



**TPO Board Meeting**

Marion County Commission Auditorium  
601 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471  
September 26, 2023  
4:00 PM

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Councilman Ire Bethea  
Commissioner Kathy Bryant  
Commissioner Craig Curry  
Councilmember Kristen Dreyer  
Commissioner Ray Dwyer  
Councilmember James Hilty  
Councilman Tim Inskeep  
Councilmember Barry Mansfield

**Members Not Present:**

Mayor Kent Guinn  
Commissioner Matt McClain  
Commissioner Michelle Stone  
Commissioner Carl Zalak

**Others Present:**

Rob Balmes, TPO  
Shakayla Irby, TPO  
Liz Mitchell, TPO  
Sara Brown, TPO  
Rakinya Hinson, FDOT  
Mike McCammon, FDOT  
Sean Lanier, City of Ocala  
Oscar Tovar, City of Ocala  
Chris Ziegler, Marion County  
Noel Cooper, City of Ocala  
Darren Park, City of Ocala  
Peter Lee, City of Ocala  
Other members of the public not signed in.

### **Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Craig Curry called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Item 2. Roll Call**

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant called the roll and a quorum was present.

### **Item 3. Proof of Publication**

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant stated the meeting was published online at the TPO website and the City of Ocala, Belleview, Dunnellon, and Marion County meeting calendars on September 19, 2023. The meeting was also published to the TPO's Facebook and Twitter pages.

### **Item 4. Consent Agenda**

*Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Hilty seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Item 5a. Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Amendment #1**

Two projects were proposed to be amended to the Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

#### **FM# 435209-1: I-75 at NW 49th Street from end of NW 49th Street to end of NW 35th Street**

- New Interchange at I-75
- Right-of-Way (ROW) phase
- Funds to be added or carried forward prior years to FY 2024, FY 2025
- Total: \$20,429,319
  - CIGP: \$100,000 (FY 24) – State Funds
  - DIH: \$19,189 (FY 24) – State Funds
  - LF: \$11,700,000 (FY 24) – Local Funds
  - DDR: \$3,737,100 (FY 25) – State Funds
  - SA: \$4,873,030 (FY 25) – Federal Funds

#### **FM# 439331-4: Ocala/Marion Urban Area FY 2023-2024 UPWP**

- TPO Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) (carry-forward, adjustment)
- Funds to be added to FY 2024
- Total: \$307,934

In addition, the annual Roll Forward TIP Amendment Report was proposed to be amended with the request. The following summarizes the proposed changes to the TIP. Mr. Balmes also provide a slideshow presentation to the committee showing project highlights.

### **TIP Roll Forward Report**

- 39 total projects with carry-forward funding, prior year(s) to FY 2024
- \$59,297,220 total Roll Forward amount for FY 2024

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve FY 2024 to 2028 TIP Amendment #1.

Ms. Dreyer seconded, a roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 5b. 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Selection Committee Recommendation**

The TPO was required by both federal law (23 CFR 450, 49 CFR 613) and Florida Statute (339.175) to develop a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) every five years with at least a 20-year planning horizon. The current LRTP was adopted on November 24, 2020 and valid through November 24, 2025.

In 2023, the TPO had been receiving services and oversight from the Marion County Procurement Services Department regarding a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to hire a consultant team to help develop and complete the 2050 LRTP.

The Board approved the LRTP RFQ, including the Scope of Services and budget and at the June 27 meeting. Procurement Services publicly advertised the RFQ from June 30, 2023 to August 4, 2023. Two consultant teams submitted professional proposal responses to the RFQ: Kimley-Horn and Associates and Kittelson and Associates. A five-person selection committee was formed to review the proposals and includes planning and engineering professionals from Marion County, the City of Ocala and the TPO.

Procurement Services facilitated a Selection Committee meeting on August 18 to review and score the two respective proposals. Based on this process, both consultant teams were qualified for the next step of the process per Florida Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA), which consisted of formal presentations. Presentations were initially scheduled for September 7, 2023. However, due to the hurricane storm event, the presentations were cancelled and rescheduled for September 22, 2023.

Formal presentations were made to the Selection Committee on September 22, 2023, by both consultants, Kimley-Horn and Associates, and Kittelson and Associates. The Selection Committee reviewed the scoring of the presentations:

Kimley-Horn and Associates: 434 Points

Kittelson and Associates: 402 Points

TPO staff requested approval of the Selection Committee Consultant recommendation Kimley-Horn and Associates, and for the Director to move forward with Procurement Services to enter into scope and fee negotiations.

Mr. Hilty made a motion to approve the 2050 LRTP Selection Committee Recommendation.

Ms. Bryant seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Item 6a. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Five Office of Safety Presentation**

Prior to the safety presentation, Chairman Curry recognized District Five Secretary, John Tyler, and gave him the opportunity to address the board and share a few words.

Secretary Tyler briefed the board on the progress of the Moving Florida Forward and I-75 project, indicating that it was on schedule to transition to the construction phase. He provided a brief update on the I-75 project and the ongoing efforts. He mentioned that community engagement initiatives would be launched soon and expressed his commitment to attending meetings and meeting with officials one-on-one to discuss the future of I-75 in the area.

He also gave an update on the Northern Turnpike Extension and its status. The study had been concluded without a recommendation to move forward, with a clear consensus that the project's focus should remain on I-75, which was being funded by Moving Florida Forward.

The top priority for the TPO was the construction of an interchange at 49th Street. FDOT was committed to delivering this project in conjunction with the Moving Florida Forward I-75 project. The goal was to begin construction in 2025 for both projects in conjunction, but there was still a funding gap of \$50 million. The cost of doing business was increasing due to inflation, but FDOT remained optimistic about completing the project.

FDOT had submitted an application to the US DOT for an INFRA Grant to cover the \$50 million shortfall, with updates expected in the spring.

During the last legislative session, the legislature granted FDOT a new contracting tool called "Phased Design Build," which allows FDOT to segment a project and spread funding over multiple years. This opened up an opportunity to include the 49th Street Interchange as part of the I-75 widening.

Secretary Tyler assured the board that although he couldn't specify how the \$50 million shortfall would be covered, FDOT was determined to continue its efforts until the funding gap was closed and the project could move forward with construction as the ultimate goal.

After Secretary Tyler's address, Ms. Loreen Bobo, Safety Administrator of FDOT District 5, delivered a presentation on transportation safety activities in Central Florida.

*The presentation is attached to pages 9-28 of this set of minutes for reference.*

Chairman Curry mentioned that he had been using I-75 frequently over the past year, especially the stretch from Marion County to Macon. He observed that driving at 80mph on this route poses a risk of being run over. Chairman Curry inquired whether there is any available technology for enforcing speed limits, such as systems that can track speed and issue tickets automatically. He emphasized the importance of addressing this significant safety concern to prevent accidents and potential fatalities. Additionally, he asked whether any such technology has been under consideration.

Secretary Tyler responded, it's an important observation because we've all experienced this issue, and law enforcement can't be everywhere at once. Yes, there is technology available. The

legislature has passed automated speed enforcement, currently limited to school zones. This technology exists, and there have been discussions about expanding its use to work zones. It's a possibility worth considering but the length of expansion would be up to law makers.

Mr. Dwyer commented that in Virginia, they obtain your license plate number and send a speeding ticket to your address by mail. Additionally, points are added to your driver's license. He also highlighted the significant issue of distracted driving, particularly concerning the use of cellphones.

### **Item 6b. Commitment to Zero Safety Dashboard and Annual Report**

As part of the Commitment to Zero Safety Action Plan, the TPO has been working with its consultant Kittelson and Associates to develop an online, interactive dashboard and annual report. Both tasks are part of the TPO's commitment to maintain education and awareness for transportation safety in Marion County.

#### **Commitment to Zero Dashboard**

The following URL address provides a direct link to the Commitment to Zero Dashboard, located on the TPO's ArcGIS online platform:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/efaf16b5991c420cb7f018d001c1d52c>

The Commitment to Zero Dashboard is meant to provide a public-friendly resource to review the most recent five years of crash data (2018-2022), with an emphasis on fatalities and serious injuries. The Dashboard has a number of features, such as changing the map display to an aerial background; selecting crashes by year and severity; viewing crashes by location; selecting weather conditions; reviewing vehicle types; among others. The Dashboard would be updated annually to include the most recent five-year period, along with any refinements and improvements.

#### **Commitment to Zero Annual Report**

The Annual Report provides an in-depth summary of crash statistics over the most recent five-year period (2018-2022) in Marion County. This includes key statistics like total crashes, crash types and crash severity by year, top frequency/severity locations, and detailed information about the users.

Mr. Balmes gave a brief overview on how to navigate the Commitment to Zero Dashboard and said that ongoing feedback would be most welcomed to ensure the Dashboard remained accessible and of value to the community.

### **Item 6c. Draft 2023 Apportionment Plan**

Every ten years, after the decennial census, all MPO/TPO's must review the composition of board membership and the respective planning area boundary. An "Apportionment Plan" serves as the official document summarizing both the proposed membership and MPO/TPO planning area.

Federal law enables state and local governments to largely determine the composition of an MPO/TPO and the planning area. The Governor officially apportions the membership of

the MPO/TPO in agreement with the affected local governments, based on the transmitted Apportionment Plan.

Apportionment Plans must contain a profile of the MPO/TPO, including the total planning area population; Census-designated urban area populations greater than 50,000 people; proposed board membership; and a planning area boundary map. A Resolution of support from the governing body of the MPO/TPO must also be part of the Plan.

A draft 2023 Apportionment Plan for the Ocala/Marion County TPO was provided to the Board in the agenda packet.

Current TPO Board membership is 12 Voting and 1 Non-Voting (FDOT) since 2003.

The TPO staff proposed: TPO Board Membership remaining the same, 12 Voting and 1 Non-Voting (FDOT) with a total of 13 members.

The proposed makeup of the TPO board: The City of Ocala (5 voting members), Marion County (5 voting members), City of Belleview (1 voting member), City of Dunnellon (1 voting member), and FDOT (1 non-voting member).

Adoption of the Apportionment Plan was anticipated in October. Submission of an Apportionment Plan, with a resolution of support, must be transmitted to the Florida Department of Transportation by November 14, 2023.

Chairman Curry referenced a few sections from Statue 339.175 Metropolitan Planning Organization, saying “Each M.P.O. shall review the composition of its membership in conjunction with the decennial census” and “reapportion the membership as necessary to comply with subsection (3)”.

Chairman Curry expressed his concern about having an even number of board members. He suggested, in consideration of the population, leaving Marion County with five seats, reducing the City of Ocala by one member, and maintaining Belleview and Dunnellon at one seat each, which would result in a total of eleven members.

Ms. Dreyer said that it was the City’s position to retain their membership of five members.

Chairman Curry made it clear that there was no problem with the makeup of the TPO board currently, he just looked at the statue and saw where it talked about getting more in line with the population.

Ms. Bryant said that the TPO board never received feedback from FDOT saying that they were not pleased with the makeup of the board.

No decision was reached on the apportionment topic, which was not an action item. The consensus among the board members was to leave the makeup of the board as it is.

### **Item 7. Comments by FDOT**

Ms. Rakinya Hinson provided the most current construction report and encouraged the board to visit [cflroads.com](http://cflroads.com) as a resource for specific information on FDOT projects.

Ms. Hinson also gave two announcements:

1. Mobility Week 2023- the period from October 27th to November 4th will be designated as a resource for communities to promote safe and sustainable transportation sources.
2. Work Program Public Hearing: Online Option October 16 through October 20 and In-Person Option at the Deland Office on October 17 at 3pm

### **Item 8. Comments by TPO Staff**

Mr. Balmes gave the following comments:

- More information about Mobility Week events will be provided in the future, and the TPO was in the process of coordinating with the District and was also open to coordination with other jurisdictions. Shakayla Irby with the TPO was taking the lead on event coordination's.
- The TPO supplied a Major Project Summary List of current and upcoming projects for the next two fiscal years, with the summary included in the agenda packet.
- In coordination with the Marion County Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST), the TPO had been planning to host a 2023 Transportation Safety Summit. The purpose for conducting the Summit was to continue emphasizing the importance of transportation safety across Marion County through our collective Commitment to Zero vision. The Summit would be held at the **Mary Sue Rich Community Center**, first floor, on **November 9, 2023** from **9:00 am** to **10:30 am**.
- New TPO staff member, Sara Brown, had been introduced to the TPO Board, and she joined the TPO staff in the role of Transportation Planner.

### **Item 9. Comments by TPO Members**

Chairman Curry congratulated Mr. Bethea for his reappointment to City Council.

Ms. Dreyer expressed her gratitude toward Chairman Curry for his involvement with the TPO board and the work he is doing.

### **Item 10. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

### **Item 11. Adjournment**

Chairman Craig Curry adjourned the meeting at 5:05pm.

TPO Board Meeting Minutes –September 26, 2023  
Approved – October 24, 2023

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Irby, Administrative Assistant



# Update on FDOT's Re-Focus on Safety



Safety begins with ME  
Safety begins with YOU

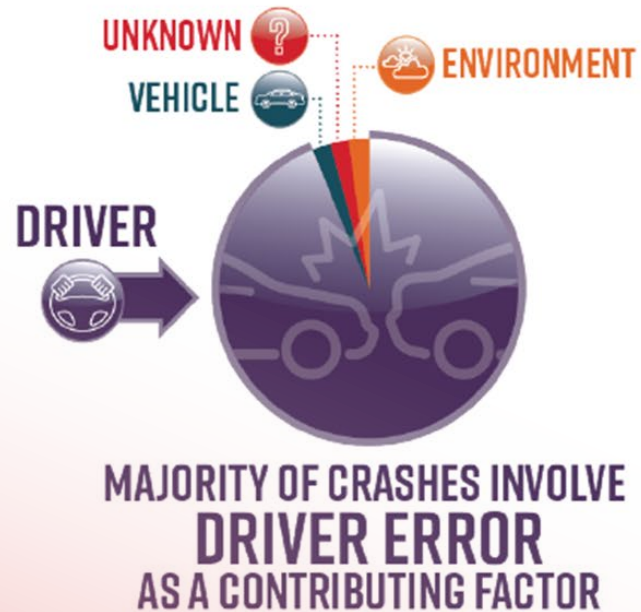
Loreen Bobo, P.E.  
Florida Department of Transportation  
District 5 Safety Administrator  
Office of Safety



# Why?



## NATIONALLY...



Source: NHTSA

## On Florida's Roads...



Source: Florida Strategic Highway Safety Plan, 2021



Daily Serious Injuries



# Office of Safety Team

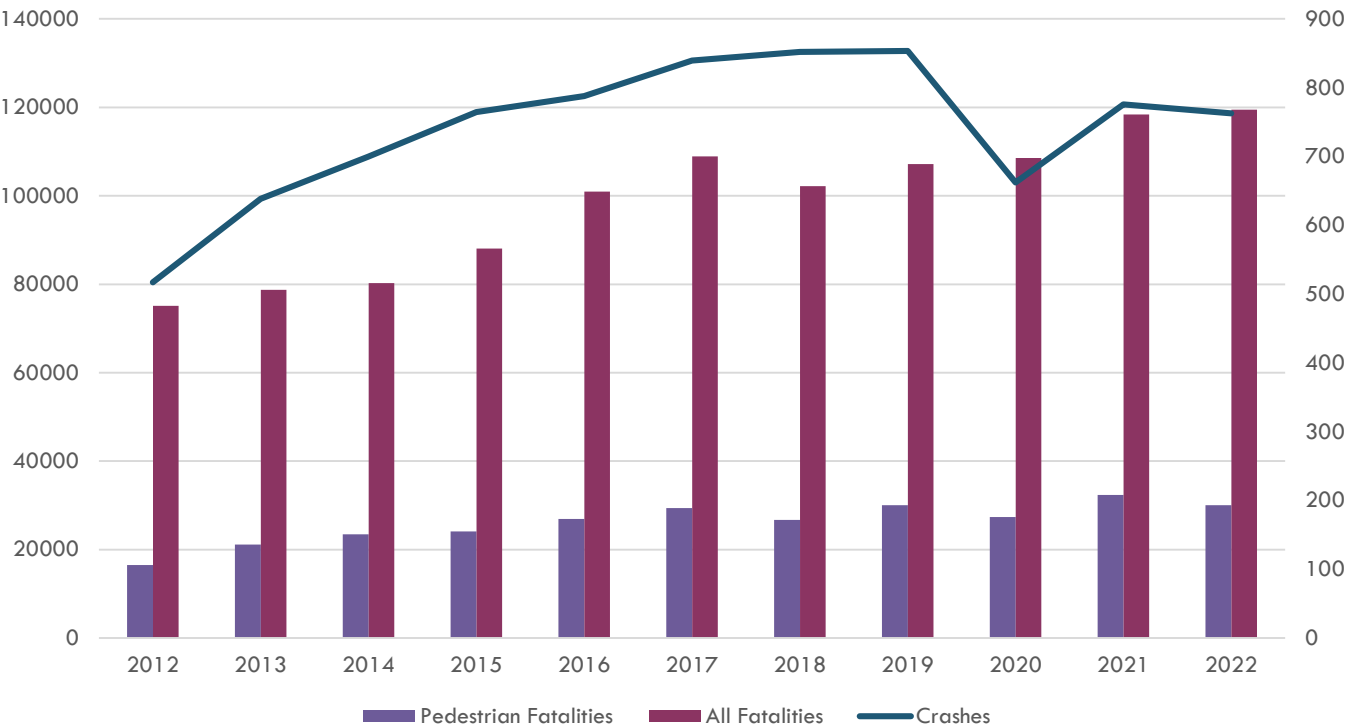
Established  
June 1, 2021

- ✓ Safety Administrator reports directly to the District Secretary
- ✓ Team of eight representing:
  - Community Traffic Safety Teams
  - Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordination
  - Traffic Safety Specialists
  - Allocation of Federal Highway Safety Funds
  - Design Safety Influence
  - Industrial Safety and Health
- ✓ Not exclusive to Development or Operations
- ✓ Industrial Safety and Health joined May 2023



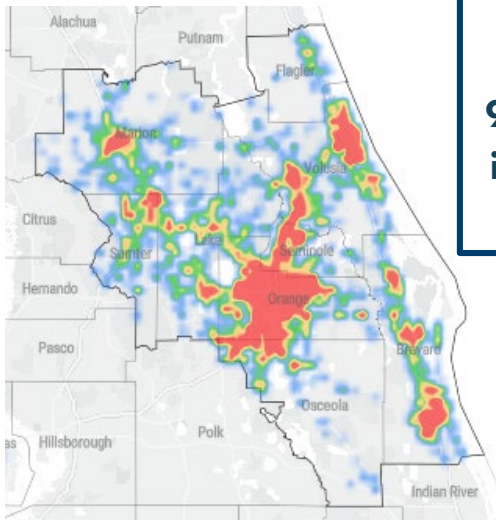


# Why Does Safety Remain a Focus?



This data is being certified; final numbers may vary slightly.

**779 Fatalities (3,457 statewide) in 2022,**  
**194 (975 statewide) were people walking and biking.**  
***25% were our most vulnerable users***



**District 5 covers 9 counties in Central Florida**

**Biggest issues are speeding, distracted driving, and occupant protection.**

## STATE VS LOCAL

■ State ■ Local

PED/BIKE FATALS	61%	39%
ALL FATALS	58%	42%
PED/BIKE CRASHES	26%	74%
ALL CRASHES	41%	59%

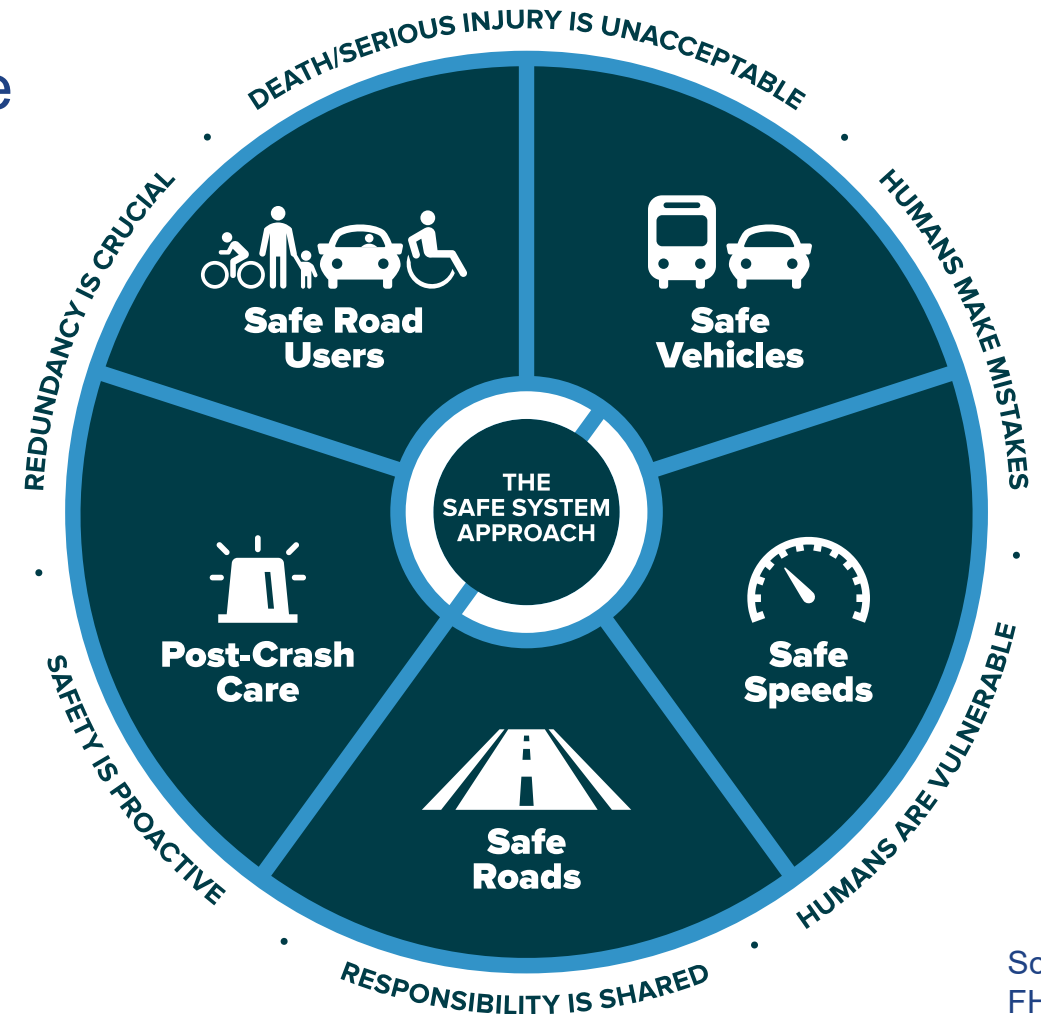
# Safe System Approach

## Principles

- Death/Serious Injury is Unacceptable
- Humans Make Mistakes
- Humans are Vulnerable
- Responsibility is Shared
- Safety is Proactive
- Redundancy is Crucial

## Elements

- Safe Road Users
- Safe Vehicles
- Safe Speeds
- Safe Roads
- Post Crash Care



Source:  
FHWA

# Vision Zero vs Target Zero

## Vision Zero

- Vision Zero sets the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all, in a set period with clear, measurable strategies.
- Traffic deaths are PREVENTABLE.
- Acknowledge HUMAN BEHAVIOR influences crashes
- Multidisciplinary approach
- <https://visionzeronetwork.org>

## FDOT's Target Zero

- Target Zero is a parallel effort that plans programs and projects, both infrastructure and behavioral related, to help achieve zero fatalities and serious injuries.



# Safety Starts with our Vision Zero Partners

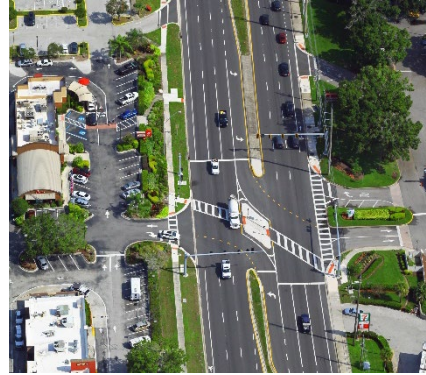
- Collaboration with Partners
  - Encouraging Vision Zero Adoption and Safety Action Plan Development






# HOW CAN WE GET TO ZERO

## ► Infrastructure



## ► Collaboration

 **National Coalition for Safer Roads**  
Aug 10 · 🌐

Always Stop on Red 🚦 !! That was the message at the Stop on Red Pop-Up Event and the message forever!... See more

 **Ocala Marion TPO**  
Aug 9 · 🌐

Always Stop on Red 🚦 !! That was the message at today's Stop on Red Pop-Up Event and the message foreve... See more



## ► Outreach



# Dunnellon Midblock Pedestrian Signal



# Buck Slips in Water Utility Bills in Dunnellon

## New Midblock Pedestrian Signal in Dunnellon

U.S. 41/South Williams Street from Brittan Alexander Bridge to River Drive





Overhead signals are green until activated by a pedestrian allowing pedestrians to safely cross. See reverse for instructions.








New left turn lanes will allow eastbound motorists to turn left into Dunnellon City Hall and the North Florida Avenue Boat Ramp, and westbound motorists to reach the businesses on the southeast side.




For more information, scan the QR Code or visit [fdot.tips/Dunnellon](https://fdot.tips/Dunnellon)





### How to Use Mid-Block Pedestrian Signal

DRIVERS:		PEDESTRIANS:	
SEE THIS	DO THIS	SEE THIS	DO THIS
	<b>GO</b> Drive the speed limit and stay alert for pedestrians		<b>PUSH BUTTON</b> Wait for walk signal before entering crosswalk
	<b>Prepare to STOP</b>		<b>CROSS</b> Watch for cars
	<b>STOP</b> for pedestrians in crosswalk		<b>FINISH CROSSING</b> Do not enter crosswalk
	<b>STOP!</b> Only proceed when no pedestrians are in the crosswalk		

A new Mid-Block Pedestrian Signal allows pedestrians to cross safely by pushing a button to stop traffic. Motorists will see the red light and must stop. The light then changes to a flashing red which allows traffic flow if pedestrians have crossed.



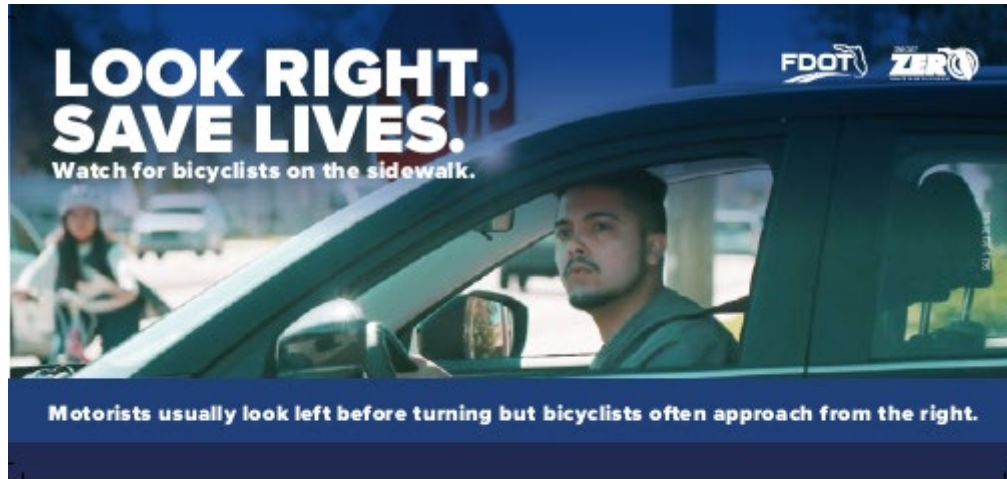
For more information, scan the QR Code or visit [fdot.tips/Dunnellon](https://fdot.tips/Dunnellon)

© Florida Department of Transportation 5570-20 2306 27



# Buck Slips in Drivers License Renewals and Tax Bills





# Operation Southern Slow Down

Thanks to Marion County  
Sheriff's Department for  
joining us!

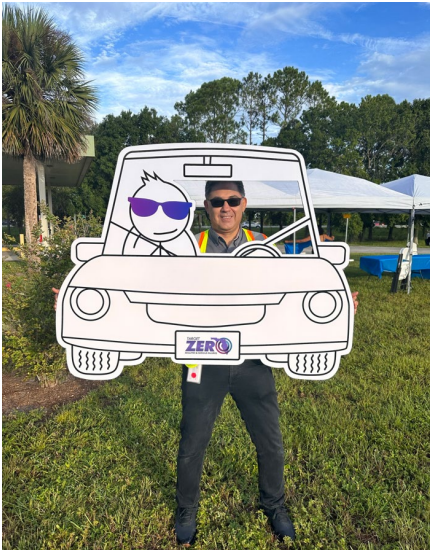




# Safety Starts with Us – Growing the Culture



Safety Message on Attenuator Truck





# Stop On Red - Ocala



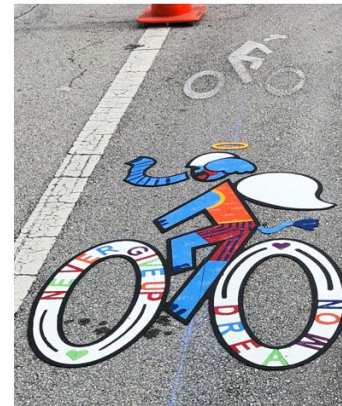


# Safety Starts with Us – Start with our Children

- Children are our future, outreach and growing that safety culture with them is very important.



Early Elementary Student Winner  
Title "Daddy Rides in Heaven"



# Law Enforcement Collaborations

## High Visibility Enforcement Grants

- Marion County Sheriff's Office
- Ocala Police Department

## Honored by FDOT for Over 1,000 DUI Stops

- Master Corporal Gary Miller, Marion County Sheriff's Office



Ocala Police Department

Sep 15 · 🌐

The Ocala Police Department will conduct High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) operations beginning Septem... See more



FDOT Central Florida

Apr 3 · 🌐

The [Orlando Magic](#) and [Florida Department of Transportation](#) recognized Master Corporal Gary Miller of ... See more





# Safety Starts with You!

- ▶ **Learn more about the Safe System Approach**

- ▶ <https://floridaltap.org/recorded-webinar-the-safe-system-approach-what-is-it-and-why-is-it-getting-so-much-attention/>

- ▶ Safety begins with **YOU**, *act responsibly. Respect other users.*

- ▶ **Set the example** while driving, walking, riding your bike

- ▶ Put down your cell phone    

- ▶ Wear your seatbelt / helmet   

- ▶ Drive the speed limit  

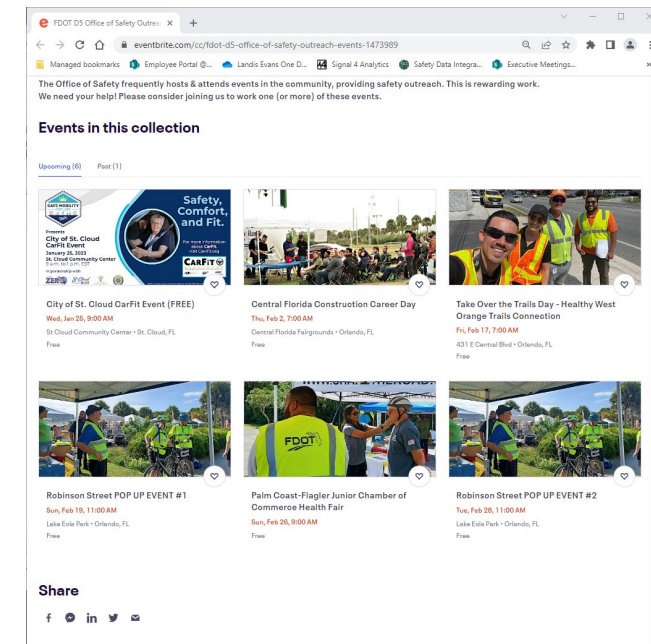
- ▶ Cross where it is legal and expected  

- ▶ Encourage your family, neighbors, and friends to drive, walk, and bike safely, so that they make it home every day.

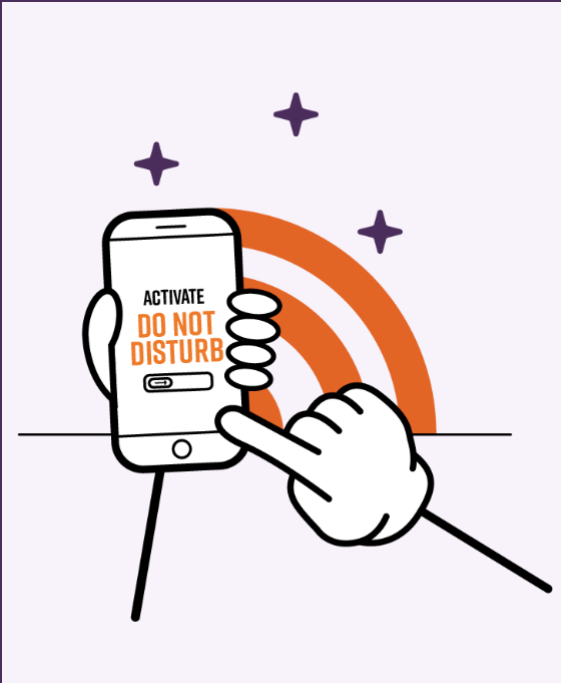
- ▶ Encourage safety conversations and actions in your daily work.

# Safety Starts with You!

- ▶ **Safety Central Newsletter –**
  - ▶ Email us at [D5-SafetyCentral@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:D5-SafetyCentral@dot.state.fl.us) to receive
- ▶ **Share your ideas with us!**
  - ▶ Making the safety ‘mission’ personal – All of us, including users of our transportation system can make a difference. Email your ideas to [D5-Safetyideas@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:D5-Safetyideas@dot.state.fl.us)
- ▶ **Join FDOT at one (or more) of our many outreach events as a volunteer.**
  - ▶ Register Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/fdot-d5-office-of-safety-outreach-events-1473989> and you will be able to sign up to volunteer at our events.



**Safety Second**...it takes just a second to be safe.



## CUSTOM DO NOT DISTURB MESSAGES

Did you know most smartphones have an autoreply feature for when you're on the road? Turn on Do not Disturb before you drive, and let the phone do all the hard work while you ride around distraction-free.

Just one catch — pre-made do not disturb phone messages are usually bland, boring, and not your style, we're sure. That's where we come in!

We've created a plethora of do not disturb messages for you to add to your phone. With a wide range of tones and emotions, we're sure you'll find the right do not disturb message for you!

[FIND YOUR NEW DND MESSAGE HERE](#) ▼

Not sure how to activate or customize your autoplay message? Here's how:



[Apple Tutorial](#)



[Android Tutorial](#)

# Safety begins with ME... Safety begins with YOU!

*Thank you!*

Loreen Bobo, P.E.  
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Office of Safety  
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