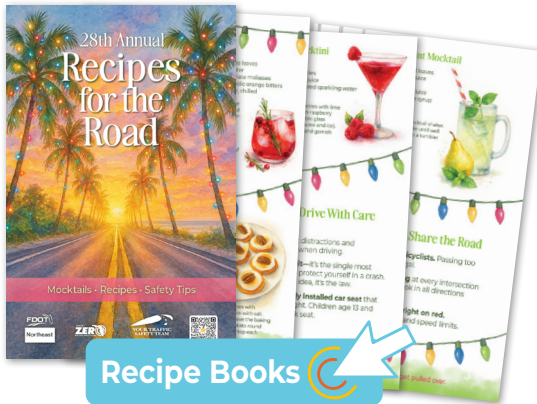




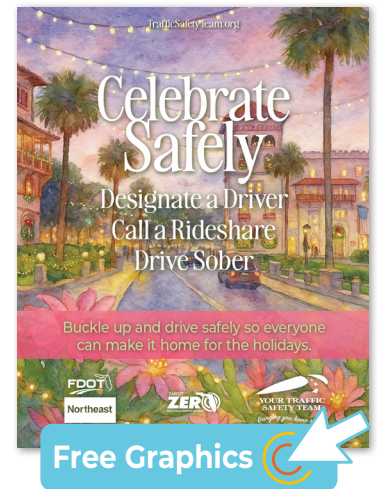
Celebrate Safely with the Traffic Safety Team

Supporting Target Zero Through Holiday Impaired-Driver Prevention

As we enter another busy holiday season, FDOT District Two's Community Traffic Safety Program (CTSP) continues its longstanding commitment to reducing impaired-driving crashes, injuries, and fatalities across Northeast Florida. For nearly three decades, our **Celebrate Safely, Designate a Driver** campaign, paired with the annual **Recipes for the Road** initiative, has shared meaningful safety messages and practical resources with the communities we serve.



This year's edition of *Recipes for the Road* is filled with festive mocktails, appetizers, desserts, and essential traffic safety tips to help everyone enjoy the season responsibly. Make sure to check out the ornaments highlighting the previous 27 cover designs!



To support these messages, **1,700 Celebrate Safely posters** and **15,000 28th Annual Recipes for the Road booklets** are being provided to Traffic Safety Team members, partner agencies, local law enforcement, libraries, community organizations, hospitals, and 605 restaurants and bars across our 18-county district in Northeast Florida. We have also made available a digital social media graphic, digital flipbook, and printable PDF files to share for free on our website. Together, we continue to build a culture of safety and encourage responsible alcohol service, safer transportation choices, and alternatives to driving impaired.



Check out these awesome restaurants, bars, and businesses! Photos by Bob Samuels with **Friends of AIA**.



TrafficSafetyTeam.org

[f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [y](#) @TrafficSafetyTeam

[x](#) [p](#) [i](#) [n](#) @TrafficSafetyFL



Thank you to the **City of Jacksonville**, **Tasty's Fresh Burgers** in Fernandina Beach, **Visit Florida**, and **Gilchrist County Public Library** for proudly displaying our Celebrate Safely materials and sending photos!



Friendly reminder: If your agency, business, or team is sharing these posters or books, please snap a photo and send it our way. (email TrafficSafetyTeam@dot.state.fl.us) We love showcasing our partners!

Year in Review

Measurable Impacts and Connections in 2025

Over the past year, we strengthened partnerships, expanded outreach, and delivered meaningful, measurable impact across Northeast Florida. From distributing thousands of traffic safety materials and addressing roadway concerns to sharing timely updates through email, our website, and social media, each touchpoint reflects our shared commitment to saving lives. These numbers tell the story of being engaged, informed, and dedicated to building safer roads for everyone.

159,811
Traffic Safety
Materials Distributed

63,449
CTST Resource
Emails Sent

151,099
TrafficSafetyTeam.org
Website Event Count

12,297
W.H.A.L.E. Check,
CPS Flyers

345
Roadway
Concerns Addressed

1,950,179
Social Media
Impressions

12.02%
Social Media
Engagement Rate

79,619
Traffic Safety Activity
Books for Kids

Fall Traffic Safety Outreach

District Two Traffic Safety Team members, partners, and agencies continue to demonstrate their strong commitment to promoting safer roadways and encouraging positive driving behaviors throughout our communities. We appreciate everyone's ongoing efforts to educate, encourage, and enforce safe habits that help protect all road users.

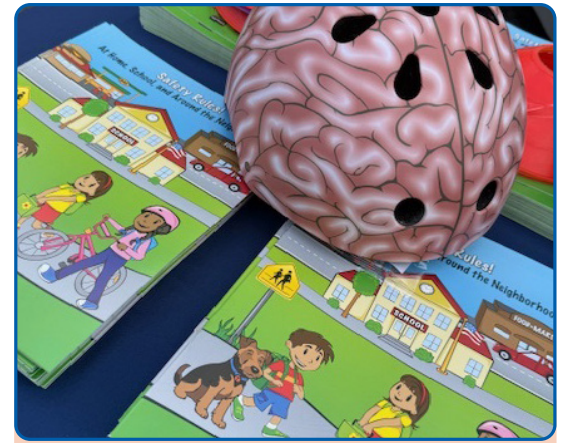
This fall was packed with safety-focused observances and community events across Northeast Florida, including Pedestrian Safety Month, National Walk & Roll to School Day, National Night Out, and Trunk-or-Treat celebrations. Our teams were thrilled to support these efforts and events throughout the year by distributing **79,619 traffic safety coloring, activity, and story books, 10,140 bookmarks, and 5,150 stickers** for kids and preteens in 2025.

Early education plays a crucial role in building lifelong safe behaviors, and it was wonderful to see so many partners sharing these resources with students and families. Thank you for helping us make safety fun, memorable, and part of everyday life!

*In September, **Atlantic Beach Police Department** officers partnered with **UF Health** to give a bicycle safety course at Atlantic Beach Elementary, and they also distributed our traffic safety activity books to students!*



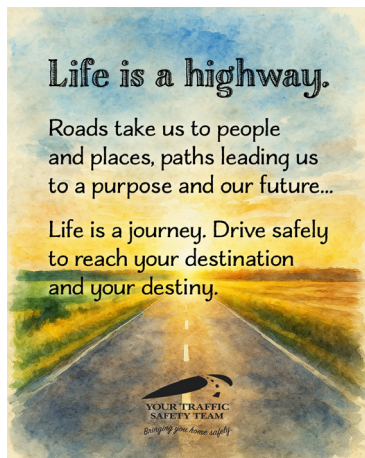
*During the National Night Out event, the **Columbia Department of Health's Healthy Start Program** gave out a bunch of traffic safety activity books and stickers in October.*



*On October 7, **UF Health Jacksonville** fitted 150 helmets and interacted with 300+ people, distributing our traffic safety activity books and promoting bike helmet safety during Lake City's National Night Out.*



*The **Blue Zones Project Jacksonville** ordered our traffic safety activity books for kids to give out during their walking school bus and other youth events. They were thankful for this free resource, which has been a huge hit in the community.*



Social Media Spotlight

Fostering a positive traffic safety culture with our “Safety Is a State of Mind” messaging generated strong engagement. Our most popular post, **The Life of a Safe Driver**, received **263 likes and reactions**, and our **Life Is a Highway** reel earned **165 likes and reactions** across our social media platforms.



A special thank-you goes out to the following partners for sharing traffic safety messages and tagging us in their social media posts in September, October, and November: **Atlantic Beach Police Department, Bike Walk Jax, City of Jacksonville Beach Police Department, Drug Free Duval, FDOT Northeast Florida, Gainesville Police Department, Get Drivers Ed, J. Fithian Tatem Elementary School PTA, North Florida TPO, and Safe Kids North Central Florida.**

Child Passenger Safety Awareness

This year, we have provided **12,297 W.H.A.L.E. Check** (We Have A Little Emergency) sticker sheets to our Northeast Florida team members, partners, and businesses. They were used throughout the year, during Child Passenger Safety Week, and at car seat checks, community events, local daycare centers, agencies, and hospitals. Visit our website to learn more about [Child Passenger Safety](#) and download educational resources, social media graphics, and printable activity sheets.

In 2002, the FDOT District Two Community Traffic Safety Program launched **W.H.A.L.E. Check** in Jacksonville, and it has since grown into a statewide initiative with a lasting impact. This program was created to address a critical need. During crashes, children are often too young to identify themselves or share important details. The W.H.A.L.E. Check informational flyer also includes five safety tips to help prevent injuries in case of a car crash and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations to safeguard children in the right car seat.



Ret Tompkins, Assistant Fire Chief, submitted this photo from the **Lake City Fire Department** proudly promoting the **WHALE Check** for Child Passenger Safety.



Staff at the **Columbia DOH** clinic recently discovered that a visiting family was using a makeshift car seat without proper padding or restraints. They were able to provide a proper and safe car seat. What a great opportunity to make a meaningful difference and keep another young passenger protected.

Working Together to Build Safer Communities



Buckling up and driving safely saves lives.

Life is a journey, and every trip deserves to be a safe one. Our Community Traffic Safety Teams continue to promote the simple yet powerful reminders to buckle up, slow down, and enjoy the ride, helping all road users reach their destinations safely and safeguarding the futures that lie ahead.

In 2025, we distributed **22,504 tip cards, posters, and banners** focused on **occupant protection, speeding, and distracted driving**. We extend our appreciation to the numerous partners who helped share this message throughout Northeast Florida. Your commitment to educating the public and elevating traffic safety awareness strengthens our collective effort to build safer, more connected communities.

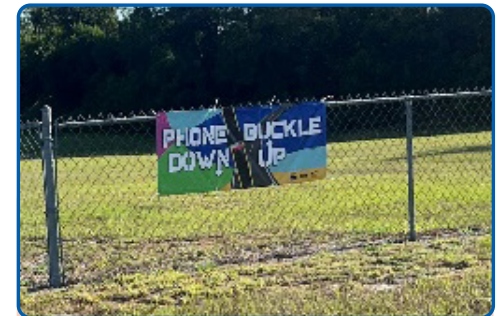
The **Fernandina Beach Police Department** was honored to be part of the Fernandina Beach Hispanic Heritage Music & Food Festival in October. They handed out our Life is a Highway notepads and Target Zero materials to help ensure everyone makes it home safely!



The Town of **Orange Park Police Department** proudly showcases our Life is a Journey banner.



Orange Park Elementary is displaying the Buckle Up and Slow Down reminder along their entrance.



Beverly Fountain with the **Department of Health Lafayette & Suwannee** placed Phone Down / Buckle Up banners at the Lighthouse Christian Academy in Mayo and sent one to the Catholic Charities Bureau in Lake City.

[Learn More](#)

Life is a journey.



Enjoy the ride...
...safely to reach your destiny.

Life is a highway.

Made of concrete,
filled with cars, full of people,
going places, enjoying life...

Drive like your future
depends on it,
because it does.



WE'RE TRAFFIC SAFETY TEAM
Brought from home safely

Update on E-Bike Safety in Florida

Community Traffic Safety Teams play an important role in promoting safe riding habits, educating the public, and supporting policies that protect all road users. This year, we have distributed **9,125 e-bike safety-related materials**. Since our districtwide meeting on e-bikes in August, this issue has appeared frequently in the news from communities across the state, and a new bill has now been proposed.

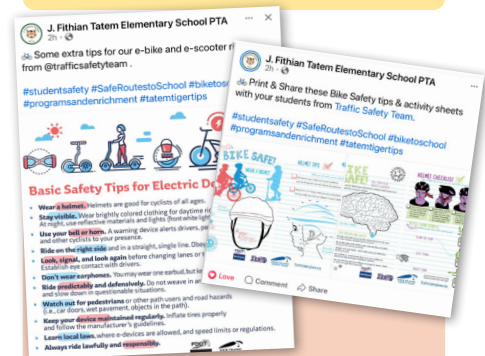
Why E-Bike Safety Matters – E-bikes can travel at higher speeds than traditional bicycles, and their quiet operation can make it harder for drivers and pedestrians to anticipate their movement. Many crashes occur when young or inexperienced riders use e-bikes without understanding traffic rules or their equipment's limitations. Florida has already seen multiple severe and fatal crashes involving teens on e-bikes, underscoring the need for better safety awareness, education, and regulation.

Overview of Proposed House Bill 243 – Lawmakers, Naples Rep. Yvette Benarroch and St. Johns Rep. Kim Kendall, have introduced HB 243, a wide-ranging bill designed to strengthen Florida's safety rules for electric bicycles, motorized scooters, and electric motorcycles. If passed, HB 243 would take effect July 1, 2027. Highlights include:

- **Improved Crash Data Tracking** – FLHSMV would be required to maintain a dedicated crash database for electric bicycles, motorized scooters, electric motorcycles, and certain trucks. This helps shape smarter safety policies.
- **Stricter Penalties for Illegal Modifications** – Tampering with an e-bike to increase speed or alter motor engagement would carry fines of \$100 for a first offense and \$250 for repeat offenses unless the bike's classification label is properly updated.
- **New Class 3 E-Bike Category** – The bill introduces a new classification for high-powered electric motorcycles capable of speeds over 28 mph and powered by electric motors of 750 watts or more.
- **Licensing and Age Requirements** – Operators of Class 3 e-bikes would need a learner's permit or driver's license and must carry it while riding. Youth under age 16 would be prohibited from operating higher-powered motorcycles or e-motorcycles over 750 watts.
- **Updates to Driver Education** – Driver education courses and exams would include expanded content on sharing the road with e-bikes, scooters, and vulnerable road users. The exam must also include five questions specifically on the safe operation of electric bikes and motorized scooters.
- **Shared Pathway Rules** – E-bike users would be required to yield to pedestrians and respond to audible signals on shared-use paths such as parks and trails.



*Mike Springer, Public Information Officer with the **City of Port Orange**, was thankful for our e-bike safety tip cards. They have been placed at the Police Department, the Recreation Center, and at Atlantic High, Spruce Creek High, Creekside Middle, and Silver Sands Middle Schools. He believes they will be a valuable tool for educating the community and keeping riders safe.*



E-bike safety is a concern not only in Florida, but across the nation. Our electric device safety tips and bike safety activity sheets were shared by New Jersey's J. Fithian Tatem Elementary School's PTA!



E-Bike Safety

Target Zero Outreach



September:

100 Deadly Days - RTS Banners
ASHE Region Training
UF Pour Decisions Video
Touch a Truck

October:

Walk to School Day - High Springs Community School
Walk to School Day - Littlewood Elementary
Walk to School Day - Stephen Foster Elementary
UF Homecoming Outreach
Westside Elementary Trunk or Treat
Community Coalition - Red Ribbon Week Mural
St. Augustine Helmet Fitting
FDOT Trunk or Treat
Fall Festival Welcome Center

November:

Jags Game
UF DUI Outreach
Lake Butler Middle School Career Fair



FDOT District Two FY2026 Annual Grant Application Awards

Congratulations to Our Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Partners!

FDOT District Two is proud to announce the approved projects and awardees included in the Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Grant Application (AGA). These subgrants, funded through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), support high-impact behavioral traffic safety initiatives designed to reduce fatalities and serious injuries throughout Northeast Florida.

The Annual Grant Application is a key implementation component of Florida's Highway Safety Plan and helps advance our statewide Target Zero goal by investing in data-driven education, outreach, and enforcement. This year, 24 behavioral subgrants have been approved for law enforcement partners across District Two, recognizing their continued commitment to safer roads and healthier communities.



We extend our sincere congratulations to all FY2026 awardees and appreciation for your ongoing dedication to traffic safety. Your collaborative efforts, enforcement leadership, and community engagement make an extraordinary difference in saving lives. Here are the program areas and implementing subrecipients approved by NHTSA within FDOT District Two:

Distracted Driving

- Alachua County Sheriff's Office
- Gainesville Police Department



Impaired Driving

- Bradford County Sheriff's Office
- Gainesville Police Department
- Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
- Lake City Police Department
- Live Oak Police Department
- Perry Police Department



Motorcycle Safety

- Gainesville Police Department
- Jacksonville Sheriff's Office



Teen Driver Safety

- Baker County Sheriff's Office



Occupant Protection & Child Passenger Safety

- Bradford County Sheriff's Office
- Gainesville Police Department
- Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
- Lake City Police Department
- Live Oak Police Department
- Perry Police Department



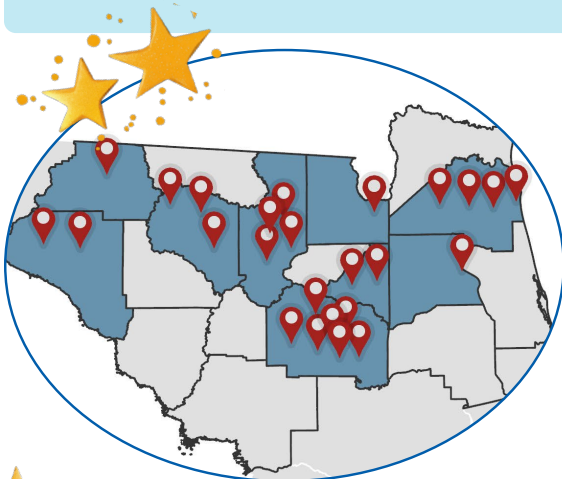
Speeding & Aggressive Driving

- Alachua County Sheriff's Office
- Gainesville Police Department
- Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
- Lake City Police Department
- Live Oak Police Department
- Madison County Sheriff's Office



Work Zone Safety

- Clay County Sheriff's Office



These FY2026 funded initiatives will strengthen local enforcement, expand community education, and support evidence-based strategies to reduce preventable tragedies on our roadways. District Two's Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTSTs) look forward to working alongside our awarded partners as these projects are implemented from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

Thank you to each agency for your dedication, professionalism, and commitment to protecting all road users. Together, we continue to drive progress toward Target Zero.

Review of Traffic Safety Concerns in 2025



CTSTs Impacting Traffic Safety in Northeast Florida

The Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTSTs) within FDOT District Two continued to advance roadway safety throughout 2025. The **118 new concerns** submitted by residents, partner agencies, and team members led to meaningful actions addressing a broad range of concerns. These outcomes aligned with the 4-Es of traffic safety (Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Emergency Services). Each team demonstrated a commitment to collaboration, responsiveness, and community-focused improvement, which allowed us to **address 345 safety issues** and **close 110 concerns** in 2025.

As part of Florida's **Target Zero** initiative, CTST efforts remained focused on reducing serious injuries and fatalities by identifying risks early and implementing practical, data-informed solutions. This shared dedication to proactive problem-solving helps move our region closer to the goal of zero deaths on Northeast Florida roadways.

A districtwide review of 2025 submissions (*as of 11/30/2025*) identified several dominant themes. **Speeding and aggressive** driving concerns accounted for a significant portion of the requests, occurring in both metropolitan areas, such as Jacksonville, and in rural corridors throughout Suwannee, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, and Columbia counties. **Visibility issues** were also prevalent, including obstructed signs, worn pavement markings, shoulder-edge conditions, and roadside vegetation. **School zone** operations remained a recurring topic, especially in high-growth communities. Additional submissions related to **pedestrian** crossings, **bicycle** accommodations, trail interactions, access management, and signal operations.

Engineering successes represented the strongest category of improvements for 2025. Multiple CTSTs reported high closure counts related to **signing upgrades, marking refreshes, vegetation removal**, and follow-up field evaluations. These actions strengthened

visibility, improved driver expectancy, and provided consistent operational guidance. Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Nassau, and Putnam counties all recorded substantial engineering completions. In several cases, even when an infrastructure change was not warranted, the responsible agency conducted **field assessments** to confirm conditions and respond directly to concerned residents.

Enforcement achievements emerged primarily in Duval County, Clay County, and the Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, and Levy region. Numerous speeding concerns were forwarded to law enforcement agencies, which led to **increased patrol presence** or **targeted enforcement** periods. These activities complemented long-term engineering strategies and addressed behaviors that contributed to high crash risk. Community feedback indicated that enforcement visibility reassured residents that concerns were acknowledged and addressed.

Education accomplishments were supported by many of the year's submissions. Topics such as **safe speeds, proper use of crosswalks, bicycle awareness, and school zone procedures** aligned with ongoing CTST educational efforts. These included participation in community events, school outreach, distribution of traffic safety materials, and partner-driven public information campaigns. Submissions helped reinforce the ongoing need for education across all modes of transportation.

Emergency services contributions were evident through several concerns that referenced crash frequency, roadway blockage, or delayed access for response vehicles. The multi-county teams, particularly Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, and Suwannee, benefited from shared information regarding **crash clusters and response challenges**. These insights supported operational reviews and informed engineering and enforcement actions.

Team Spotlights

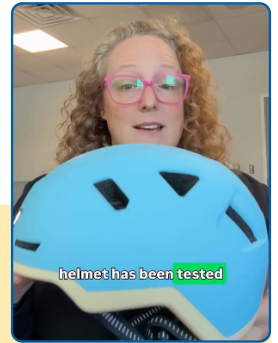
Alachua / Dixie Gilchrist Levy Madison / Taylor



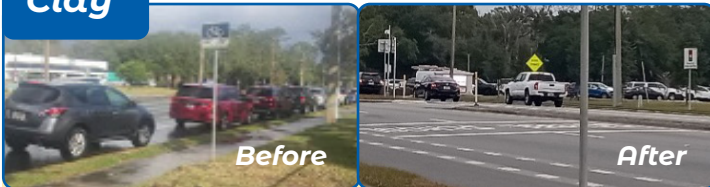
A concern was raised about driver confusion on the northbound approach of SR 24 at U.S. 301 in Waldo, where an unmarked paved area created during resurfacing appeared wide enough to resemble a right-turn lane. Photos confirmed that motorists were drifting into the space unintentionally. The CTST elevated the issue to FDOT, which reviewed the MOT plan and verified that the final design will include goring and proper pavement markings once the friction course is placed. As an interim measure, FDOT directed the CEI team to redeploy barrels to guide drivers into the single travel lane. This quick coordination helped resolve the temporary confusion while long-term improvements move toward completion.

Duval

Team members **Rebecca Melvin (UF Health)** and **Jackie Morrison (Wolfson Children's Hospital / Safe Kids NEFL)** are working to raise awareness about the growing dangers associated with e-bike use among youth. Rebecca recently shared an educational reel explaining why e-bike riders need helmets certified for higher-speed impacts (CPSC + NTA-8776), noting that most standard bike helmets are not rated for e-bike speeds. Jackie highlighted new trauma data showing a 222% increase in e-bike and e-scooter injuries at Wolfson Children's Hospital, with more than half involving traumatic brain injuries and only 35% of patients wearing helmets. Their efforts emphasize the importance of proper equipment, safe riding habits, and community education as e-bike use rises.



Clay



Following our January article on school pick-up and drop-off queues, St. Johns Classical Academy's Orange Park campus has implemented several operational adjustments and worked closely with local law enforcement to address queue spillback issues that previously affected Kingsley Avenue. The school's dismissal operations once extended west past the Orange Avenue signal, creating safety risks and regular congestion. Through targeted changes, active management, and coordinated enforcement support, the campus now contains nearly all traffic on site, with only an occasional spillover of approximately five vehicles. This improvement demonstrates the impact of sustained attention, collaboration, and tailored queue management strategies.

Nassau / Bradford Baker / Union

A community concern demonstrated how collaboration and project integration can effectively resolve local safety issues.

Residents in Callahan expressed ongoing concerns about speeding and crashes near Mickler Street and U.S. 301, where two schools contribute to high traffic volumes during morning and afternoon hours. After review, FDOT confirmed that the intersection is included as part of a candidate work program project to remove the flashing beacon and install a traffic signal (FM 437612-2). This outcome reinforces the role of local feedback through CTST channels in shaping broader transportation programming. By aligning safety concerns with existing or upcoming projects, CTSTs help ensure that critical needs such as school zone protection are addressed efficiently within FDOT's planning and funding framework.



Columbia / Hamilton Lafayette / Suwannee



A safety review was conducted for SR 6 at CR 141 to assess potential safety issues and determine if countermeasures are needed to improve safety at this location. To improve safety at the intersection, the following countermeasures are recommended:

- Replace flashing beacons, intersection warning signs, and stop ahead signs approaches.
- Add red retroreflective strips on the stop sign posts
- Relocate the stop bars closer to the SR 6 to provide better sight distances and add skip striping.
- Rotate the CR 141 sign on eastbound SR 6 to face eastbound traffic for improved visibility.

St. Johns / Putnam

St. Johns County experienced a surge in e-bike crashes in 2025, prompting coordinated action among local and regional safety partners.

In August, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution promoting e-bike, e-scooter, and micromobility safety through enforcement, education, and collaboration with the Sheriff's Office and School District. The Sheriff's Office increased community outreach and enforcement during the summer, distributing safety materials and engaging directly with youth riders and parents. E-bike safety lessons are now being introduced in middle schools to reinforce helmet use, visibility, and compliance with traffic laws. These local initiatives build on the District 2 Community Traffic Safety Program's long-standing focus on e-bike education and awareness, ensuring consistent messaging and resources across Northeast Florida. Together, these efforts represent a proactive, unified approach to reducing e-bike crashes and improving safety for all roadway users.



Thank you for stepping up, staying involved, and helping us spread the word to save lives!

Let's keep the connections going!

Stay in the loop and help promote traffic safety on social media! From behind-the-scenes moments to community highlights, safety tips, and upcoming events — there's always something worth sharing.

Like, follow, and tag us:



**YOUR TRAFFIC
SAFETY TEAM**

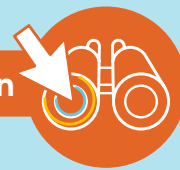
Bringing you home safely



Help Make Our Roads Safer

YOU are our expert eyes on the road! Be on the lookout for traffic safety issues on the roadways in District Two and submit it with photos or video on our [Roadway Concerns form on our website](#).

Submit a Concern



TEAM MEETINGS:

St. Johns / Putnam

1/13/26 · 2/10/26 @ 1:30 PM

Alachua / Dixie / Gilchrist Levy / Madison / Taylor

1/15/26 · 2/19/26 @ 10:00 AM

Columbia / Hamilton Lafayette / Suwannee

1/20/26 · 2/17/26 @ 10:30 AM

Duval

1/21/26 · 2/18/26 @ 10:00 AM

Clay

1/21/26 · 2/18/26 @ 2:00 PM

Nassau / Bradford / Baker / Union

1/27/26 · 3/24/26 @ 10:30 AM

Team meetings are virtual and subject to change.

Traffic Safety Events & Campaigns:

DECEMBER

National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month
Celebrate Safely Campaign

12/1-5 Older Driver Safety Awareness Week

12/11-1/1/26 Holiday Season Impaired Driving Campaign

JANUARY

Pedestrian Move Over Florida Month

1/1 New Year's Day - Enforcement

Designated Driver Program

1/9 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

FEBRUARY

Hit and Run Awareness Month

2/6 Florida School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

2/8 Super Bowl LX - Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk

2/22-28 National Engineers Week

2/28 FY 2027 Safety Grant (Concept Paper Due)



TrafficSafetyTeam.org

@TrafficSafetyTeam

@TrafficSafetyFL

