



# THE NAVIGATOR

Spring 2024 | ISSUE No. 3



## MARIE TUCKER: PROGRAMS MANAGER

*Leading the Team for Commercial Vehicle Operations*

Hello CVO Navigator Readers,

Welcome to the third edition of the Commercial Vehicle Operations' (CVO) quarterly newsletter. We have a lot of exciting things to share with you from the past few months, with updates from our agency partners, some recent events that members of the CVO team attended and spotlight updates within the program.

In addition to the exciting topics covered in this edition of the Navigator, I would also like to share with you my recent promotion to Programs Manager of the newly created Programs and Administrative Section within the Traffic Engineering and Operations Office, which was effective February 20th, 2024. I am excited about this opportunity to continue to serve the CVO program, as well as the additional responsibilities of the new section.

Truck parking continues to be a top priority for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the CVO program, we are working diligently to improve the problems truck drivers face.

*continued on page 2*

### AMANDA TYNER:

Spearheading District One's Commercial Vehicle Operations

Page 4

### FHP: TRUCK AND BUS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) unit conducted Truck and Bus Enforcement training.

Page 6

### FLORIDA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION (FTA) SAFETY SUMMIT

The Florida Trucking Association (FTA), established almost 90 years ago, is dedicated to advocating and safeguarding the interests of the trucking industry.

Page 10



## CVO VISION, MISSION, DIVISION EFFICIENCY HIGHLIGHT

The Florida Department of Transportation's Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO) program places a strong emphasis on improving efficiency. As a division within the Traffic Engineering and Operations (TEO) office, CVO is instrumental in shaping policies and operations related to freight transportation in commercial vehicles.

The CVO program is founded on a set of strategic goals that allow the program to measure success by evaluating progress in safety, mobility, and efficiency. These success measures are closely aligned with the goals of FDOT, which are illustrated in the FDOT Compass. The CVO program is continually embracing innovation which results in both the discovery of new technology and workplace development, two pieces of the FDOT Compass that are founded on the principles of improving efficiency.

This edition of The Navigator highlights the recent improvements to the Citation Tracking Tool (CTT), current and future developments in

addressing the truck parking issues, and exciting updates from some of our partner agencies, all with the goal of creating an environment focused on enhancing efficiency. The CVO program prioritizes its responsibility to improve transportation across the state of Florida and is continually exploring new opportunities for improvement. From updating internal processes, to continuing to explore tools and programs that improve efficiency, keeping updated on recent innovation within the industry will remain a focus of the Commercial Vehicle Operations program.

### Continued from Cover

– Marie Tucker: Leading the Team for Commercial Vehicle Operations

I was given the opportunity to speak at the Florida Trucking Association Safety Summit on February 29th, where I shared with the attendees the efforts the Department has made and will continue to make regarding expanding truck parking throughout the state.

It is because of the commitment and excellence of the staff and partners of the CVO program that we are able to grow and pursue the continued success statewide. I remain inspired by the work being done and I hope that this newsletter allows you to engage with the range of advancement that is happening throughout Florida. Thank you for everything you do for the Department and the CVO program.

Best,

**MARIE TUCKER PROGRAM MANAGER**

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# HOW FDOT IS MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF TRUCK PARKING IN FLORIDA

Truck parking shortages have been identified as a safety concern both locally and nationally.

Several studies have identified that there is an inadequate supply of truck parking spaces which adversely impacts the supply chain and communities. The lack of parking requires drivers to start searching for truck parking early to ensure they do not exceed their federally mandated Hours-of-Service (HOS) requirements which results in time lost that could be spent traveling to their next delivery destination. Additionally, the growth of Florida's goods mobility ecosystem, including seaports, airports, rail terminals, and intermodal logistics centers, is increasing the amount of trucks on the road leading to congestion as queues develop to enter these facilities. Further exacerbating this issue, local drivers must find secure parking for trucks overnight when they return home. The American Trucking Association (ATA) found that it takes truckers an average of fifty-six minutes to find a parking spot.<sup>1</sup>

The task of finding a place for commercial vehicles to park can be challenging, often leading to tired truck drivers continuing to drive because they have difficulty finding a safe place to park. Due to the inadequate supply of parking, truck drivers often choose to park at unsafe locations, such as on the shoulder of the road, exit ramps, and vacant lots. With the expected growth in truck activity, combined with severe shortages of parking and staging areas, this issue will continue to grow unless addressed by both public and private entities.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has made resolving the truck parking issue in the state a priority. FDOT, both statewide and at the district level, has initiated more than 30 research studies and projects regarding the truck parking issue. These studies analyzed the issue from the district, region, corridor, and facility level as well as identified areas of concern and proposed potential solutions.

One of the most recently completed studies is the Truck Parking Implementation Study (2023) which was developed by the State Traffic Engineering and Operations (TEO) Office's Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO) Program and the State Office of Maintenance's Motor Carrier Size and Weight (MCSAW) Division.



The goal of this study was different than those in the past in that it focused on improving truck parking utilization at MCSAW weigh station facilities; increasing truck parking capacity at state-owned rest areas, welcome centers, and weigh stations; and identifying innovative uses of FDOT right-of-way for truck parking. As a result of this study, and working with the districts and industry stakeholders, multiple implementable projects were identified and documented making this project ready for deployment, pending funding.

It is imperative that we understand that truck drivers are responsible for delivering nearly 80% of Florida's freight, bringing the essential goods to stores and doorsteps across the state. The shortage of available truck parking can create delays in the delivery of those essential goods, ultimately lead to higher prices for consumers. The Department recognizes the challenge related to truck parking and has committed to make a difference.

Finding feasible solutions to statewide freight issues can only be achieved through collaboration with truck parking stakeholders to develop a successful action plan. Having a dedicated group to evaluate and analyze emerging trends and forecasts related to freight, ensures Florida's progress. By staying ahead of the curve, the FDOT can ensure that project investments align with the evolving needs of the industries and communities.

<sup>1</sup>McNally, S. (2023, September 12). ATA, USDOT highlight truck parking investments in South Dakota. American Trucking Associations. <https://www.trucking.org/news-insights/ata-usdot-highlight-truck-parking-investments-south-dakota#:~:text=Truck%20drivers%20spend%2056%20minutes,find%20parking%20down%20the%20road.&text=This%20wasted%20time%20costs%20the,12%25%20cut%20in%20annual%20pay.>

# AMANDA TYNER:

## SPEARHEADING DISTRICT ONE'S COMMERCIAL VEHICLE OPERATIONS



**Amanda Tyner, a seasoned professional in transportation and logistics,** is at the forefront of commercial vehicle operations (CVO) as the District One Freight and Seaport Coordinator within the Modal Development Office at Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Amanda focuses on her responsibilities, experiences, and vision for enhancing freight mobility and safety across the district.

Amanda's role encompasses a multifaceted approach to fostering efficient freight movement within District One. Serving as the primary liaison for freight-related matters, she strategizes and implements initiatives aimed at enhancing infrastructure, operations, and stakeholder engagement. Her responsibilities span contract and project management, stakeholder education, technical assistance, and issue resolution, all aimed at achieving an integrated, multimodal transportation system.

With over a decade of experience in the transportation sector, Amanda's journey began with exposure to the industry through her father's career at CSX. Her subsequent roles in logistics and trucking provided her with a comprehensive understanding of customer service, safety, and operations. This background serves as a solid foundation for her current position, where she leverages her expertise to drive impactful outcomes.

In Amanda's view, successful CVO programs hinge on key components such as safety, reiliency, and education and she emphasizes the importance of integrating these elements into every aspect of her work.

Collaboration lies at the heart of Amanda's approach to improving CVO effectiveness. Internally, she fosters understanding among departments by sharing the freight vision and engaging in shadowing opportunities. Externally, she cultivates relationships with industry stakeholders, leveraging common goals to address concerns and facilitate future projects.



One notable project led by Amanda is the initiative to address truck parking needs within the district. Securing funding was just the beginning; she has since collaborated with various stakeholders to advance the project, recently selecting a firm to commence the design phase.

Continuous learning is essential in a dynamic field like CVO, and Amanda stays informed through various channels, including webinars, industry professionals, and social media. She integrates these insights into her engagements and publications, which complement her contributions to the field.

Communication plays a pivotal role in Amanda's efforts to coordinate stakeholders and raise awareness about CVO initiatives. Tailoring messages to diverse audiences and fostering open dialogue are central to her approach, ensuring effective communication internally and externally.

Looking ahead, Amanda aims to further her focus on education and truck parking initiatives. Bridging the gap between law enforcement and industry professionals and advocating for adequate truck parking facilities are among her top priorities, underscoring her commitment to enhancing freight operations and safety in District One.

Amanda Tyner's dedication and strategic vision position her as a driving force in Florida's commercial vehicle operations, propelling the district towards safer, more efficient freight transportation systems.



# THE CMVRB MEETS WITH FHP

On February 7th, all six members of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Review Board (CMVRB) met with members of Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Office of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) to discuss the current Review Board procedures. FHP CVE issues a portion of the commercial vehicle citations/ permits that are heard during the CMVRB hearings, therefore having the opportunity to engage in open conversations between FHP leadership and the members of the review board is vital to the success of the CMVRB process. During this meeting, the attendees were able to discuss topics that are currently impacting the review process, as well as having the opportunity to share what is working well from the perspective of both parties involved. Following this discussion, the Review Board and FHP planned to meet yearly in order to maintain open communication, and continue to improve the review board process for all.

## CMVRB QUARTERLY DATA

Month/Yr.	Total # Citations	Total Amount of Fines			Total Amount Protested
		weight	safety	fuel	
Jan-24	79	\$40,423.85	\$23,150.00	\$1,410.00	\$64,983.85
Feb-24	70	\$37,481.85	\$33,750.00	\$1,255.00	\$72,486.85
Mar-24	76	\$55,216.85	\$13,350.00	\$2,595.00	\$71,161.85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>\$133,122.55</b>	<b>\$70,250.00</b>	<b>\$5,260.00</b>	<b>\$208,632.55</b>

Month/Yr.	# of Cases Granted Relief	Total Amount of Refunds			Total Amount of Refunds
		weight	safety	fuel	
Jan-24	27	\$15,202.85	\$3,950.00	\$200.00	\$19,352.85
Feb-24	12	\$4,268.55	\$2,712.50	\$0.00	\$6,981.05
Mar-24	15	\$10,901.15	\$475.00	\$125.00	\$11,501.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$30,372.55</b>	<b>\$7,137.50</b>	<b>\$325.00</b>	<b>\$37,835.05</b>

Month/Yr.	# of Cases Granted Full Relief	# of Cases Granted Partial Relief	Amount Granted Full Relief	Amount Granted Partial Relief
Jan-24	11	16	\$10,246.10	\$9,106.75
Feb-24	3	9	\$1,950.00	\$5,031.05
Mar-24	2	13	\$1,600.00	\$9,901.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>\$13,796.10</b>	<b>\$24,038.95</b>



# FLORIDA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION (FTA) SAFETY SUMMIT 2024

The Florida Trucking Association (FTA), established almost 90 years ago, is dedicated to advocating and safeguarding the interests of the trucking industry. As the sole state liaison between trucking businesses and government bodies at both state and federal levels, FTA plays a crucial role in shaping legislative, regulatory, and judicial policies. The FTA hosts a yearly Safety Summit to gather experts to speak on safety, new technologies, and best practices.

to provide information regarding the ongoing efforts enabled her to educate the audience on the ways in which FDOT is committed to expanding truck parking throughout the state. The opportunity to speak at the Safety Summit allowed Mrs. Tucker to present in a group of individuals who have a shared goal of improving the issues that are facing truck drivers.

Marie Tucker, Programs Manager for the Office of Traffic Engineering and Operations (TEO), was one of the featured speakers at the FTA's Safety Summit. This event, held on February 29, 2024, in Tampa, FL, gave attendees the opportunity to hear from trucking industry experts on safety, training, new technologies and best practices relating to motor carrier safety compliance. This was a unique opportunity because this event was free to attend and open to the public!

The discussions ranged from "Are you Ready for a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Compliance Review?" to "Seven Myths of Supporting Safety with Technology". Each of the speakers, provided attendees with an opportunity to listen, learn, understand, and improve their own operations, making the roadways safer for motor carriers and the traveling public.

Representing Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Mrs. Tucker discussed the efforts the Department has made regarding truck parking in the state of Florida. Being able



## BUSINESS PLAN SPOTLIGHT: CITATION TRACKING TOOL

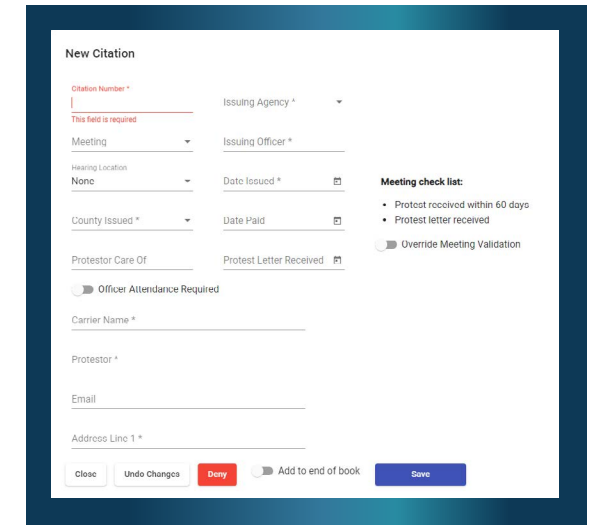
The spotlight achievement of Commercial Vehicle Operations' business plan for this quarter is the Citation Tracking Tool (CTT). The CTT is a centralized data repository that helps improve efficiency and streamline the process that is involved when a citation is issued and then protested to the Commercial Motor Vehicle Review Board (CMVRB).

There are many moving parts and different parties involved when a citation is given. Therefore, when a citation is protested, having a place where information can be stored and easily accessed is a crucial part of the process.

The CTT improves efficiency by:

- compiling all the information in one space
- tracking a protested citation from start to finish
- connecting to the SmartCop system, where all citations are issued and stored
- showing analysis of trends and centralizing data in one, easily accessible space
- generating letters to owners and carriers

Along with efficiency, the continued development of the CTT showcases the results of pursuing innovation. Recently, a new feature was created that allows approved Florida Highway Patrol - troopers and Motor Carrier Size and Weight staff to include comments regarding protested citations in the system, which provides board members with more information prior to a hearing. This feature promotes clear communication during the protest process and ensures accurate and informed decision-making during the Review Board hearings.



Another feature of the CTT is its ability to automatically generate letters to owners and carriers when a citation is issued. This letter is then added to the case file the program builds, where all evidence and documentation is stored for access. If a citation is protested, the CTT holds all the information that the CMVRB would need during a hearing.

The CTT is an efficient and innovative tool that is continuing to grow and improve, with plans for further improvement already being explored. The next step for the system is the process of going paperless, which will assist in quicker communication and accessibility, as the documentation for hearings will be provided electronically. With the continued innovation of tools like the CTT we can see how the goals of CVO program's business plan are being met and exceeded in ways that show the continued improvement the CVO program is striving for.

## FREIGHT OPERATIONS EXCHANGE (FOX) TRAINING

During the week of February 12th, Pete McGilvray, Derek Barrs, Josh Workman, and Steven Solo from HNTB conducted two trainings covering the Freight Operations eXchange (FOX) platform. These trainings were held in Tallahassee on Monday the 12th, then again in Orlando on Wednesday the 14th. The FOX platform is a program that stores and exchanges data related to freight movement across Florida, giving the users a centralized knowledge database. This tracking and reporting allows programs like Motor Carrier Size and Weight (MCSAW) and Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO) to facilitate performance monitoring and a range of other freight management functions.

FDOT continues to deploy innovative solutions, like the FOX system, to support increased connectivity and efficiency. The platform interacts with and provides valuable information to various FDOT systems, including the intelligent transportation systems (ITS) network, Permits Office, the Transportation Data and Analytics (TDA) office and network, as well as state and federal databases.

By leveraging data on motor carriers gathered through routine daily operations, trucks previously screened and found in compliance will be able to bypass subsequent weigh stations. This reduces the conflict points for trucks entering and exiting weigh stations, thus increasing safety and efficiency. The carriers will also experience increased mobility, as compliant carriers are allowed to continue traveling at highway speeds.

The FOX platform opens the door to leveraging the advancements in technology, allowing programs like CVO to continue to pursue advancements in mobility and efficiency. The creation of the application keeps Florida as a national leader in freight mobility and its integration across the FDOT, and partner agencies, will enhance safety and mobility within the state and across state lines.

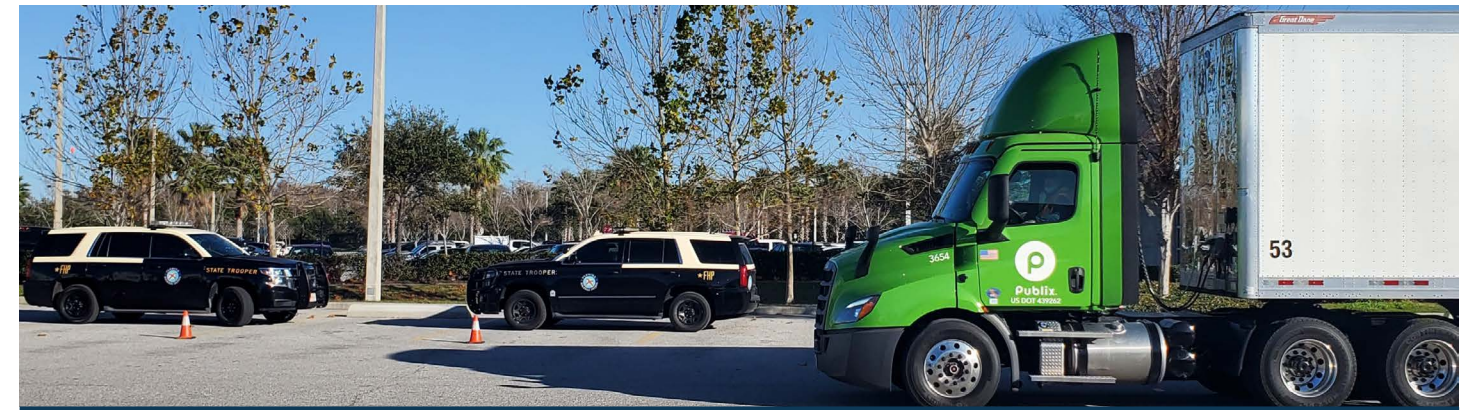
# FHP: TRUCK AND BUS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING



In January 2024, The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) unit conducted Truck and Bus Enforcement training to multiple agencies in FDOT District One and Seven, including Highlands, Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Hardee, Desoto, Polk, Hillsborough, and Pinellas counties. Some of the topics covered in this training were recognizing the most unsafe and common driving violation considerations to apply before, during and after a vehicle stop, and identifying potential indicators of

serious vehicle defects or criminal activity to include human trafficking and the Truckers Against Trafficking program.

This was a unique opportunity for the different agency members to come together with a common goal of reducing crashes and fatalities involving Commercial Motor Vehicles. The presentation was well received and there are plans in the works to conduct more of this training throughout the state.



## FHP CVE Event Timeline

January 10-12	D1 Local Law Enforcement Agency outreach.
January 23	Publix Truck Driving Championships
January 30	Chief Troy Thompson and Major Erick McGuire partnered with the Florida Trucking Association during the FTA Board of Directors Meeting and Day at the Capitol. They met with the FTA Board of Directors and led discussion on the FHP Wrecker Allocation System, enhancements to the Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles IRP/IFTA platform and the Department's legislative bill.
February 7	FHP provided a safety outreach to Granite Company. The outreach include discussion on: cargo securement, hours of service, commercial driver's license requirements, effective driving behaviors and human trafficking awareness.
February 8	Fort Myers CVE District provided a safety outreach to Sunbelt Rentals. The outreach include discussion on: cargo securement, pre-trip inspections, commercial driver's license requirements, effective driving behaviors, distracted driving, impaired driving and human trafficking awareness.
February 19	FHP assisted the Iona McGregor Fire Department with ensuring the vehicles were safe and their vehicle weight was effectively distributed.
February 23	FHP's CVE welcomes 23 new members after they successfully complete Part A and Part B training.
February 27-29	Safe DRIVE should focus on the efforts of every participant.
February 29	FTA Safety Summit
March 8	Outreach at Alta Vista Elementary in Haines City.
March 17-24	Operation CARE Spring Break
March 30	Greatwide Outreach
April 1-8	Operation CARE Distracted Driving
April 12-14	I-95 Drive to Save Lives

On Friday, March 8th, Captain Amos Santiago FHP CVE conducted an outreach at Alta Vista Elementary in Haines City where he spoke to approximately 200 children of varying ages about the importance of seatbelt, bicycle safety and wearing helmets, bullying and respect for others. Captain Santiago then allowed the students to see the inside of his patrol vehicle and ask questions about police work. These type of outreach efforts build trust between the community and law enforcement, perhaps even inspiring our youth to pursue careers in law enforcement.



# OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT (OALE) INSPECTS AROUND THE CLOCK

The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (OALE) plays a crucial role in enforcing laws that govern businesses regulated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). With a primary focus on protecting consumers from unfair and deceptive trade practices and safeguarding Florida's agriculture industry from theft and other crimes, OALE operates 23 agricultural inspection stations on 19 highways entering and exiting Florida. These stations serve as the first line of defense in ensuring the wholesomeness of food and other consumer products.

One of the key responsibilities of OALE officers is to conduct around the clock vehicle inspections to ensure the safety of Florida's food supply. This includes identifying unsafe food that could pose health risks to consumers, as well as detecting plant and animal pests and diseases that could potentially harm the state's agriculture industry. By remaining vigilant and proactive in their inspections, OALE officers play a pivotal role in upholding the integrity of Florida's agricultural products.

Observation is a fundamental aspect of an agricultural officer's role. As trucks enter the inspection stations, officers carefully observe and notify drivers of any hazards that may have occurred during their routes, such as worn-out tires, damaged lights, or equipment issues.

Given the size and power of commercial trucks, addressing these issues promptly is essential in minimizing the risk of accidents and ensuring the safety of drivers and other road users. By actively engaging in these observations and interventions, OALE officers contribute significantly to enhancing road safety and preventing potential accidents.

In addition to their primary responsibilities related to food safety and agricultural protection, OALE officers also extend their assistance to motor issues in the rural areas surrounding the inspection stations. This includes providing support to motorists with broken-down vehicles, addressing common problems such as running out of gas or experiencing flat tires. The presence of assigned "rovers" at each station further facilitates routine patrols of the rural areas, allowing officers to promptly respond to motorist needs and contribute to maintaining safe and efficient roadways.

Chief Keith Kophler highlighted the proactive approach taken by OALE, stating that the organization conducted 879 citizen/motorist assists from July 1, 2023, to February 21st, 2024. This statistic underscores the dedication of OALE officers in providing support and assistance to individuals in need, further solidifying their role as guardians of public safety on Florida's roadways.



The visual observations conducted by officers on the inspection station ramps and surrounding motorways are of paramount importance for the professional trucking industry. By identifying potential hazards and ensuring regulatory compliance, OALE officers contribute to enhancing efficiency and maintaining a high standard of safety. Their efforts not only minimize the risk of accidents but also play a significant role in preventing costly delays and disruptions within the transportation sector.

In conclusion, the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement stands at the forefront of safeguarding Florida's food supply, protecting consumers, and preserving the integrity of the state's agriculture industry. Through their unwavering commitment to conducting thorough inspections, addressing motorist needs, and promoting road safety, OALE officers play a vital role in upholding regulatory standards and ensuring the well-being of both consumers and industry stakeholders. Their dedication and proactive approach exemplify their pivotal contribution to maintaining a safe and secure agricultural and transportation environment in Florida.



## NEW IRP/IFTA SOFTWARE NOTIFICATION

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) has released an official notification concerning the International Federal Tax Agreement (IFTA) and the International Registration Plan (IRP) and a new software being released. Due to the release of this software, DHSMV is recommending any registrations set to expire in

May, June or July be renewed as early as possible, as they will be unable to renew, replace or issue new registrations during this time. The office is planned to return to normal operations on June 14th, other important information and dates can be seen below in the official notification.



## OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

### PLEASE BE ADVISED:

**Our offices will only offer limited services between May 30, 2024 and June 13, 2024 due to the release of new IRP/IFTA software. During this time, we will not be able to renew, replace or issue new registrations.**

As a result, we recommend that any credentials set to expire in May, June, or July are renewed as early as possible to minimize impact on your ability to continue operating.

Below are some important dates and activities to be aware of:

- **May 15, 2024 at 7PM EST**, will be the cutoff to submit any transactions to E-File and notify [CVDSEFile@flhsmv.gov](mailto:CVDSEFile@flhsmv.gov) for processing.
- **May 29, 2024 at 5PM EST**, will be the cutoff for processing any transactions at the Neil Kirkman Building Walk-In Office and the four IRP License Plate Agencies within the state.
  - Any requests received through the mail, emailed to [CVDSSubmit@flhsmv.gov](mailto:CVDSSubmit@flhsmv.gov), or dropped off at the Neil Kirkman Building will be held for processing in the order received once the new software is live.
- **June 14, 2024 at 8AM EST**, the software will be live and normal office operations will resume.

If you have any questions, please contact our IRP/IFTA Customer Service Center weekdays at (850) 617-3711 from 8:00AM to 4:30PM EST.



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COMMERCIAL VEHICLE OPERATIONS