



NON-MOTORIZED TRAFFIC MONITORING PROGRAM (NMTM) NEWSLETTER



DISTRICT 6: West Ave. Separated Bike Lanes, Miami Beach, FL

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep an open dialogue with FDOT's data partners (federal/state/local data contributors, collaborators, and users) and provide the state of Florida up-to-date program progress. The newsletter is organized by the program's four main pillars: Continuous Counts, Short-term Counts, Data Repository, and Outreach.



Greetings Florida,

Florida DOT's Transportation Data and Analytics (TDA) Office is excited to share its March 2021 NMTM Newsletter. The last statewide update was in April 2020, soon after COVID-19 arrived. Due to the effects of COVID-19, bicycle and pedestrian activity has surged across the state. For the past 11 months, TDA has dedicated all program resources towards data collection activities with the understanding that this was a unique opportunity to document non-motorized activity in Florida.

FDOT staff have installed new sensor technologies across the state for real-world condition equipment testing purposes. Sections within the newsletter illustrate that TDA and its statewide partners have diligently dedicated time and effort to the rapid expansion of the NMTM Program. Please enjoy reading the newsletter and stay engaged! Our statewide program success depends on its partners to help in growing the program.

Transportation Data and Analytics Office,

- Ed Hutchinson, TDA Office Manager
- Joey Gordon, TDA Data Analysis Supervisor
- Eric Griffin, TDA Field Operations Manager

CONTINUOUS COUNTS

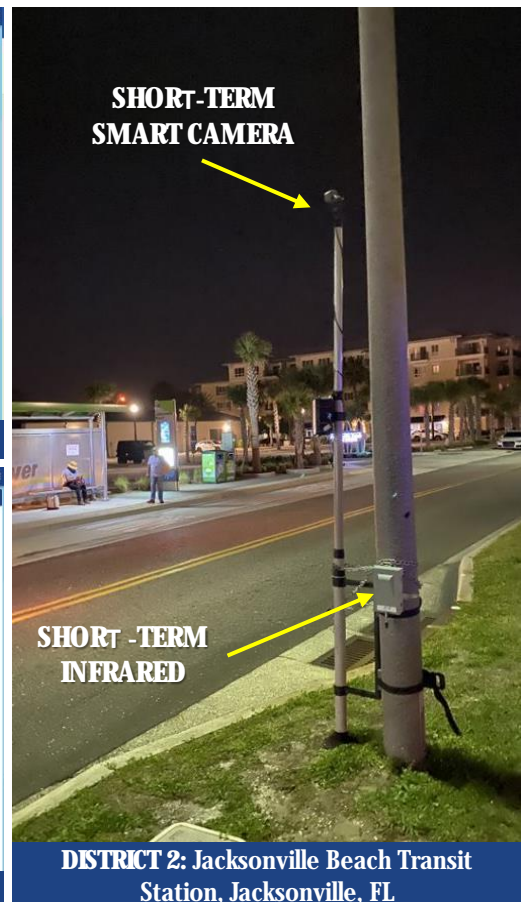
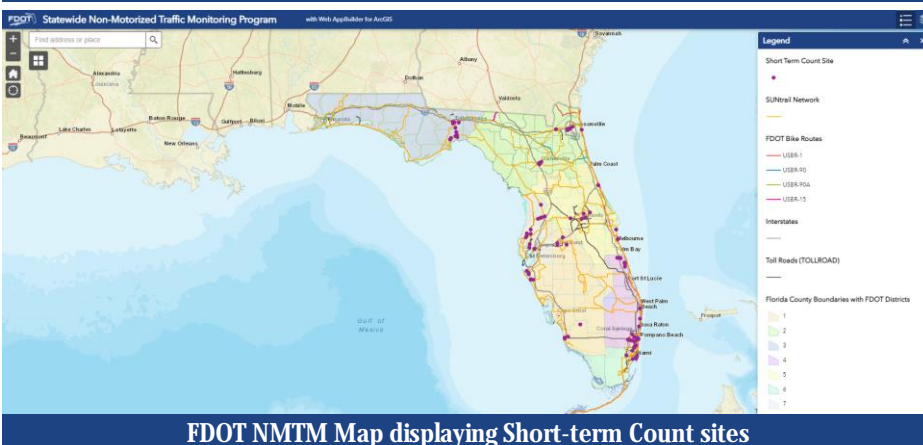
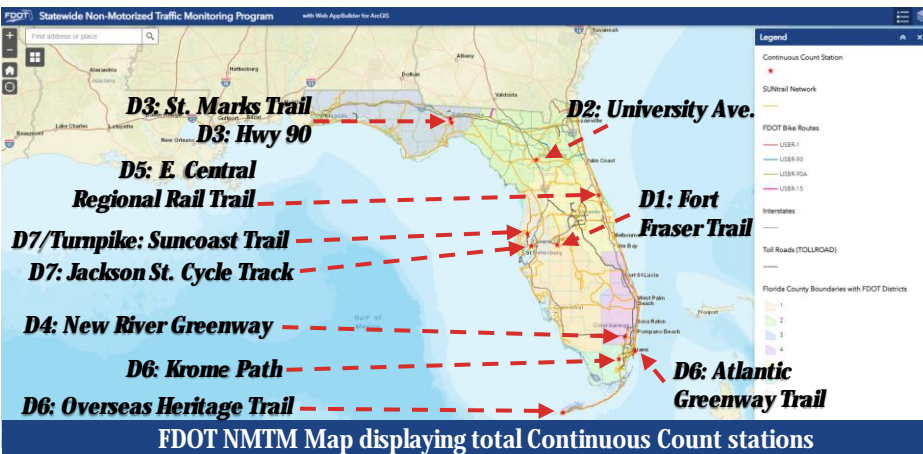
FDOT TDA and Safety Office were awarded a State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Grant (Oct. 2019) to support the purchase and installation of one non-motorized continuous counter for each FDOT District. Site selection and installations are now complete. The list below details the locations for each district counter. While counters are now in the ground, some sites still require additional hardware and software upgrades, and 3rd party inspections to be considered fully operational. FDOT TDA is currently developing a statewide operations and maintenance plan for the NMTM continuous counters. Many thanks to all the local agencies who supported the final site selections. You can review the STIC grant Final Report by clicking here.

- **District 1:** Fort Fraser Trail, Highland City, FL
- **District 2:** University Ave. (SR 26) @ NE 21st St., Gainesville, FL
- **District 3:** Tennessee St. (Hwy 90) @ N. Woodward Ave., Tallahassee, FL
- **District 4:** New River Greenway @ Markham Park, Broward County, FL
- **District 5:** East Central Regional Rail Trail bridge, Edgewater, FL
- **District 6:** Overseas Heritage Trail, Key West FL
- **District 7:** Jackson St. Cycle Track, Tampa, FL
- **Turnpike:** Suncoast Trail, Pasco County, FL

SHORT-TERM COUNTS

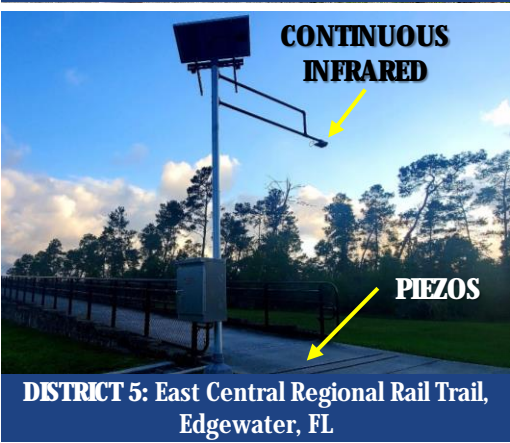
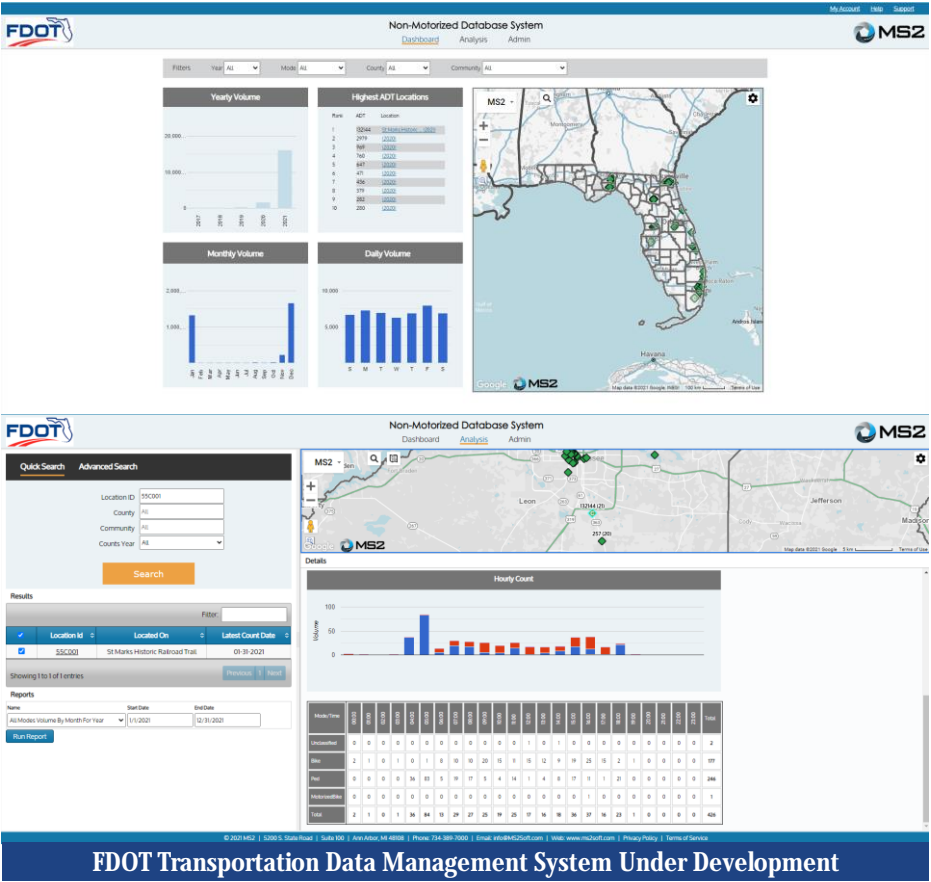
FDOT TDA and the Public Transit Office collaborated in an innovative study that involved non-motorized data collection in close proximity to transit facilities around the state. The Study involved partnerships with Broward County Transit, SFRTA/Tri-rail, Indian River Go Line, Jacksonville Transit Authority, and Gainesville Regional Transit Authority. Each agency partner identified 5 transit locations that were instrumented with traffic monitoring equipment including short-term count devices such as pneumatic bike tubes, infrared counters, and smart cameras. The Study was recently completed and the Final Report will be published in the near future.

In addition to the Transit Study, FDOT TDA was simultaneously implementing its Short-term Count Loaner program. This month completes FDOT TDA's first statewide tour of short-term count deployments, totaling 120 new non-motorized count stations! The count data assists TDA in determining new continuous count stations and also supports local agencies performing important local planning related initiatives. This statewide deployment could not have been possible without the support of our numerous statewide partners. The locations of the short-term counts can be accessed by clicking here.



DATA REPOSITORY

Now that TDA's first round of statewide short-term deployments are complete, and at least 1 continuous counter is installed in each FDOT District, the next phase of the program will involve critical data validation, management, and reporting tasks. At this time, TDA and local partners are reviewing the data collected from each count site and verifying which sites are cleared for reporting, and which sites may need additional review before clearing. The image below provides a snap-shot of what the public-facing web interface will look like. The new Transportation Data Management System will become the clearing house for all of FDOT's Traffic Data, motorized and non-motorized. Stay tuned for more updates.



OUTREACH

This year's Statewide Meeting will be virtual. TDA is targeting May 2021 (National Bike Month) for a webinar series. A Flyer will be distributed soon. The NMTM Webpage is up to date. This site provides data partners with the ability to: review where FDOT's existing and proposed count stations are located, propose new count stations, review all past reports, webinars, newsletters, and receive more details regarding short-term and continuous count technologies.



NMTM PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **WHEN WILL THE REPOSITORY BE READY FOR PUBLIC-FACING ACCESS?** FDOT TDA is targeting mid-2021. However, FDOT will not publish anything until FDOT and its local partners are confident that the highest quality of data is being shared. Thank you for your patience.
- **WHAT TYPE OF EQUIPMENT TECHNOLOGIES ARE YOU USING FOR SHORT-TERM COUNTS?** FDOT TDA currently uses pneumatic bike tubes, infrared devices, and cameras for short-term count deployments. It is very important during site selection processes that a determination of sensor type is conducted so that equipment that is selected provides the highest data quality on the facility being counted.
- **WHAT TYPE OF EQUIPMENT TECHNOLOGIES IS FDOT USING FOR CONTINUOUS COUNTS?** FDOT TDA currently uses infrared with piezo strips or loops. The infrared count detects the Total Count (bikes and pedestrians), the loops/piezoes only count bikes. These counts can then classify data by subtracting the bike count from the total counts to determine pedestrians versus bicycles.
- **HOW FREQUENTLY WILL FDOT PROVIDE STATEWIDE UPDATES?** FDOT's goal is to provide quarterly updates that will be in Newsletter and Webinar format. FDOT will resume with 1 statewide meeting a year when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
- **DOES FDOT TDA COUNT AT INTERSECTIONS (TURNING MOVEMENT COUNTS)?** No, FDOT TDA does not perform turning movement counts. FDOT TDA focuses on mid-block total traffic volume counting only. These counts can then be applied to a facility such as roadway or trail segments.
- **WHERE CAN A DATA PARTNER LEARN MORE ABOUT COUNTING METHODOLOGIES AND TECHNOLOGIES?** The Traffic Monitoring Handbook and by reviewing the NMTM website. FHWA also provides guidance documentation called the Traffic Monitoring Guidebook (TMG) that can be found by clicking here.
- **HOW DOES FDOT TDA DETERMINE SHORT-TERM AND CONTINUOUS COUNT SITES TO MONITOR TRAFFIC?** FDOT TDA works closely with local agencies and organizations to prioritize count site locations. For each candidate location, TDA documents: roadway characteristics, land use characteristics, existing non-motorized activity, technology feasibility, and notes any special reasons for the proposed count site such as an incoming facility improvement, safety study, nearby transit hub, etc. FDOT staff select sites by knowing appropriate technologies to select for the facility. Data partners are also coordinated with so input is gathered from sites that will serve data partner needs as well as statewide traffic data program needs.
- **IS FDOT COUNTING MICROMOBILITY TRAFFIC SUCH AS E-BIKES, SCOOTERS, AND SKATEBOARDS?** FDOT is currently collecting only bicycles and pedestrian traffic volumes. As equipment for classifying and counting other micromobility modes advances, FDOT will consider counting micromobility traffic.
- **HOW DOES A DATA PARTNER STAY INFORMED ON THIS PROGRAM?** Data partners can request to be added to the statewide Traffic Data Coalition emailing list by contacting Eric Katz at: Eric.Katz@dot.state.fl.us



DISTRICT 1: Gordon River @ Baker Park, Naples, FL

Have a safe and healthy 2021 and FDOT hopes to see you at the upcoming Webinar Series in May!



Sincerely,
Transportation Data
& Analytics Office