it is not directly related to preventing crashes, but rather supports the other "Es" by helping reduce fatalities or serious injuries through improving the response to crashes after they occur. For this reason Emergency Response is not identified as a Leading E for any of the Emphasis Areas.

Like the SHSP, each coalition's strategic plan is data driven, increasing the importance of high quality traffic records and information systems. Overarching strategies are identified for traffic records and information systems even though it is not considered one of the "4 Es."



Lane Departures



Motorcyclists



Teen Drivers



Impaired Driving



Aging Road Users



Distracted Driving



Pedestrians and Bicyclists



Speeding and Aggressive Driving



Work Zones



Intersections



Commercial Motor Vehicles



Traffic Records and Information Systems



Occupant Protection



**Engineering** 



**Enforcement** 



**Education** 



**Emergency Response** 



# What Are the Overarching SHSP Strategies?

#### **Engineering**

Identify, develop, and deploy engineering solutions and best practices that encourage safe driving behavior and reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

Incorporate policies and practices into roadway design, construction, operation, and maintenance that make Florida's transportation system safer for all users.

Ensure infrastructure design allows for safe and efficient access for first responders.

#### **Enforcement**

Increase targeted
enforcement activities
in high-crash locations and at
relevant times.

Increase enforcement of high-risk driving behaviors.

Coordinate with prosecutors and the courts to **improve prosecution and adjudication** of traffic safety-related cases.

#### Education

Educate all road users on sharing the road.

Develop and implement communication strategies for all road users and improve public awareness of highway safety.

Increase training and educational opportunities

for first responders and other traffic safety partners focused on reducing roadway-related fatalities and serious injuries.

Increase motorists' understanding of engineering solutions and best practices, and vehicle technologies that can reduce the number and injury severity of crashes.

# **Emergency Response**

Improve emergency response time.

Provide training to first responders to improve trauma management.

Facilitate the quick clearance of traffic crashes.

#### **Traffic Records and Information Systems**

Develop, maintain, and enhance **quality traffic records** by ensuring data are timely, accurate, complete, uniform, integrated, and accessible.

**Develop a systematic approach** for identifying locations and behaviors related to fatal and serious injury crashes.

Promote the **collection**, **analysis**, **and distribution** of quality crash data so state, regional, and local stakeholders can make appropriate and timely decisions on reducing and responding to crashes.





The main body of the SHSP presents the 13 Emphasis Areas ordered from the highest number of 2011 to 2015 fatalities to the lowest. The Emphasis Area sections focus on serious injury and fatality data from 2011 to 2015 provided by DHSMV, unless otherwise noted. Each Emphasis Area narrative addresses:

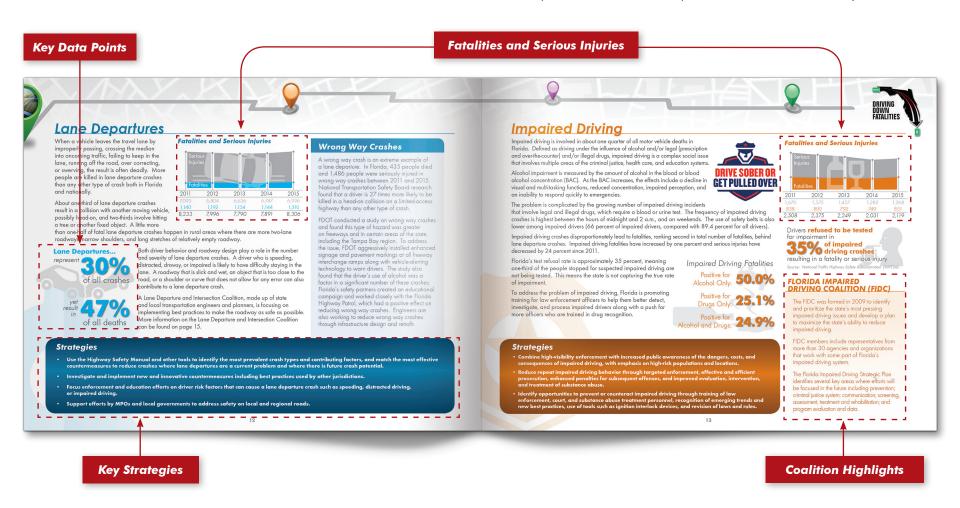
Fatalities and Serious Injuries related to each Emphasis Area.

Key Data Points supporting the focus of each Emphasis Area.

**Coalition Highlights** that report on the work being done by Florida's strategic safety coalitions.

**FATALITIES** 

**Key Strategies** that will guide Florida's efforts to reduce fatalities and serious injuries related to each Emphasis Area over the next five years.



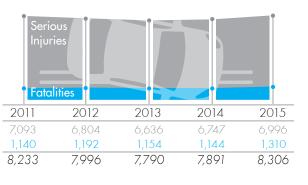


## **Lane Departures**

When a vehicle leaves the travel lane by improperly passing, crossing the median into oncoming traffic, failing to keep in the lane, running off the road, over correcting, or swerving, the result is often deadly. More people are killed in lane departure crashes than any other type of crash both in Florida and nationally.

About one-third of lane departure crashes result in a collision with another moving vehicle, possibly head-on, and two-thirds involve hitting a tree or another fixed object. A little more

Fatalities and Serious Injuries



than one-half of fatal lane departure crashes happen in rural areas where there are more two-lane roadways, narrow shoulders, and long stretches of relatively empty roadway.

#### **Lane Departures...**

represent 30% of all crashes

yet 7% of all deaths

Both driver behavior and roadway design play a role in the number and severity of lane departure crashes. A driver who is speeding, distracted, drowsy, or impaired is likely to have difficulty staying in the lane. A roadway that is slick and wet, an object that is too close to the road, or a shoulder or curve that does not allow for any error can also contribute to a lane departure crash.

A Lane Departure and Intersection Coalition, made up of state and local transportation engineers and planners, is focusing on implementing best practices to make the roadway as safe as possible. More information on the Lane Departure and Intersection Coalition can be found on page 15.

#### **Wrong Way Crashes**

A wrong way crash is an extreme example of a lane departure. In Florida, 435 people died and 1,486 people were seriously injured in wrong way crashes between 2011 and 2015. National Transportation Safety Board research found that a driver is 27 times more likely to be killed in a head-on collision on a limited-access highway than any other type of crash.

FDOT conducted a study on wrong way crashes and found this type of hazard was greater on freeways and in certain areas of the state, including the Tampa Bay region. To address the issue, FDOT aggressively installed enhanced signage and pavement markings at all freeway interchange ramps along with vehicle-alerting technology to warn drivers. The study also found that the driver's use of alcohol was a factor in a significant number of these crashes. Florida's safety partners created an educational campaign and worked closely with the Florida Highway Patrol, which had a positive effect on reducing wrong way crashes. Engineers are also working to reduce wrong way crashes through infrastructure design and retrofit.

- Use the Highway Safety Manual and other tools to identify the most prevalent crash types and contributing factors, and match the most effective
  countermeasures to reduce crashes where lane departures are a current problem and where there is future crash potential.
- Investigate and implement new and innovative countermeasures including best practices used by other jurisdictions.
- Focus enforcement and education efforts on driver risk factors that can cause a lane departure crash such as speeding, distracted driving, or impaired driving.
- Support efforts by MPOs and local governments to address safety on local and regional roads.

# **Impaired Driving**

Impaired driving is involved in about one quarter of all motor vehicle deaths in Florida. Defined as driving under the influence of alcohol and/or legal (prescription and over-the-counter) and/or illegal drugs, impaired driving is a complex social issue that involves multiple areas of the criminal justice, health care, and education systems.

Alcohol impairment is measured by the amount of alcohol in the blood or blood alcohol concentration (BAC). As the BAC increases, the effects include a decline in visual and multi-tasking functions, reduced concentration, impaired perception, and an inability to respond quickly to emergencies.

The problem is complicated by the growing number of impaired driving incidents that involve legal and illegal drugs, which require a blood or urine test. The frequency of impaired driving crashes is highest between the hours of midnight and 2 a.m., and on weekends. The use of safety belts is also lower among impaired drivers (66 percent of impaired drivers, compared with 89.4 percent for all drivers).

Impaired driving crashes disproportionately lead to fatalities, ranking second in total number of fatalities, behind lane departure crashes. Impaired driving fatalities have increased by one percent and serious injuries have decreased by 24 percent since 2011.

Florida's test refusal rate is approximately 35 percent, meaning one-third of the people stopped for suspected impaired driving are not being tested. This means the state is not capturing the true rate of impairment.

To address the problem of impaired driving, Florida is promoting training for law enforcement officers to help them better detect, investigate, and process impaired drivers along with a push for more officers who are trained in drug recognition.

Impaired Driving Fatalities

Positive for Alcohol Only:

50.0%

Positive for Drugs Only:

25.1%

Positive for Alcohol and Drugs:

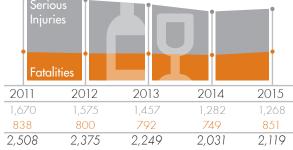
24.9%

#### **Strategies**

- Combine high-visibility enforcement with increased public awareness of the dangers, costs, and consequences of impaired driving, with emphasis on high-risk populations and locations.
- Reduce repeat impaired driving behavior through targeted enforcement, effective and efficient prosecution, enhanced penalties for subsequent offenses, and improved evaluation, intervention, and treatment of substance abuse.
- Identify opportunities to prevent or counteract impaired driving through training of law
  enforcement, court, and substance abuse treatment personnel, recognition of emerging trends and
  new best practices, use of tools such as ignition interlock devices, and revision of laws and rules.

# DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER

#### Fatalities and Serious Injuries



**FATALITIES** 

Drivers **refused to be tested** for impairment in

of impaired driving crashes resulting in a fatality or serious injury

Source: National Traffic Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA).

# FLORIDA IMPAIRED DRIVING COALITION (FIDC)

The FIDC was formed in 2009 to identify and prioritize the state's most pressing impaired driving issues and develop a plan to maximize the state's ability to reduce impaired driving.

FIDC members include representatives from more than 30 agencies and organizations that work with some part of Florida's impaired driving system.

The Florida Impaired Driving Strategic Plan identifies several key areas where efforts will be focused in the future including prevention; criminal justice system; communication; screening, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation; and program evaluation and data.



## Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Walking and biking are popular in Florida due to the year-round moderate climate. Given the vulnerability of a pedestrian or bicyclist, however, these activities can result in death and serious injury when they come into conflict with a motor vehicle. Since 2011, pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities increased 27 percent and serious injuries increased 18 percent. Florida conducted a pedestrian assessment in January 2012 and began specifically addressing key bicycle concerns in 2014.

Several factors are involved in these crashes.

Approximately two-thirds of pedestrian and bicyclist-related fatal crashes occur outside of a marked crosswalk or bicycle lane. A major factor in these crashes is failure to yield the right-of-way on the part of motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. More than 40 percent of bicyclist fatalities are



#### **Fatalities and Serious Injuries**



related to traumatic brain injury involving a cyclist who was not wearing a helmet, or who wore a helmet improperly.

Florida seeks to be a quality place for people to live, learn, work, and play, and is working to ensure everyone has convenient and safe choices for transportation, including walking, biking, and transit. Florida's focused initiative to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety has resulted in a statewide Complete Streets Policy and Implementation Plan, an intersection lighting plan, updated design guidance, a comprehensive communication plan, high-visibility enforcement efforts, a strong emphasis on pedestrian and bicyclist safety in driver education, revisions

of Florida's Driver Handbook and driver license exam, and improved emergency response to victims of traffic crashes.

Engineering solutions such as pedestrian hybrid beacon traffic signals at marked mid-block crosswalks and protected bike lanes have been added to support pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Florida has improved traffic data to allow a more accurate assessment of pedestrian and bicycle related issues and developed a GIS tool that allows users to map crashes, identify areas with an over representation of crashes, and conduct a comprehensive analysis of the context of each priority area to ensure the appropriate countermeasures are selected to resolve specific challenges.

# FLORIDA PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY COALITION

Florida's Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition is a diverse group of national, state, and local partners and safety advocates that prioritizes and implements the strategies identified in the statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Safety Plan (PBSSP) to reduce pedestrian and bicycle related fatalities and serious injuries as a result of traffic crash involvement on Florida's roadways.

The PBSSP was finalized in 2013 in response to a pedestrian fatality rate that was nearly double the national average and a bicyclist rate that was nearly triple. The Coalition meets regularly to discuss and update the progress of the PBSSP implementation.

- Increase awareness and understanding of safety issues and compliance with traffic laws and regulations related to pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Develop and use a systematic approach to identify locations and behaviors prone to pedestrian and bicycle crashes and implement multi-disciplinary countermeasures.
- Create urban and rural built environments to support and encourage safe bicycling and walking.
- Support national, state, and local initiatives and policies that promote bicycle and pedestrian safety.

## **Intersections**

No other location in the transportation system poses greater risks than an intersection. An intersection is the one place where all road users and vehicle types may come together.

An intersection is a potential point of conflict that relies on signage, traffic control devices, roadway design, lighting, the good behavior of users, and other factors to ensure everyone navigates through safely.

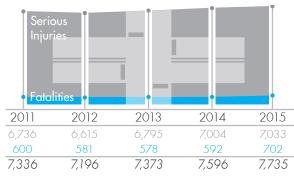
Pedestrians and bicyclists are involved in less than five percent of all intersection crashes, yet account for more than 17 percent of the fatalities.

Intersections create risks for aging road users because as people age, there are declines in visual, cognitive, and physical abilities. This creates difficulties for aging road users in some situations such as making left turns, changing lanes, and navigating through intersections.<sup>1</sup> Sixty percent of aging road user

# LANE DEPARTURE AND INTERSECTION COALITION

The mission of the Lane Departure and Intersection Coalition is to analyze data, develop strategies, and implement improvements to eliminate fatal and serious injury crashes for both intersections and lane departures. With assistance from the Federal Highway Administration, the Coalition has developed a Lane Departure Implementation Plan and is working on developing a similar plan for Intersections. In putting the plan together, the Coalition also relied on the progress made by other statewide coalitions such as the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition and the Florida Impaired Driving Coalition.

#### Fatalities and Serious Injuries



fatal crashes involved a failure to yield the right of way. The traffic safety challenge at intersections is evidenced by the 17 percent increase in fatalities and the four percent increase in serious injuries.

One intersection where there are special circumstances are railway-highway crossings. Florida has over 3,500 public railroad crossings and the majority (80 percent) are equipped with active warning devices such as flashing lights and gates. This is higher than the national percentage of 50 percent. In the last five years, 22 people died and 81 were seriously injured in railway-highway

crossing crashes in Florida. The good news is Florida's rail crossing fatalities have decreased 44 percent over the past decade, which is noteworthy given increased highway traffic and changes in the railroad industry that have resulted in more trains on fewer rail lines.

**FATALITIES** 

Florida uses Complete Streets and context sensitive design strategies that consider the needs of all users and the context of local communities when planning roadway improvements. Improvements such as signal upgrades, turning restrictions at multilane intersections, traffic detection control systems, and roadway lighting at intersections are being implemented. Roundabouts have been proven to reduce the number of fatal and severe injury crashes by 82 percent over a stop-controlled intersection and 78 percent over a signalized intersection. Because such new design features can sometimes be confusing, education and information on how to safely navigate through them is necessary. These solutions can be integrated into almost any intersection to help reduce crashes that result in fatalities and serious injuries.

- Reduce the frequency and severity of crashes at intersections by limiting conflicts through geometric, traffic control, and lighting improvements.
- Institute and promote Highway Safety Manual analyses and road safety audits/assessments using multi-disciplinary teams to review the operations and safety for all intersection users.
- Use traditional and alternative designs and technologies to reduce conflict risks such as innovative interchange designs, access management, and roundabouts.
- Improve the awareness and visibility of traffic control devices so all users can safety navigate an intersection.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> National Institute of Health, Senior Health.



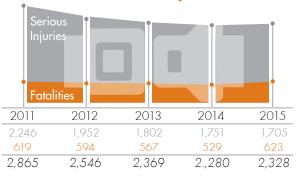
## **Occupant Protection**

NHTSA estimates that safety belts saved nearly 13,000 lives in the United States in 2014. Safety belts and age-appropriate child safety seats, when used properly, keep vehicle occupants in their seats during a crash and spread the crash forces across the stronger parts of the upper body, which helps to prevent deaths and serious injuries.

In Florida, unrestrained occupants represent 23 percent of all fatalities and nearly 10 percent of serious injuries. Almost 20 percent of lane departure and 7 percent of intersection fatalities and serious injuries involved a person who was unrestrained. Often, the individuals who were killed or seriously injured in unrestrained crashes exhibited other risk taking behaviors such as driving impaired (17 percent), speeding (14 percent), and being distracted (6 percent).

Successful occupant protection involves education, communication, and enforcement necessary to achieve significant, lasting increases in safety belt and child safety seat usage. In Florida, efforts focus on regulation, policy, and education, including safety belt

#### **Fatalities and Serious Injuries**



and child safety seat awareness and enforcement. These efforts include programs



targeting specific demographic groups with low compliance rates, such as teen and minority populations, and other activities aimed at child passenger safety, such as expansion of inspection stations, awareness training, school bus safety, and special needs training. Each spring around Memorial Day, Florida, along with all 50 states and the District of Columbia, participates in NHTSA's nationwide Click It or Ticket high visibility enforcement campaign. These efforts have helped Florida reduce unrestrained occupant serious injuries by 24 percent.

Safety belts reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat occupants by

the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by

**50%** 

Source: Centers for Disease Control

#### **Strategies**

- Enforce occupant protection use laws, regulations, and policies to provide clear guidance to the public concerning motor vehicle occupant protection systems including those aimed at children.
- Determine which population groups are at highest risk for not wearing safety belts, and develop culturally relevant public education and outreach to increase awareness of the benefits of safety belt use among these groups.
- Develop and implement programs that use the media, including social media, to improve public awareness of the importance of safety belts.

Florida's safety belt use rate is

89.4%

National average is

87.0%

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

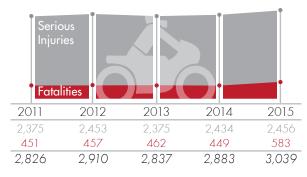
# **Motorcyclists**

More Floridians ride motorcycles than ever before, with riders coming from every age and demographic group. Florida's sunny weather, beautiful beaches, and scenic highways make it a popular place for motorcycle enthusiasts. The downturn in the economy and higher gas prices earlier in this decade made motorcycles and scooters a more attractive transportation choice.

Motorcyclists, including motor scooter riders, represent seven percent of licensed drivers, three percent of registered motor vehicles, and less than one percent of traffic on Florida's roadways, yet represent 19 percent of Florida's traffic fatalities and 12 percent of serious injuries. During the past five years, motorcycle-related fatalities increased by 29 percent, perhaps reflecting the increase in motorcycle endorsements and the increase in motorcycle registrations. Whatever the reason, this dramatic increase has prompted Florida to continue to explore the causes of increasing fatalities and focus on developing solutions to prevent them.

Florida's efforts to improve motorcyclist safety involve educating riders about riding skills and how to be seen by other vehicles, protective

#### **Fatalities and Serious Injuries**



equipment, impaired riding, and proper licensure. Florida also educates other motor vehicle drivers about sharing the roadway and educates engineers and highway maintenance personnel about roadway hazards specific to motorcyclists.

In 2008, Florida adopted a law requiring motorcyclists who want to obtain a motorcycle endorsement or motorcycle-only license to complete a mandatory 15-hour basic training course provided by the Florida Rider Training Program.

Florida law also requires that all riders younger than 21 years wear a helmet. Motorcyclists 21 years and older may ride without helmets only if they show proof of coverage by a medical insurance policy. In 2015, 48 percent of motorcyclist fatalities involved a rider not wearing a helmet. The state is focused on educating all riders about the value of wearing protective gear including helmets, eye protection, jackets, gloves, long-legged pants, and sturdy footwear.

**FATALITIES** 

# FLORIDA MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COALITION

The Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition was formed in 2008, and includes representatives from more than 25 public and private agencies and organizations who developed and now implement the Motorcycle Safety Strategic Plan.

It is focused on promoting "Ride S.M.A.R.T," which stands for: Say no to drinking and riding, Make yourself visible to motorists, Always wear a helmet, Ride in control, and Train regularly. The coalition, a winner of a 2011 National Roadway Safety Award, collects and analyzes data, conducts surveys, and implements and evaluates the state's motorcycle safety program.

- Improve the skill levels of motorcyclists through increased participation in rider education programs and proper license endorsements.
- Promote the safe operation of motorcycles, including sharing the road, responsible riding, and the use of personal safety gear.
- Consider the unique vulnerabilities and characteristics of motorcyclists when designing and improving transportation infrastructure.





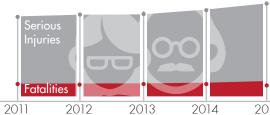
# **Aging Road Users**

Florida has the largest number of aging road users in the nation. Since today's older adults are expected to live longer and continue to drive longer than any previous generation, their impact on traffic safety can be substantial.

As drivers age, their traffic risks increase. An 80-year-old woman driver is seven times more likely to be killed as a 45-year-old woman in trips that are the same distance.<sup>2</sup> Aging impacts vision, memory, physical strength, reaction time, and flexibility – all necessary for safe driving. Fortunately, the majority of aging drivers voluntarily limit their driving when their skills begin to decrease. They make choices to not drive at night, stay on familiar roadways, and drive more during the mid-day hours when traffic is not as heavy (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

Whether it is an increase in the overall number of individuals age 65 or older, an increase in the number of vehicle miles they are traveling, or other causes, fatalities involving aging drivers have increased by 22 percent and serious injuries by 15 percent. To address the needs of aging road users, Florida's Safe Mobility for Life program provides a one-stop web site for safety and mobility resources; the Florida Guide for Aging Drivers; the nation's largest CarFit program helping drivers be safe

#### **Fatalities and Serious Injuries**



2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
2011				20.0
2,313	2,363	2,372	2,514	2,666
434	442	445	468	531
2,747	2,805	2,817	2,982	3,197

and comfortable by improving the "fit" between drivers and their vehicles; a Find-a-Ride database that provides direct access to over 800 local transportation options; and roadway improvements such as larger lettering on signs and advance warning signs.

Additional activities include helping people transition more easily from driving to other modes of transportation; developing and distributing resources and tools to support safe driving skills; educating and promoting driving evaluation strategies to prevent crashes; and supporting implementation of community design features that meet the mobility needs of an aging population. Pedestrian and bicyclist safety for aging road users also will be addressed as more seniors decide to walk or ride rather than drive.



# SAFE MOBILITY FOR LIFE COALITION

The mission of the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition is to improve the safety, access, and mobility of Florida's aging road users by implementing an Aging Road User Strategic Safety Plan to eliminate fatalities and reduce serious injuries. The Coalition consists of almost 30 member organizations who work together to develop, distribute, and evaluate transportation safety and mobility resources to benefit not only older adults but families and caregivers, engineers and planners, communities, law enforcement, aging service providers, and health care professionals.

The Coalition takes a positive and innovative approach to help aging Floridians improve their safety, mobility, independence, and connection to the community. The Safe Mobility for Life Coalition works with road users age 50 and up with a focus on users age 65 and up. This is to ensure we are working with road users early so they are prepared to transition from driving when that time comes.

- Promote and educate drivers on comprehensive driving evaluations and safety strategies to prevent crashes.
- Expand transportation choices and promote community design features to meet the mobility needs of an aging population.
- Develop and distribute resources and tools to support safe driving skills and encourage early planning to safely transition from driving.

The Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy, Florida State University.

# **Commercial Motor Vehicles**

"If you bought it, a truck brought it," is as true today as it was several years ago when it was first introduced as an advertising campaign. Projections suggest that truck tonnage will increase by 74 percent, nationally, by 2040 due to continued globalization in trade and significant changes in the nation's shopping patterns, increasing the demand for trucks on Florida's roadways.3 As one of the top tourist destinations in the world, Florida also has a high number of buses on the road, a trend that is expected to continue.

Nearly 600,000 Floridians hold a commercial driver license and almost 10 percent of commercial driver licenses held nationwide are issued in Florida. Out of the 350,000 commercial motor vehicles registered in Florida, 72,000 are Class A Commercial Drivers Licenses for truck trailer combinations (semi-trucks). Growth in commercial vehicle traffic has resulted in a 31 percent increase in commercial vehiclerelated fatalities and a four percent increase in serious injuries.

#### **Fatalities and Serious Injuries**



The Florida Highway Patrol's Office of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) conducts safety inspections of commercial trucks and buses and enforces safety and size/weight requirements. CVE has a comprehensive commercial motor vehicle safety enforcement program that includes traffic enforcement focused on moving infractions, distracted driving, fatigued driving, and impaired driving. CVE concentrates enforcement efforts on these violations in high crash locations to prevent crashes.

Florida's shortage of available truck parking often results in trucks parking along the shoulders of interstates, which creates a safety hazard for motorists. Expanded parking areas at rest stops helps reduce driver fatigue. Roadside

pull-off areas along interstates in highly urbanized areas increase safety during traffic stops. Public awareness programs are conducted throughout the state. Outreach efforts include public speaking, media interviews, public service ads, billboards. dynamic message boards, and electronic social networking to educate the public about the value of the trucking industry and motorist safety in relation to commercial motor vehicle operations. Other efforts under consideration include truck-only lanes, more truck lane restrictions, and separate entrances at busy port locations.

**FATALITIES** 

Nationally in 2014,

of the **fatalities** in commercial vehicle crashes were occupants of other vehicles



Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

- Conduct targeted enforcement for violations in high crash locations associated with commercial vehicles.
- Use public awareness program, outreach efforts, and social media to increase motorist awareness of safe driving around commercial vehicles.
- Collaborate with the trucking and bus industry on programs and initiatives to improve safety and reduce crashes.

Federal Highway Administration, Freight Analysis Framework 3.4.



# **Speeding and Aggressive Driving**

Chances of dying in a crash doubles for every 10 miles per hour (mph) a car travels above 50 mph. Speeding reduces the time a driver has to react to a dangerous situation, and increases the impact energy and risk of death in the event of a crash. According to the National Safety Council, if a car is traveling at 30 mph and accelerates to 60 mph, the amount of energy upon impact is four times greater. That impact ripples across the three types of collisions that are part of a crash: the vehicle collision when the car hits another car or object; the human collision when the people in the car hit the interior of the vehicle or another occupant; and the internal collision when organs in the body collide with the body's skeleton or other organs.

A crash is considered to be speed-related when a driver is driving too fast for conditions or exceeding the posted speed limit. Speeding is part of the overall problem of aggressive driving, which can also involve following too closely, refusing to yield the right-of-way, running red lights, weaving in and out of traffic, and passing improperly. In addition to the effects on reaction time and impact, speeding reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around other vehicles, curves, or objects in the roadway; extends the distance

#### **Fatalities and Serious Injuries**



necessary to stop a vehicle; and increases the distance a vehicle travels before a hazard is noticed. While quieter, better designed cars and smoother and wider roadways can contribute to the speed problem, driver attitudes and cultural norms are ultimately the major factor in decisions to speed.

Lane departures are involved in 54 percent of all speeding and aggressive driving fatalities and serious injuries, and intersection crashes make up another 25 percent. Individuals involved in speeding and aggressive driving crashes often exhibit other risk-taking behavior such as not

wearing a safety belt (17 percent) or driving impaired (12 percent). Speeding and aggressive driving serious injuries have declined by 12 percent since 2011 while fatalities have increased by 12 percent.

Speeding and aggressive driving are complex issues that can be addressed through engineering, enforcement, and education solutions.

Engineering solutions include managing speed by setting appropriate speed limits; using variable speed limits that change based on road, traffic, and weather conditions; and implementing traffic calming measures that slow drivers down. Local law enforcement agencies can also target problems with high visibility speeding and aggressive driving initiatives that educate the public about the problem and cite individuals who violate the law.

- Enforce speeding and aggressive driving laws by focusing on high-risk locations.
- Incorporate technology and other innovations at high risk locations.
- Evaluate crash hot spots and implement appropriate engineering countermeasures to control speed and reduce aggressive driving behavior.
- Conduct community-based public awareness and education regarding speeding and aggressive driving.





As any parent knows, handing the car keys to a new driver is a proud yet terrifying experience. Florida has over 400,000 registered teen drivers, age 15 to 19. Teen drivers are involved in approximately 40,000 crashes resulting in 200 fatalities and 2,500 serious injuries each year. Nationally, drivers aged 16 and 17 have the highest crash rates of any age group.

Teen drivers do not have years of experience in recognizing and avoiding dangerous situations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) finds that teens often engage in risky behaviors. In one-third of the deaths and serious injuries involving teen drivers, safety belts were not worn. Teens are more likely to underestimate

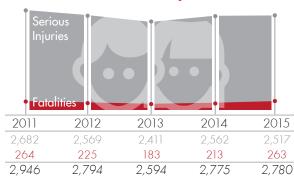
Motor vehicle crashes are the

# OF DEATH

for U.S. teens

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

#### **Fatalities and Serious Injuries**



dangerous situations, speed, and allow shorter distances between vehicles.

For most adults, driving is almost automatic; in reality, it is a complex task requiring the driver to pay attention to a multitude of factors simultaneously, including other cars, pedestrians, obstructions, signs, and signals. Almost one-half of all Florida teen fatalities and serious injuries happen at intersections where the mix of traffic, pedestrians, signs, and signals can be overwhelming, especially for someone who is inexperienced.

The Graduated
Driver Licensing
(GDL) laws allow
new drivers to
gain necessary
experience and



**FATALITIES** 

skills before being allowed full driving privileges. GDL has been very effective in reducing fatalities and serious injuries among this age group, according to NHTSA. In Florida, teen driver serious injuries have decreased by six percent.

#### TEEN SAFE DRIVING COALITION

Leading the charge in Florida to improve traffic safety among teens is the Teen Safe Driving Coalition, which is focusing on reducing the number of teen drivers being killed or seriously injured in traffic crashes.

The Coalition is working to expand the network of individuals and partners who are involved in the teen safe driving effort and is conducting extensive outreach and education.

Each year, the Coalition works with Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) on a Leadership Academy, which helps Florida teens plan and conduct peer-to-peer safety campaigns in their schools and communities.

- Educate stakeholders about the potential safety benefits of improving Florida's Graduated Driver Licensing law to include passenger and cell phone restrictions.
- Educate parents, caregivers, and role models on the dangers of impaired driving for teen drivers including the prohibition on providing alcohol or drugs to anyone under the age of 21.
- Work with law enforcement agencies to increase enforcement of GDL and other traffic safety laws including safety belt use and impaired driving.



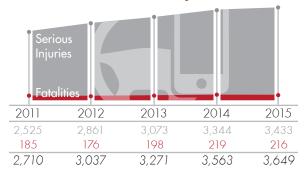
# **Distracted Driving**

At 55 mph, a driver can travel the distance of a football field (with his or her eyes off the road) in the amount of time it takes to send a text.4 Distracted driving includes anything that takes the driver's attention away from the vital task of drivina.

There are three types of distraction: manual, which is taking hands off the wheel; visual, or taking eyes off the road; and cognitive, which involves taking one's mind off driving. Discussions about distracted driving often center on cell phone use and texting but other activities such as eating, talking to passengers, reading, adjusting the radio or climate controls, dealing with children, and being fatigued or drowsy can be equally as distracting.

Fatalities involving distracted driving increased 17 percent while serious injuries increased 36 percent. The relatively low numbers of fatalities and serious injuries, given what people suspect is the extent of the problem, may be due to the difficulty in obtaining distracted driving data.

#### **Fatalities and Serious Injuries**



Law enforcement officers often have trouble determining if a person was distracted and cannot confiscate a cell phone to verify if a driver was texting without a warrant.

Activities to address distracted driving include a "Just Put It Down" campaign with a sample proclamation and a pledge for people to sign and a partnership with GEICO Insurance to offer "Safe Phone Zones" at 64 Florida rest areas, welcome centers, and turnpike service plazas.



At any given daylight moment across America,

**DRIVERS USING CELL PHONES** 

or manipulating electronic devices while driving

#### **Strategies**

- Implement effective roadway design and operation practices such as rumble strips and stripes and flashing beacons with warning signs to mitigate lane departures, speeding, and other symptoms of distracted driving and to reduce congestion and improve mobility.
- Change societal attitudes about distracted driving through intensive public education activities.
- Collaborate with other public and private organizations to offer innovative solutions such as policies that prohibit distracted driving when using company or organization vehicles.

Source: NHTSA, One Text or Call Could Wreck It All, Traffic Safety Marketing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



While work zones may be frustrating to many drivers, they are essential to ensure Florida's roadways, bridges, medians, and shoulders are properly constructed and maintained. A work zone is an area set up by state and local departments of transportation or utility companies to allow highway construction, maintenance, or utility-work activities. Work zones are usually marked by signs, channeling devices, barriers, pavement markings, and/or work vehicles, and may be monitored by state or local law enforcement.

The length of time a work zone is in operation depends on the type of construction or maintenance project as well as the type of roadway, weather conditions, and traffic volume. A work zone involves workers, vehicles, trucks,

In 2014, Florida had the



in Work Zones in the Nation

Source: National Work Zone Information Clearinghouse.

#### **Fatalities and Serious Injuries**



and equipment that can necessitate lane closures, detours, and moving equipment, and can last from a few days to years. While work zone fatalities make up only three percent of overall fatalities and two percent of serious injuries, the safe and efficient flow of traffic through work zones is an ongoing priority for Florida's transportation and safety partners. A focus on work zone safety is critical because plans for investment in maintaining existing roads and bridges and building or expanding roadways to meet the growing capacity needs of the state's transportation system will result in more work zones across the state.

Workers were present in the work zone in 35 percent of the fatal crashes and 44 percent of crashes resulting in serious injuries. The majority of the fatalities and serious injuries happened in work zones located on shoulders or in the median area of the roadway, and for most, law enforcement officers were not present. A major cause of these crashes is distraction, with 16 percent of work zone related fatalities and serious injuries involving distracted driving.

**FATALITIES** 

Efforts to improve safety in and around work zones include traffic training for workers and contractors, rumble strips to alert drivers that the work zone is near, and law enforcement presence to ensure traffic slows down.

# FLORIDA WORK ZONE SAFETY COALITION

The Florida Work Zone Safety Coalition is an industry initiated coalition that was established in 2016. This coalition is new and does not currently have a strategic safety plan. FDOT participates as a member of this coalition and will encourage the coalition to adopt the strategies identified in the SHSP.

- Apply advanced technology to improve work zone safety such as automated work zone information systems, simplified dynamic lane merge systems, portable changeable message signs, and queue warning systems.
- Educate road users about work zone safety and provide timely and accurate information regarding active work zones.
- Determine the feasibility and effectiveness of other improvements including installing reflectors on barrier walls, spacing on curves, changes in the penalties and fines to contractors for getting out of the roadway late, using of crash cushions, and correcting pavement marking errors.
- Work with law enforcement, contractors, and FDOT personnel to reduce speeding in and around work zones through a comprehensive approach
  of increased fines and increased law enforcement contacts.



# Traffic Records and Information Systems

Data are the foundation of any effort to improve traffic safety and are critical for the development and implementation of the SHSP. Using data to identify safety problems creates an evidence-based safety planning process, and results in better decision-making.

A traffic records system consists of data about a state's roadway network and the people and vehicles that use it. The six traffic records systems are: crash, vehicle, driver, roadway, citation/adjudication, and emergency medical services/injury surveillance. The data from these systems are used to understand driver demographics, licensure, behavior, and sanctions; vehicle types, configurations, and usage; engineering, education, and enforcement measures; crash-related medical issues and actions; and how all of these factors affect highway safety. Decision makers and safety stakeholders at the state, regional, and local level analyze the various data to understand their highway safety challenges, set priorities, and develop and evaluate projects and programs that save lives.

Connecting quality data from all of the traffic records systems can provide a detailed and clear picture of traffic safety issues. The analysis of a single crash or aggregated crashes statewide, in a region, or a specific corridor, can help inform the type of engineering, education, or enforcement strategy to implement by targeting specific safety problems, road user populations, or training needs. Additionally, quality data allow for performance monitoring so that resources and investments are used most effectively and efficiently.

of Florida's

Crash Reports
were submitted electronically in 2015

# FLORIDA TRAFFIC RECORDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Florida's Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) was created to bring together agencies interested in reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries by improving the timeliness, accuracy, completeness, uniformity, integration, and accessibility of traffic records data. The TRCC facilitates planning, coordinating, and implementing projects to accomplish common goals and improve the quality of the state's traffic records information systems.

Currently the TRCC is working on integrating with the national emergency medical services information system; expanding a crash geo-location system; and providing grants to local law enforcement agencies and courts to improve their traffic records systems.



- Develop and maintain complete, accurate, uniform, and timely traffic records data.
- Promote the use of traffic records data for decision-making purposes and ensure its accessibility.
- Facilitate collaboration of multi-agency initiatives and projects that improve traffic records information systems.
- Create the same key data fields and definitions among Florida's six data systems to allow end users to link traffic records data.



The Strategic Highway Safety Plan focuses on persistent problems and new or trending areas that most significantly affect Florida's highway fatalities and serious injuries. The state's network of highway safety professionals and advocates are working to drive down fatalities and serious injuries with an ultimate vision of zero. The SHSP identifies proven strategies, programs, and initiatives, as well as new approaches that will be used to accomplish this vision.

The SHSP is an overarching plan that provides direction to state, regional, and local transportation, law enforcement, education, emergency management, and other entities. The SHSP will be implemented through multiple activities. The SHSP will:

- Provide a framework for updates of three plans that identify specific projects as priorities for use of dedicated safety improvement funding available through federal agencies: the Highway Safety Improvement Program (FHWA), the Highway Safety Plan (NHTSA) and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (FMCSA).
- Inform the updates of strategic or action plans developed and maintained by established or new coalitions of safety professionals focused on specific emphasis areas. Florida's Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTSTs) are an excellent conduit to working on emphasis areas and targeting community-specific traffic safety issues.
- Guide FDOT in incorporating safety improvement strategies as appropriate into the full range of maintenance, operations, and capacity projects in its work program and future plans, recognizing that every transportation investment also represents an opportunity to improve the safety of travelers. A key focus will be on improving the safety of travel on Florida's Strategic Intermodal System, the state's high priority network of facilities important for statewide and interregional travel.
- Guide Florida's 27 MPOs, 67 counties, and 411 cities in updating safety action plans and safety elements of their long-range transportation plans, as well as implementing specific projects.



Emphasis area coalitions are charged with implementing the strategies of the SHSP. These coalitions represent a variety of federal, state, regional, local, and advocacy organizations whose expertise and interests include multiple modes of transportation, as well as engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response. The coalitions meet regularly, and develop and track progress on detailed data-driven strategic plans that focus on proven strategies and activities to drive down fatalities and serious injuries.

#### Florida's Highway Safety Coalitions

Lane Departure and Intersection Coalition
Florida Impaired Driving Coalition
Florida Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition
Safe Mobility for Life Coalition
Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition
Teen Safe Driving Coalition
Florida Traffic Records Coordinating Committee
Work Zone Safety Coalition

(review plans at http://www.fdot.gov/safety)



The Florida Transportation Plan identifies implementation guiding principles related to collaboration, innovation, customer service, and data and performance. The transition of the SHSP from planning to implementation will require a focus on these same areas.

# How do we collaborate across jurisdictions modes, and disciplines?

- Continue to support Florida's existing safety coalitions to coordinate with stakeholders to drive down fatalities in specific emphasis areas.
- Establish ad hoc working groups or additional coalitions for the commercial motor vehicle, distracted driving, occupant protection, and speeding/aggressive driving emphasis areas that do not presently have established coalitions.
- Coordinate with Florida's MPOs and local governments on SHSP emphasis area implementation and future updates of their safety plans and programs.
- Continue to encourage **multi-disciplinary approaches to safety improvements** that consider engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response solutions.
- Coordinate with land use, public health, and other partners to ensure safety considerations are a top priority in planning decisions related to transportation.

# How do we embrace innovation in all aspects of highway safety?

- Invest in research and evaluation of new technologies and practices that can reduce highway fatalities and serious injuries.
- Plan to use technology to improve communication across modes and design "smart streets" that provide information to all travelers to reduce conflicts.
- Monitor and evaluate innovations that may change travel behavior and demand for potential impact to safety.
- Update state and local safety plans and regulations to consider technologies and innovation that may reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

#### How do we better serve our customers?

- Communicate clear and consistent safety messages using a variety of mediums and venues that engage roadway users in their role in Driving Down Fatalities.
- Create transportation environments that are accommodating and safe for all roadway users.
- Educate roadway users on how to use new infrastructure and technologies, such as roundabouts and signalized crosswalks.
- Understand how changes in travel demand, preferences, and options impact highway safety.

#### How do we improve data and performance?

- Commit to ongoing improvements in the quality, integration, and analysis of various traffic records data, including innovative uses of new and emerging data sources.
- Create a long-term strategy for managing traffic records data as a critical resource for highway safety agencies' and partners' decision-making and research, including data storage, sharing, privacy, and quality issues.
- Commit to ongoing highway safety research to identify proven strategies, programs, and initiatives that can be replicated across the state to realize further reductions in highway fatalities and serious injuries.
- Implement innovative techniques to measure progress and guide investment decisions to continuously improve traffic safety.
- Work with MPOs to **coordinate target setting and performance measures** between the state and local plans, consistent with federal requirements.





Improving safety on our roadways involves all of us working together to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. Implementing the SHSP strategies, through the efforts of engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response, while increasing roadway users' awareness and understanding of their role in improving safety on our roadways, is our best opportunity to Drive Down Fatalities.

To successfully implement the SHSP, all stakeholders should commit to:

- Update their safety plans, including other state, coalition, MPO, and local government plans, to align with the FTP and SHSP zero fatality vision.
- Demonstrate support and promote the SHSP vision of zero fatalities by implementing SHSP strategies and links to the SHSP document on state, regional, and local transportation safety agency and organization websites.
- Promote initiatives that increase roadway users' understanding of the state's most significant traffic safety problems and their role in reducing fatalities and serious injuries.
- Document and report progress in each Emphasis Area toward achieving Florida's vision of zero roadway fatalities.
- Support national, state, and local initiatives, policies, and safety projects that promote highway safety.

Safety for Florida's residents and visitors is a top priority for the state that can only be achieved with the help of safety partners. Florida's traffic safety community must continue to work together to identify and implement innovative solutions that help to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on Florida's roadway system. As we continue to work together, engage new partners, and follow through with the strategies outlined in the SHSP, we are confident that we can drive down roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

For more information please visit:

www.fdot.gov/safety/



# Glossary

**Aging Road User** – A driver, passenger, pedestrian, bicyclist, transitrider, motorcyclist, or operator of a non-motorized vehicle who is 65 years of age or older for crash data purposes, and 50 years of age and older for the proactive purposes of the Aging Road Users Coalition.

**Autonomous Vehicle Technology** – Technology installed on a motor vehicle that has the capability to drive the vehicle on which the technology is installed without the active control or monitoring by a human operator.

**Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)** – The amount of alcohol that is present in a person's blood when tested by a law enforcement authority.

**Bicyclist** – Users who are riding a bicycle or other type of non-motorized cycle.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) –** The CDC, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is responsible for protecting America from health, safety, and security threats.

**Commercial Motor Vehicle** – Medium or heavy trucks more than 10,000 pounds, trucks carrying hazardous material and marked with a hazardous materials placard, or those operated by a driver with an interstate carrier or an intrastate carrier commercial driver's license. Commercial vehicles include buses that carry nine or more passengers or are designed and used for the transportation of persons for compensation.

**Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE)** – The unit within the Florida Highway Patrol that is charged with conducting safety inspections of these vehicles and enforcing safety requirements.

**Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP)** – Plan required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that outlines strategies and countermeasures specifically targeting commercial vehicle safety.

**Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST)** – Locally based groups of highway safety advocates who are committed to solving traffic safety problems through a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary approach.

Complete Streets – Streets that are planned, designed, and operated consistent with surrounding community characteristics and roadway functions so that multiple modes of transportation and customers, regardless of age or ability, easily, comfortably, and safely can access and use the street.

**Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)** – A collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility. CSS is an approach that considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project will exist.

**Coordination –** The comparison of plans, programs and schedules of one agency with related plans, programs, and schedules of other agencies or entities with legal standing, and adjustment of plans, programs, and schedules to achieve general consistency.

**Distracted Driving Crash** – Includes any crash where the driver is distracted by an electronic communication device, such as a cell phone; other electronic devices, such as navigation or a DVD player, or other external distractions; passengers in the vehicle; texting; or where the driver is inattentive.

**Engineering** – One of the "4 Es" of traffic safety which includes highway design, traffic, maintenance, operations, and planning professionals.

**Enforcement –** One of the "4 Es" of traffic safety which supports efforts by state and local law enforcement agencies.

**Education** – One of the "4 Es" of traffic safety which includes safety solutions that support prevention specialists, communication professionals, educators, and citizen advocacy groups.

**Emergency Response** – One of the "4 Es" of traffic safety which includes improving the response to crashes after they occur and safety solutions that support first responders, paramedics, fire, and rescue.

**Emphasis Area** - One of 13 areas of focus identified in the SHSP.

Facility – The infrastructure (such as a roadway, railway, or waterway) that supports the transportation of people and goods.

Fatality Rate – The number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** – The Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation that supports state and local governments in the design, construction, and maintenance of the nation's highway system.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) – Federal government agency responsible for regulating and providing safety oversight of commercial motor vehicles.

**Florida Impaired Driving Coalition (FIDC)** – Florida's strategic safety coalition primarily focused on reducing fatalities caused by impaired driving crashes.

Florida Lane Departure and Intersection Coalition –
Florida's strategic safety coalition primarily focused improving safety

Florida's strategic safety coalition primarily focused improving safety at intersections and reducing lane departures.

Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition – Florida's strategic safety coalition primarily focused on motorcyclist safety.

#### Florida Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition -

Florida's strategic safety coalition primarily focused on pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

Florida Teen Safe Driving Coalition (FTSDC) – Florida's strategic safety coalition primarily focused on teen drivers safety.

**Florida Transportation Plan (FTP)** – A statewide plan that defines Florida's long range transportation goals and objectives for at least the next 20-50 years.

Florida Work Zone Safety Coalition – Florida's strategic safety coalition primarily focused on work zone safety. This is an industry established and led coalition.

Freight - Any commodity being transported.

Geographic Information System (GIS) – System designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data. GIS includes tools that allow users to create interactive queries, analyze spatial information, edit data in maps, and present all of these operations.

**Graduated Driver's License (GDL)** – A multi-staged process for issuing driver's licenses to young, novice drivers to ensure that they gain valuable driving experience under controlled circumstances and demonstrate responsible driving behavior and proficiency.

**High-Risk Rural Roads** – Rural roads with average crash rates that are higher than the district's average crash rate for the same roadway type on which there are a statistically significant number of fatal and serious injury crashes. Minimum crash criteria include eight or more crashes over a three-year period for a rural major or minor collector and three or more crashes over a three-year period for a rural local road.

**Highway** – A general term for denoting a public way for purposes of vehicular and people travel, including the entire area with the right-of-way.

**Highway Fatalities** – All deaths in which a motor vehicle was the cause of the fatality. This includes pedestrians and bicyclists killed by motor vehicles as well as vehicle occupants.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) – This is a core Federal-aid program designed to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads, including non-State-owned public roads and roads on tribal lands. The HSIP requires a data-driven, strategic approach to improving highway safety on all public roads that focuses on performance.

**Highway Safety Plan (HSP)** – Plan required by NHTSA outlining the highway safety programs and projects that will be undertaken by a state's highway safety office to reduce traffic crashes and the resulting deaths, injuries, and property damage.



**Impaired Driver** – A person driving or in physical control of a vehicle when under the influence of alcoholic beverages or legal or illegal drugs.

**Incident –** An event that causes a temporary, significant disruption in transportation services.

Intelligent Transportation Systems – A wide range of advanced technologies and ideas, which, in combination, can improve mobility and transportation productivity, enhance safety, maximize the use of existing transportation facilities, conserve energy resources, and reduce adverse environmental effects.

**Intersection Crash –** Crashes that occur at an intersection or are influenced by an intersection. These include interchanges, railway-highway crossings, and trail crossings.

**Lane Departure Crash** – Result from a vehicle running off the road or crossing the center median into an oncoming lane of traffic, and include sideswipe crashes. A lane departure crash can not be at or influenced by an intersection.

**Maintenance** – Activities undertaken to keep the state's transportation infrastructure and equipment operating as intended, to eliminate deficiencies, and to extend or achieve the expected life of facilities before reconstruction is needed.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Transportation policy-making organization at a regional level that is made up of representatives from local government and governmental transportation authorities. These organizations may also be referred to as Transportation Planning Organizations or TPOs.

**Motorcycle** – A motor vehicle powered by a motor with a displacement of more than 50 cubic centimeters, having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider, and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding a tractor or moped.

**Motorcycle Rider or Motorcyclist –** Operator or passenger on a motorcycle.

**Multimodal** – More than one travel mode potentially including auto, bicycle, bus, pedestrian, aviation, rail, seaports, and transit.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) – Federal agency responsible for reducing deaths, injuries and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes. This is accomplished by setting and enforcing safety performance standards for motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment, and through grants to state and local governments to enable them to conduct effective local highway safety programs.

Partners, Transportation – Those parties with interests in transportation facilities and services including the public, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, public and private sector users and providers, Native American Nations, the Florida Department of Transportation, and other federal and state agencies.

**Pedestrian** – Non-motorists who are walking, in a wheelchair, skating, inside a building, using a pedestrian conveyance, etc.

**Quality of Life** – All of the characteristics of an area's living conditions, including such things as housing, education, transportation infrastructure, leisure time offerings, climate, employment opportunities, medical and health care infrastructure, and environmental resources.

Quality Place - An area where people experience quality of life.

**Railway-Highway Crossing Crash** – A crash that occurs at, or is influenced by, a railway-highway crossing.

**Region** – An area of distinctive communities, cities, and counties where residents share: a geographic identity and are socially, economically, and culturally interdependent; a capacity for planning and function; and a capacity to create competitive advantage.

**Retroreflectivity** – The phenomenon of light rays striking a surface and being redirected back to the source of light.

Routine Maintenance – Operations that may be predicted and planned in advance. These operations (e.g., cleaning and debris removals, regular inspections, mowing, preventive maintenance, etc.), may be preventive or corrective in nature. Proper scheduling of these operations should be utilized to provide minimum disruptions and hazards to the driving public.

**Safe Mobility For Life Coalition (SMFLC)** – Florida's strategic safety coalition primarily focused on aging road user safety.

Safety Management System – A systematic process that has the goal of reducing the number and severity of traffic crashes by ensuring that all opportunities to improve highway safety are identified, considered, implemented as appropriate, and evaluated in all phases of highway planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation; and by providing information for selecting and implementing effective highway safety strategies and projects.

**Safety Program** – Projects designed to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety on the city, county, and state highway systems. The program is divided into three subprograms - rail/highway crossings, highway safety, and traffic safety grants.

**Serious Injury** – Injury to a person, including the driver, which consists of a physical condition that creates a substantial risk of death, serious personal disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ.

**Speed and Aggressive Driving** – Includes driving too fast for conditions and exceeding the posted speed limit (speeding); while aggressive driving requires at least two of the following contributing causes: speeding, unsafe, or improper lane change, following too closely, failure to yield the right-of way, improper passing, and failure to obey traffic control devices.

**Stakeholders** – Individuals and groups with an interest in the outcomes of policy decisions and actions.

**FATALITIES** 

**State Highway System** – A network of approximately 12,000 miles of highways owned and maintained by the State of Florida or state-created authorities. Major elements include Interstate highways, Florida's Turnpike, and other toll facilities operated by transportation authorities and arterial highways.

**Strategic** – Important or essential to Florida's statewide economic competitiveness.

**Strategy** – A specific activity that is designed to help achieve an objective.

**System** – A combination of facilities or services forming a network or being selected for analysis.

Teen Driver - Drivers between the ages of 15 and 19.

**Traffic Records Coordination Committee (TRCC)** – This is a multidisciplinary group that works to improve the collection, management, and analysis of traffic safety data.

**Traffic Records and Information Systems –** A foundational emphasis area that addresses the quality of the state's crash data, in addition to roadway, citation/adjudication, injury/emergency medical services, driver licensing, and vehicle registration data.

**Truck** – A heavy vehicle engaged primarily in the transport of goods and materials.

**Unrestrained Occupant** – Any person who has not used a safety belt, child safety seat, or booster seat.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)** – The total number of miles traveled by vehicles using a roadway system.

**Vehicle Occupancy** – The number of persons, including driver and passenger(s) in a vehicle; also includes persons who did not complete a whole trip.

**Vulnerable Road Users** – Road users who have the potential for a disproportionately high fatality rate, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists.

**Work Zone** – Marked section of roadway for construction, maintenance or utility work.

**Work Zone Crash** – Crashes that occur in a marked section of roadway for construction, maintenance or utility work.

**Wrong Way Crash** – A crash where the driver of any vehicle is on the wrong side or traveling the wrong direction on the roadway.

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## **SHSP Partners**

AAA Auto Club South

**AARP** 

ABATE of Florida

Alachua County Sheriff's Office

All Children's Hospital

Allstate Foundation

American Automobile Association (AAA)

American Public Works Association -

Florida Chapter

American Traffic Safety Services Association

Florida Chapter

Anthony Telesca Foundation

Area Agency on Aging for North Florida, Inc.

Auto Club Group

Baskerville-Donovan, Inc.

**Bayfront Medical Center** 

Brandon Harley Davidson

Broward County Sheriff's Office

Brunet-Garcia

Car Control

Carlin Rogers Consulting, LLC

Cities That Work

City of Daytona Beach

City of St. Petersburg

Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged

Conference of County Court Judges of Florida

Crown Technology, LLC

Department of Education School Transportation

Department of Health

Department of Highway Safety

and Motor Vehicles

Driving Coach Chris, Inc.

DUI Counterattack, Hillsborough, Inc.

Executive Office of the Governor

Favorite Studios, Inc.

FDOT District 5 Community Traffic Safety Team

Federal Highway Administration

Federal Highway Administration - Florida Division

Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University, Construction/Civil Engineering Technology

Florida Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Florida Association of County Engineers and Roadway Superintendents (FACERS)

Florida Association of Court Clerks

Florida Association of Senior Centers

Florida Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Florida Community Traffic Safety Teams

Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Florida Department of Education

Florida Department of Elder Affairs

Florida Department of Health

Florida Department of Health Bureau of

**Emergency Medical Oversight** 

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Alcohol Testing Program

Florida Department of Transportation

Florida Greenbook Committee

Florida Highway Patrol

Florida International University

Florida Law Enforcement Liaison Program

Florida Occupational Therapy Association

Florida Police Chiefs Association

Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association

Florida Public Safety Institute

Florida Public Transportation Association

Florida Regional Councils Association

Florida Rider Training Program

Florida S.A.F.E., Inc.

Florida Sheriffs Association

Florida State University

Florida State University Police Department

Florida Students Against Destructive

Decisions (SADD)

Florida Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program

Florida Transportation Builders Association

Florida Trucking Association

Foley & Lardner

Ford Motor Company - Driving Skills for Life

Fort Myers Police Department

Gainesville Police Department





George Group

Gold Wing Road Riders Association

Heartland Education Consortium

Hillsborough County Public Works

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Indian River Fire and Rescue

Institute of Police Technology and Management

Jacksonville Motorcycle Safety Training

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

Judicial Outreach Liaisons

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Lee County Risk Management

Lee County Sheriff's Office

Leon County Probation Division

Madison Police Department

Meagan Napier Foundation

Metroplan Orlando

Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory

Council (MPOAC)

Miami Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

National Safety Council

Nova Southeastern University

Offices of the Public Defender

Orange County Sheriff's Office

Orlando Health

Orlando Royal Plaza Hotel

Parsons Brinkerhoff

Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy

Pinellas County Judge

Plastic Safety Systems

Preusser Research Group

Renaissance Planning Group

Responsible Decision Making Coalition

Reynolds' Right Hands

Ryder Trauma Center - Miami

Safe Kids Florida

Safe Kids Lee/Collier

Safe Kids Palm Beach Coalition

Safe Kids USA

Safe Kids Worldwide

Safe Mobility for Life Program

Senior Trial Court Judge State of Florida

Southern Florida National Safety Council

St. Johns & Partners

St. Joseph's Children's Hospital,

Child Advocacy Center

StarMetro

State Attorney's Office, Second Judicial Circuit

State Attorney's Office, Fourth Judicial Circuit

State Attorney's Office, Sixth Judicial Circuit

State Attorney's Office, 16th Judicial Circuit

Stay Alive...Just Drive!, Inc.

Tallahassee Community College

Tallahassee Police Department

Tallahassee Senior Center

Teen Driver Challenge

Teen Driver Safety Foundation

Teens Learn to Drive Foundation, Inc.

The Children's Hospital of South Florida,

Child Advocacy Program

The Dori Slosberg Foundation

The Self Movement

The University of Florida Institute for Mobility,

Activity, and Participation

Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Inc.

Traffic Records Coordinating Committee

Twin Visions, Boca

U.S. Insurance Services, Inc.

United States Navy - NAS Jacksonville

University of Florida

University of Florida Local Technical

Assistance Program

University of Florida, Florida Transportation

Technology Transfer Center

University of Miami, WalkSafe Program

University of North Florida, Institute of Police

Technology and Management

University of North Florida, Public Opinion

Research Laboratory

University of South Florida, Center for Urban

Transportation Research (CUTR)

We Save Lives

