

Celebrate Safely: 28 Years of Community Commitment

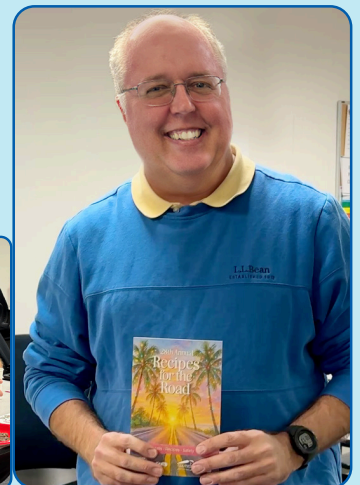
The 2025 Celebrate Safely, Designate a Driver campaign once again demonstrated the power of grassroots partnership. The positive community feedback we received reflects what makes this initiative so successful: local businesses and agencies working together to encourage alternatives to impaired driving and reinforce that safety is always in season.

We distributed **15,000 Recipes for the Road booklets** and **1,700 Celebrate Safely posters** to restaurants, bars, Chambers of Commerce, Welcome Centers, libraries, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, and Traffic Safety Team members throughout our 18-county district. Digital flipbooks, printable PDFs, and social media graphics further expanded the campaign's reach. As we conclude the **28th year**, we want to thank everyone who helped promote responsible alcohol service, safe hosting practices, and smart transportation choices. Together, we are building a culture of responsibility on our roadways and moving closer to zero impaired-driving fatalities.



Traffic Safety Team Member Spotlight: **Shayne Morgan**

In December, Shayne Morgan, with the Columbia County's Emergency Operation Center and Chairperson of the Columbia/Hamilton/Lafayette/Suwannee Traffic Safety Team, hosted a Celebrate Safely Coffee Break. This was a casual meet-and-greet for members to enjoy a tasty treat and holiday festivities. Attendees included members from the Department of Health and the Florida Highway Patrol. Traffic Safety posters and booklets were distributed to all. Shayne also helped launch our Celebrate Safely campaign by serving as the voice in a short video for social media!

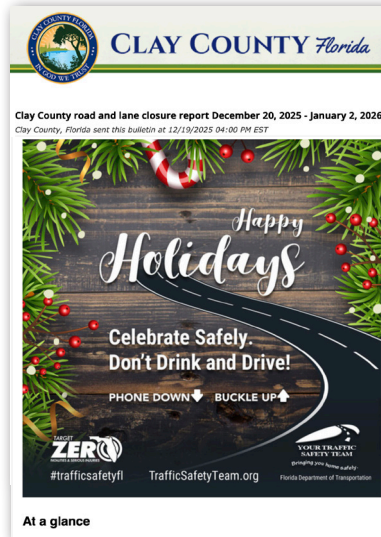


Thank you for stepping up, staying involved, and spreading traffic safety to save lives!



St. Augustine Beach Police Department visited *Island Prep*, where *School Resource Officer Gambill* and *Sergeant Jensen* presented an e-bike safety seminar. We loved seeing how they utilized our tip cards as flyers for students and parents before the winter holiday break!

We love the display **Gilchrist County** made with traffic safety tips and resources for their residents!



Shout out to **Clay County** for including our Happy Holidays graphic in their weekly emailed bulletin. What a great way to promote traffic safety alongside their report!



The **Columbia Department of Health** shared our traffic safety materials at their booth during Lake City's Arts & Crafts Olustee Festival.



"Be Safety Smart" activity booklets available in Vitals office at the **Columbia Department of Health**.

Much appreciation to the following agencies for sharing some of our popular "Seasons of Safety" traffic safety messages: **Atlantic Beach Police Department, Clay County, FDOT Northeast Florida, Gainesville Police Department, North Florida TPO, and UF Health TraumaOne.**

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:

@TrafficSafetyTeam
 @TrafficSafetyFL

YOUR TRAFFIC SAFETY TEAM

Bringing you home safely.

CTSTs Connecting with Our Communities

As we move into 2026, Community Traffic Safety Teams across FDOT District Two continue to strengthen partnerships and expand outreach efforts throughout Northeast Florida. Team members, agencies, and community partners consistently demonstrate their commitment to safer roadways by promoting positive driving behaviors and sharing lifesaving resources.

From community events and school programs to safety fairs and local observances, our partners are helping reinforce the importance of buckling up, slowing down, driving sober, and staying focused behind the wheel.

By engaging students and families with age-appropriate materials and interactive activities, we are helping build lifelong safe habits that extend far beyond the classroom. Thank you to every partner who continues to educate, encourage, and lead by example.

95K+ traffic safety coloring pages, activity booklets, story books, stickers, and bookmarks distributed in 2025



Duval County Public Schools' Be Safe. Be Seen.

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Initiative (January 12–23, 2026) helped reinforce safe walking and biking habits for students at Highlands Estates Academy on Jacksonville's Northside. Mrs. Monique Hernandez shared that 300 traffic safety activity booklets and bookmarks were distributed to students who walk or ride their bikes to and from school. She noted the materials arrived in excellent condition and provided invaluable safety information for students and families.

The Columbia County Department of Health

recently participated in a **Community Outreach Day at Cedar Park Apartments**, where approximately 50 residents were displaced by a fire last year. The event brought families together with resources, support services, and family-friendly activities to assist in ongoing recovery efforts.

Our traffic safety activity books were a hit with the kids, providing both fun and valuable safety education. Thank you to the Columbia DOH team and community partners for continuing to show up, support residents, and help make safety education accessible during times of need.



Life is a Highway: Motivational and Impactful

What began last year as a limited-release extension of our **Life is a Journey — Buckle Up and Slow Down** campaign gained momentum across Northeast Florida. The **Life Is a Highway** traffic safety series features powerful scenic imagery paired with meaningful safety messages that encourage drivers to reflect before they act.

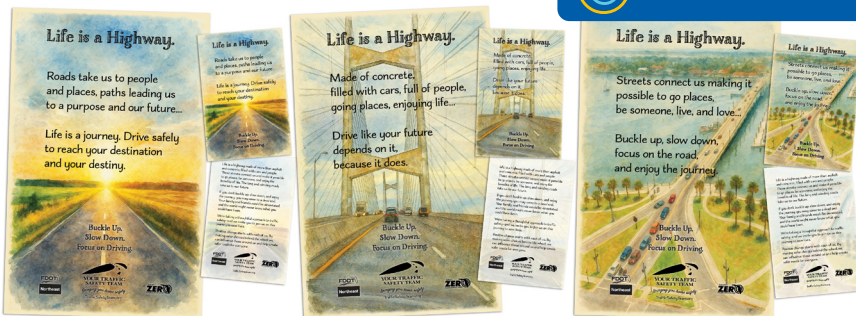


To date, we've distributed:

443 Life
is a Highway
posters and
11,358
tip cards

A limited supply is still available if you would like to [place an order](#).

Order Now



Partner Spotlight:

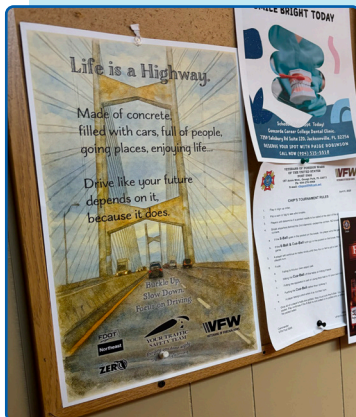
VFW Post 5968, Orange Park

We have received outstanding feedback from partners and were especially encouraged by this message:

“VFW Post 5968 Orange Park Florida has placed the Florida Department of Transportation Life Is a Highway posters

on our most important information boards in our highest-traffic areas. We believe in traffic safety and remind our VFW and auxiliary members to be careful on the roads and take care of one another. We support responsible choices and greatly appreciate the posters. They are a friendly reminder to be safe and responsible.”

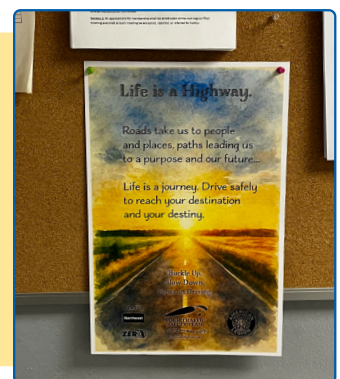
— Russell V. Burch, Post Commander



Thank you to all our partners who continue to display and share these materials as we work together toward safer roads and Target Zero:

AAA
Alachua Police Department
American Legion Posts
Atlantic Beach Police Department
Baker County School District
Bradford County Sheriff's Office
City of Jacksonville
City of Williston
Columbia County Emergency Management
Columbia County School District
Drug Free Duval
Elks Lodges
Florida Department of Health - Alachua, Columbia, Lafayette, Nassau, Putnam, and Suwannee
Florida Highway Patrol
Gainesville Fire Rescue
Gilchrist County Road Department
Gilchrist County School District
Green Cove Springs Police Department
Hamilton County School District
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
MADD Northeast Florida
Madison County Sheriff's Office
Moose Lodges
Orange Park Police Department
Palm Valley Academy
Putnam County Engineering Department
Putnam County Fire Rescue
Safe Kids Northeast Florida
St. Augustine Beach Police Department
St. Johns County Council on Aging, Public Works, and Risk Management
St. Johns Sheriff's Office
St. Johns County Tax Collector, Driver Ed
Suwannee Valley Transit Authority
Town of Branford
Town of Callahan
Town of Interlachen
Town of Pomona Park
VFW Posts
Webber Infrastructure

Shout out to American Legion Post 129 in Jacksonville Beach for sharing this traffic safety campaign!

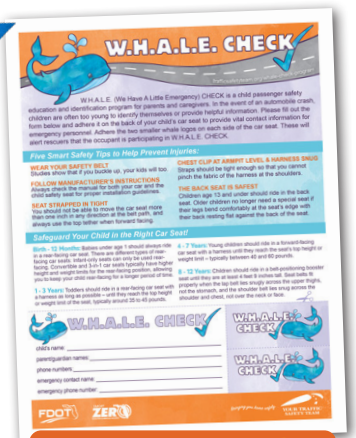


Child Passenger Safety: Lifesaving Impact

Child Passenger Safety (CPS) remains one of our highest priorities across Northeast Florida, and *W.H.A.L.E. Check (We Have A Little Emergency)* continues to make a meaningful difference. In the past year alone, we provided **12,297 W.H.A.L.E. Check** sticker sheets to team members, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, daycare centers, and community partners. These bright, easy-to-use stickers are placed inside a child's car seat and provide first responders with critical emergency contact and medical information when a child may be too young to communicate.

Originally launched in 2002 by the FDOT District Two Community Traffic Safety Program in Jacksonville, *W.H.A.L.E. Check* has grown into a trusted statewide initiative. The program was created to address a real-world safety gap, ensuring that in the event of a crash, vital information is readily available to protect our youngest passengers.

Each *W.H.A.L.E. Check* flyer also reinforces key safety reminders, including American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations for proper car seat selection and use. Correct installation and age-appropriate restraints remain essential to reducing serious injuries and fatalities among children. We encourage all partners to visit our website to access CPS resources, downloadable activity sheets, educational materials, and ready-to-share social media graphics to help amplify this lifesaving message.



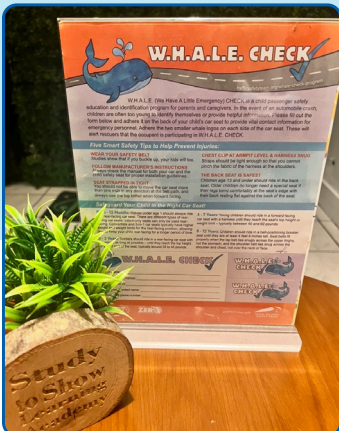
Learn More

12K+
W.H.A.L.E. Check
distributed in 2025

Partner Spotlight: *Study to Show Learning Academy*

A special thank you to Stephanie Searles, owner/operator of **Study to Show Learning Academy**, Safe & Secure CPR/AED and First Aid Training in Jacksonville, for sharing photos of *W.H.A.L.E. Check* materials in action.

With the inspiring tagline, “Educating each child from the cradle to the classroom, and keeping them safe and secure,” the Study to Show Learning Academy embodies what community partnership is all about. By displaying and distributing *W.H.A.L.E. Check* flyers, they are helping families prioritize child passenger safety long before an emergency occurs.



We are grateful to partners like Study to Show Learning Academy for helping us move closer to Target Zero, because protecting children on our roadways is everyone's responsibility.

Transportation Maps Support Target Zero Outreach

In January, we offered the official State of Florida 2025 Transportation Maps to our CTST members, partners, and agencies to support education and outreach efforts across Northeast Florida. Thank you to all of our partners who are helping distribute these valuable resources and keep traffic safety top of mind throughout 2026.

The response was tremendous. We shipped **8,930 maps to 51 partners** throughout FDOT District Two. These updated FDOT Target Zero road maps do more than guide travelers, they include regional traffic safety tips that reinforce safe driving behaviors statewide. From occupant protection reminders to impaired-driving prevention messaging, the maps serve as practical tools to spark safety conversations.



9K maps
for District Two

Partner Spotlight: Columbia County Sheriff's Office and Crime Stoppers of Columbia County



Here's an excellent example of how partners are creatively incorporating traffic safety resources into community engagement efforts:

"On behalf of the **Crime Stoppers of Columbia County** Board of Directors, I want to thank you for donating 40 maps to the program. We provided gift bags to our tri-annual meeting attendees and included a map in each bag. So many people commented on how great it was to have one."

— Cindy Innocenti, Executive Assistant to the Sheriff, **Columbia County Sheriff's Office**

FDOT District Two Target Zero Team Highlights

Target Zero community outreach and events from the past two months, highlighted in a few photos showcasing these activities.

December:
Jags Game
Perry Christmas Parade
Christmas Coloring Pages
District meeting
Car Seat Check
Lake City Christmas Parade
Jags Game

January:
Jags Game
District Meeting





Planning Today for Safer Roads Tomorrow

SS4A Efforts Across FDOT District Two

Communities across Northeast Florida are taking important steps toward reducing traffic-related deaths and serious injuries through the [Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) (SS4A) program. Administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation and established through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, SS4A supports local and regional governments as they plan, test, and implement proven roadway safety strategies that protect all users (drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders).

How SS4A Works

SS4A funding supports communities at different stages of safety readiness through four primary phases:

- 
Action Plan – Development of a comprehensive Safety Action Plan that identifies high-injury networks, analyzes crash trends, and prioritizes safety strategies.
- 
Planning & Demonstration – Detailed analysis and quick-build or pilot projects to test safety countermeasures before permanent installation.
- 
Implementation – Design and construction of proven safety improvements identified in an adopted Action Plan.
- 
Supplemental Planning – Development or updates of Action Plans to advance readiness for future implementation.

SS4A Awardees in FDOT District Two Action Plan Grants:

- Alachua County
- City of Atlantic Beach
- City of Jacksonville
- City of Palatka
- Columbia County

Planning & Demonstration Grants:

- Alachua County / City of Gainesville
- City of Jacksonville
- City of Perry
- City of Williston
- Clay County Board of County Commissioners
- Levy County
- Madison County
- St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners
- Suwannee County
- University of Florida Board of Trustees

Implementation Grants:

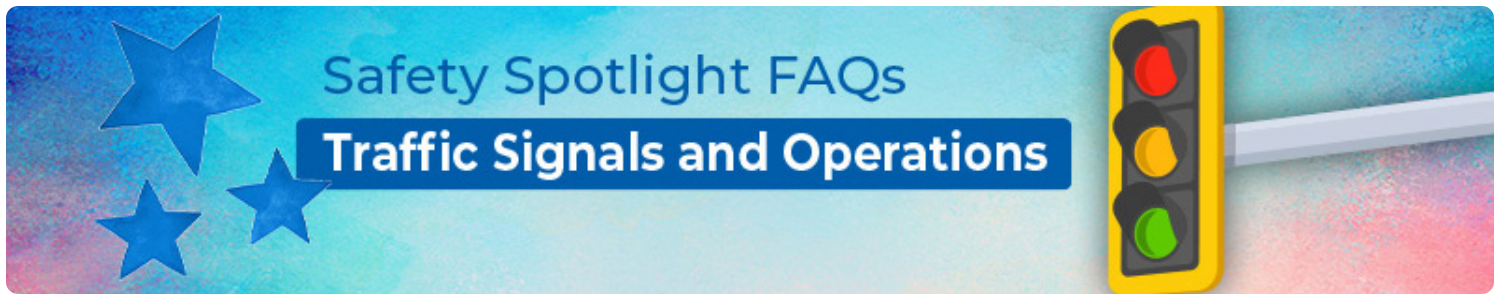
- City of Gainesville

Looking Ahead in Northeast Florida

As SS4A Action Plans are completed and demonstration projects advance, we look forward to seeing how these strategies translate into real-world safety improvements across Northeast Florida. Implementation of these plans will play a critical role in shaping safer, more connected communities for everyone who uses our roadways.

Counties, cities, universities, and partner agencies participating in SS4A are encouraged to engage with their local Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTSTs). We provide a collaborative forum to share progress, coordinate efforts, review data, and align local projects with districtwide and statewide safety goals. Together, through continued partnership and shared responsibility, we can move closer to Target Zero and ensure safer streets for all.





Traffic signals are among the most visible, and often misunderstood, features of our roadways. While they may seem simple, traffic signals are carefully engineered tools designed to reduce conflicts, manage traffic flow, and protect everyone who uses the road, including drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Traffic signals are an important component of the Safe System Approach, which recognizes that people make mistakes and that the transportation system must be designed to anticipate them and prevent serious injury or death. When properly planned, designed, and operated, traffic signals help create predictable movements, assign right-of-way, and reduce crash severity, helping everyone get where they're going safely.

Here are answers to a few of the most frequently asked questions about traffic signals.

Traffic Signal FAQs

How is it determined that a traffic signal is needed?

The jurisdiction (FDOT, county, or city) typically requires a formal engineering study conducted following the Manual of Uniform Traffic Controlled Devices (MUTCD) warrants. A warrant is a measurable criteria threshold that indicates when a signal may be appropriate. A signal is considered only when one or more warrants are met. Meeting or satisfying a warrant does not guarantee installation. Engineers must ensure that implementing a signal improves both operations and safety. In Florida, the FDOT Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) is required at state roadway intersections to determine the most appropriate traffic control strategy to be implemented, which may not necessarily be a traffic signal.

Why does installation take so long?

Installing a new traffic signal is a multi-step process that takes time because each phase must be completed in order. After approval, design and engineering reviews are conducted to ensure the signal layout, equipment, and roadway features meet required standards. Funding must then be identified and scheduled, which may involve placement in a future work program. Utility coordination is often needed to resolve conflicts with existing overhead or underground infrastructure. Signal equipment, including poles, mast arms, signal heads, and controllers, must be ordered and manufactured, a process that can take several months. After delivery, construction, inspection, and testing are performed to confirm safe and reliable operation. As a result, the full process often takes a year or more to complete.

What does a traffic signal cost?

A standard 4-leg traffic signal installation with 4 mast arms ranges between \$1.5 million and \$2.5 million, which includes traffic signal components, fiber connectivity, and necessary road work.

Does a traffic signal control speed?

No. Speed is controlled by posted limits, roadway design, and enforcement. Signals assign right-of-way. Some corridors are timed to support travel at the posted speed, but signals are not speed-control devices.

Want to Learn More?

Visit our [Traffic Signal FAQs](#) webpage for more answers, educational resources, and traffic safety information. Understanding how traffic signals work helps everyone travel more safely and supports a transportation system designed to protect all road users.



2025 DISTRICT TWO

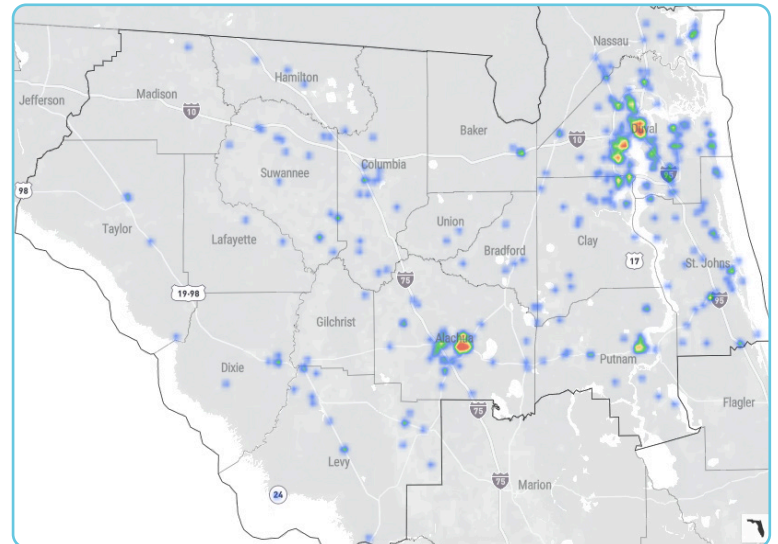
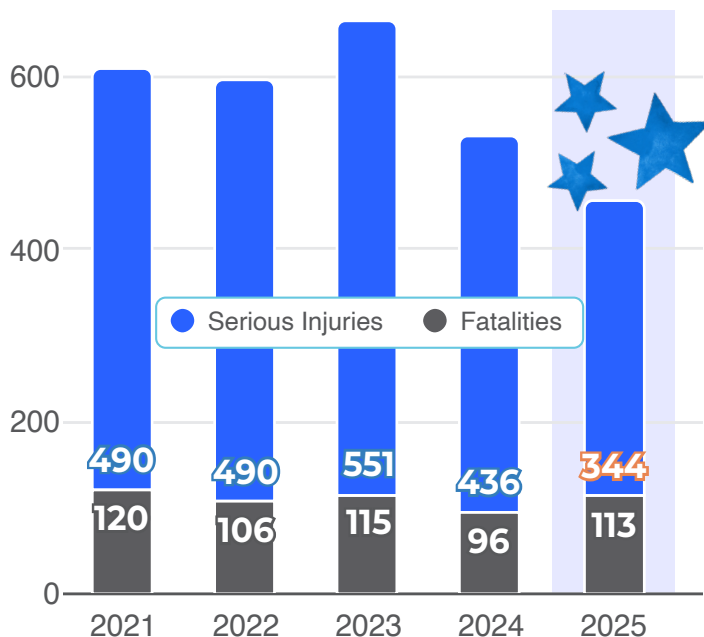
INTERSECTION CRASH FACTS



Using Data to Drive Safety in Northeast Florida

In January's Traffic Safety Team meetings, we reviewed county-specific intersection crash data using [Signal Four Analytics](#) to better understand trends, risk factors, and opportunities for improvement. Data-driven analysis supports engineering decisions, enforcement strategies, education campaigns, and emergency response improvements.

The total number of **intersection crashes declined**, from 18,864 in 2024 to 17,485 in 2025. While intersection fatalities across our 18 counties increased slightly, **serious injuries decreased by 21%** in 2025 compared to 2024.



Source: Signal Four Analytics. Crash data is from 01/01/2025 through 12/31/2025. Data was generated on 02/18/2026 and is subject to change.

Intersections are among the most complex and conflict-prone areas of the transportation system. Drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists all converge at these locations, where turning movements, lane changes, and signal timing require heightened attention. In Florida, intersections remain one of the top two locations for serious injury crashes.



Engineering That Saves Lives

FDOT District Two is using proven [intersection countermeasures](#) recommended by FHWA:

- **Roundabouts Reduce Severe Crashes.**
- **Backplates with Retroreflective Borders**
- **Left and Right Turn Lanes at Intersections Reduce Severe Crashes**
- **Well-Timed Yellow Change Intervals Reduce Red-Light Running**
- **Benefits of the Flashing Yellow Arrow Left Turn Signal**

A Districtwide Win in Reducing Intersection Crashes and Serious Injuries

This reduction in intersection crashes, and the overall drop in serious injuries, shows that our education, engineering, and enforcement efforts are working. The coordinated efforts of District Two's Traffic Safety Team, local agencies, and community partners are saving lives every day. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this milestone.

Roadway Concerns: Your Eyes on Safety



7
New issues
reported in
January

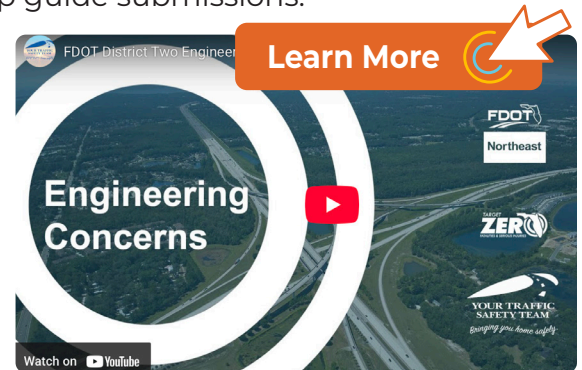
FDOT District Two Community Traffic Safety Teams actively review and address roadway safety concerns across our 18 counties. Each submission represents a member who took the time to speak up, and that proactive approach helps prevent crashes before they happen. Our [Engineering Concerns webpage](#) includes detailed information, examples, and a short video presentation to help guide submissions.

Most Common Concern Types

- Crash Analysis / Safety Studies
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Issues
- Traffic Signal Operations
- Signing & Pavement Markings
- Speeding & Speed Zones
- Maintenance & Construction
- School Traffic & School Zones

Reviewed through the lens of the 4 E's of Traffic Safety:

- Engineering
- Education
- Enforcement
- Emergency Services



Submit a Concern



You are uniquely positioned to identify potential hazards. Missing signs, faded pavement markings, visibility issues, signal timing concerns, or roadway design challenges can all impact safety. If you notice a roadway safety issue, please complete our brief [online reporting form](#). Together, we can identify risks early, implement solutions, and move closer to Target Zero with safer roads for everyone.

TEAM MEETINGS:

St. Johns / Putnam

2/10/26 • 3/10/26 • 4/14/26 @ 1:30 PM

Columbia / Hamilton Lafayette / Suwannee

2/17/26 • 3/17/26 • 4/21/26 @ 10:30 AM

Duval

2/18/26 • 3/18/26 • 4/15/26 @ 10:00 AM

Clay

2/18/26 • 3/18/26 • 4/15/26 @ 2:00 PM

Alachua / Dixie / Gilchrist Levy / Madison / Taylor

2/19/26 • 3/19/26 • 4/16/26 @ 10:00 AM

Nassau / Bradford / Baker / Union

3/24/26 • 5/26/26 @ 10:30 AM

Team meetings are virtual and subject to change.

Traffic Safety Events & Campaigns:

FEBRUARY

Hit and Run Awareness Month
2/22-28 National Engineers Week
2/28 FY 2027 Safety Grant (Concept Paper Due)

MARCH

Florida Bicycle Month
3/1-31 Spring Break - Never Drive Impaired
3/1-7 Women in Construction Week
3/8 Spring Forward - Daylight Savings Begins
3/17 St. Patrick's Day - Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving
3/30 **Duval Traffic Safety Team's 31st Anniversary!**

APRIL

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month
4/1 National Walking Day
4/6-13 National Enforcement Mobilization -
Put the Phone Away or Pay
4/20-24 National Work Zone Awareness Week
4/20 Drug-Impaired Driving Campaign
4/25 **Clay Traffic Safety Team's 26th Anniversary!**
4/28 **Alachua Traffic Safety Team's 32nd Anniversary!**



TrafficSafetyTeam.org

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[x](#) [p](#) [in](#) [@TrafficSafetyFL](#)