



TRAFFIC SAFETY TALK

YOUR TRAFFIC
SAFETY TEAM
Bringing you home safely.



FDOT District Two Community Traffic Safety Program
Target Zero News Update • June 2026 • Issue 2

Traffic Safety Team Partner Connections

Growing Outreach and Community Engagement

Traffic Safety Teams across FDOT District Two continue to build strong partnerships and expand outreach efforts throughout Northeast Florida. Through community events, school programs, safety campaigns, and local initiatives, our partners help promote a culture of safety on our roadways.

In the past 12 months, we have distributed over **172,850 traffic safety materials** to our team members and partners. By working together and engaging families, students, and communities through educational resources and positive messaging, we continue to help build lifelong safe habits and support Florida's Target Zero goal.

St. Johns County Tax Collector

Much appreciation to the Office of Jennifer Ravan, Tax Collector for St. Johns County, for supporting traffic safety education throughout the community. Whitney Kersey Graves, CFCA, Chief Personnel and Performance Officer, recently shared photos of our **Life Is a Highway** traffic safety poster series displayed in all four St. Johns County Tax Collector's Office locations. They feature local, scenic imagery paired with meaningful safety messages that encourage drivers to slow down, buckle up, stay focused, and make safe choices behind the wheel.



River City Science Academy Southeast

A big thank you to **River City Science Academy Southeast** in Duval County for helping promote pedestrian visibility and traffic safety awareness among students. School Engagement Specialist Amelia Amarrador recently shared photos of students proudly wearing reflective, red flashing button lights provided through the FDOT District Two Community Traffic Safety Program.

In a message to our team, Ms. Amarrador shared, "Thank you very much again for making our students safer!" The school also highlighted the effort on social media and encouraged families to learn more about Florida's **Target Zero** goal of reducing serious injuries and fatalities.

Community partners like River City Science Academy Southeast are vital for reinforcing safe walking habits and increasing visibility for students in and around school zones. Thank you!

Traffic Safety Team Partner Spotlights



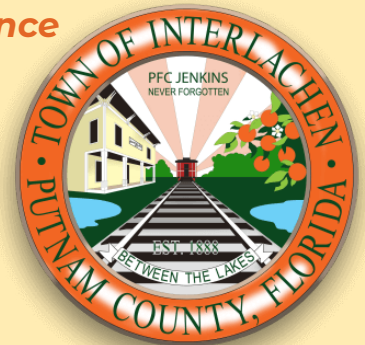
Clay County Health Department

A special thank you to the **Florida Department of Health in Clay County** for their continued partnership and dedication to child passenger safety. Recently, Health Educator and Health Liaison Kyerstin Meeks shared appreciation for Traffic Safety Team member Holly Walker and her outstanding outreach efforts supporting local car seat check events throughout the month.

They help connect parents and caregivers with valuable education, proper car seat guidance, and hands-on support. Thank you for helping protect our youngest passengers and making traffic safety a priority in Northeast Florida.

Partnerships and Positive Messages Make a Difference

Joni Payne, Town Clerk for the **Town of Interlachen**, recently shared a thoughtful "Thank You" message recognizing ongoing traffic safety education efforts across Northeast Florida. **"I just want to give a shout-out to the team for driver safety education initiatives. Between the commercials & the messages on the interstates that have crossed my path, the content that is being delivered is awesome!! Thank you for your dedication!!"**



We appreciate the kind words and support from community partners like Joni. Positive feedback reminds us that education and outreach efforts are making an impact.



City of St. Augustine Beach

The **City of St. Augustine Beach** is helping promote traffic safety by displaying free educational materials in the City Hall corridor for public access. Available resources include our E-Bike + E-Scooter Safety Tips brochure, which encourages safer riding habits, as well as traffic safety activity books featuring reminders about occupant protection, pedestrian safety, bicycle and helmet safety, ATV safety, and school bus safety.

Thank you to City Engineer Jason Sparks and the City of St. Augustine Beach for supporting traffic safety education and helping increase community awareness through these valuable outreach efforts.



Traffic Safety Fun and Education for All Ages

New Activity Book Contains Our Most Popular Games and Coloring Pages



As we continue working toward Florida's Target Zero goal, educating all road users is an important step toward keeping everyone safe. By promoting safe behaviors early and often, we can help make traffic safety second nature for people of all ages.

We're excited to introduce our new *Mega Traffic Safety Mega Activity Book – Fun for All Ages!* This free resource combines

some of our most popular coloring pages, mazes, trivia, word games, and educational activities from throughout the years into one comprehensive book.

Designed for school-age children, families, caregivers, educators, and community partners, the activity book provides an engaging way to learn and reinforce important traffic safety messages for drivers, passengers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other roadway users.

Topics include:

- Occupant protection and seat belt safety
- Child passenger safety
- Pedestrian safety
- Bicycle and helmet safety
- ATV and off-road vehicle safety
- School bus safety

66,170
activity books shipped
in the last 12 months

Whether you're planning a community event, classroom activity, safety fair, library program, or family outreach initiative, this fun and educational resource can help spark conversations about making safer choices on and around our roadways.

Copies are available to District Two partners and agencies at no cost while supplies last.

Help us reach kids, parents, caregivers, educators, and community members throughout Northeast Florida by sharing these valuable traffic safety messages. Don't forget to send photo(s) of the activity books being handed out at events, on display, or with you and your team.

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

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Be Tough Enough to Buckle Up

In our ongoing efforts to encourage drivers and passengers to buckle up, we continue to include occupant protection messages across all our materials. We've designed specific tip cards to address this key emphasis area and have distributed 30,000 of them over the last year.

Occupants in pickup trucks continue to wear seat belts less often than occupants in other vehicle types. According to the 2025 Florida Safety Belt Use Survey, pickup truck occupants had a seat belt use rate of 84.5%, well below the statewide average. To help address this issue, we refreshed our rural "Buckle Up In Your Truck" occupant protection tip cards and offer them free of charge for outreach and education efforts across Northeast Florida, while supplies last.

These occupant protection materials are used for:

- High school and driver education programs
- Local business and partner displays
- Law enforcement campaigns
- Click It or Ticket mobilization activities
- Community outreach and events

Pickup trucks are common on rural roads, where crashes are often more severe and emergency response times may be longer. Buckling up remains one of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce serious injuries and fatalities.



30K+
occupant protection
tip cards

2025 Safety Belt Use in Florida

Florida's statewide safety belt use rate for 2025 is 90.8 percent, a slight improvement from the 2024 result of 90.0 percent. This annual statewide survey provides an estimate of safety belt usage, not official county rates. However, these rates remain helpful as reference points for tracking changes over time.

Three counties in our 18-county FDOT District Two are surveyed every year. In 2025, of the statewide total of 31,545 Observed Front-Seat Occupants (including drivers and passengers), 4,669 were observed in Alachua, Duval, and St. Johns. **We are pleased to share that all three had increased usage, and Alachua exceeded the statewide average.**

Northeast Florida 2025 Survey Results

Alachua County 91.4% (up from 90.6% in 2024)

Duval County 87.7 (up from 86.5% in 2024)

St Johns County 87.9% (up slightly from 87.5% in 2024)



The results indicate that pickup truck occupants, male passengers, occupants aged 16-34, and black occupants remain low-usage groups. Help support the upcoming 2026 Safety Belt Survey in Alachua, Duval, and St. Johns counties by promoting Buckle Up messages. We thank all our team members and agencies for their commitment to improving occupant protection and traffic safety.

Smart Moves for Safer Rides

Electric bikes and e-scooters continue to grow in popularity across Northeast Florida, especially among younger riders traveling through neighborhoods and to and from school. As use increases, education and safety awareness remain a priority concern for our communities.

To support outreach and education efforts, we are excited to offer our NEW folded “E-Bike + E-Scooter Safety Tips” bi-fold flyers at no cost to District Two Traffic Safety Team members, agencies, schools, and community partners. [Click here to order online while supplies last.](#)

Encourage safer riding habits and smarter choices, including:

- Helmet use and visibility
- Riding responsibly and obeying laws
- Slowing down around pedestrians
- Hand signals and safe passing
- Staying alert and distraction-free
- Courtesy and shared responsibility on roads, sidewalks, and shared paths

The handout encourages riders to “Ride Smart” by promoting safe behaviors that help prevent crashes and injuries.



These materials are great for:

- Community outreach events
- School safety fairs
- Bicycle and pedestrian rodeos
- Summer camps and youth programs
- Law enforcement and education efforts
- Libraries, recreation centers, and neighborhood programs

Legislative Update on Micromobility

Florida lawmakers have approved the E-Bicycle Safety Act (CS/SB 382), which is awaiting the Governor's signature. If enacted, the legislation would establish new statewide safety requirements for e-bike riders beginning July 1, 2026:

- Yield to pedestrians on shared-use paths.
- Use an audible signal before passing pedestrians.
- Limit speed to 10 mph on sidewalks when pedestrians are within 50 feet.
- Violations are non-moving infractions.
- Law enforcement agencies must track and report e-bike crashes.
- The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to publish a statewide e-bike crash report in October 2026.

These measures aim to reduce conflicts between e-bike riders and pedestrians while promoting safer shared use of sidewalks and pathways.

We encourage you to help spread this important safety message throughout your community. Working together, we can improve awareness, encourage responsible riding habits, and help keep bicyclists and pedestrians safe.



18,775
e-bike safety materials
distributed since last May

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to e-bike safety. **Please don't forget to send photo(s) of the materials on display or being distributed.** We love pictures featuring team members or students.

For additional resources, materials, news, and updates, [visit our E-Bike Safety webpage.](#)





As more communities add bicycle lanes, shared-use paths, buffered lanes, and other bicycle facilities, understanding how these features operate is important for everyone using Florida's roadways. To help improve awareness and reduce confusion, the Community Traffic Safety Program recently released two new Safety Spotlight FAQ sheets focused on Bicycle Facilities and Bicyclists: Rules of the Road.

The FAQs explain common roadway features, including bicycle lanes, protected bike lanes, sharrows, dashed merge areas near intersections, green pavement markings, and shared-use paths. They also clarify frequently misunderstood bicycle laws, including passing requirements, where bicyclists should ride, lighting and helmet laws, and why bicyclists may sometimes ride in the center of a travel lane.

This topic also supports the Safe System Approach, which recognizes that people make mistakes and that roadway systems should help reduce the risk of serious injuries and fatalities. Bicycle facilities improve visibility, organize movement, and help reduce conflicts between bicyclists, motorists, and pedestrians.

Here are answers to a few frequently asked questions about Bicycle Facilities and Laws.

What is a bicycle lane, and who should use it?

A striped portion of the roadway marked with bicycle symbols for bicyclist use only.

 Use the bike lane when traveling slower than traffic unless avoiding hazards, preparing for a turn, or when conditions require leaving the lane. Travel in the same direction as traffic.

 Do not drive or park in the bicycle lane. You may cross it when turning or entering a driveway, but you must yield to bicyclists traveling within the lane before turning.

What is a sharrow?

A bicycle symbol with double chevrons placed in a travel lane to indicate that bicyclists may use the full lane.

 Position yourself near the marking to improve visibility and reduce door opening risk from parked vehicles.

 Expect bicyclists in the travel lane. Do not attempt to pass within the same narrow lane. Provide at least three feet of clearance when overtaking.



Where should a bicyclist ride on the roadway?

When traveling slower than the normal speed of traffic and a bike lane exists, bicyclists should ride in the designated bike lane. If no bike lane exists, they must ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. "Practicable" means reasonable under the conditions, and cyclists may leave the right edge to avoid hazards, pass another vehicle, prepare for a left turn, or when the lane is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to travel side by side safely.

What equipment is required on a bicycle?

Florida law requires:

- **Brakes** capable of stopping the bicycle within 25 feet from 10 mph on dry, level pavement.
- A **white front light** visible from at least 500 feet, a **red rear light**, and a **reflector** visible from at least 600 feet between sunset and sunrise.
- A bicycle may only carry the number of riders for which it is designed and equipped.

Are helmets required?

Yes, for riders under age 16, they must wear a properly fitted, securely fastened helmet that meets recognized safety standards. Helmet use is strongly encouraged for all ages.

Learn more and view the full FAQs at:
trafficsafetyteam.org/bicycle-faqs

Multi-Lane Roundabouts Can Be Tricky

Multi-lane roundabouts can improve traffic flow and reduce severe crashes, but they can also create confusion for both bicyclists and motorists. Brian Benwick, a traffic safety advocate and North Florida Bicycle Club member shared insights from a real-world experience that sparked discussion about right-of-way, lane positioning, and yielding in multi-lane roundabouts.

The article highlights key safety principles, explains common misconceptions, and provides practical tips for navigating roundabouts safely whether you are riding a bicycle or driving a vehicle. Readers will also find links to helpful FDOT and Federal Highway Administration resources for learning more about roundabout design, operations, and safety.

We hope you find this article helpful in understanding how to safely share the road and navigate multi-lane roundabouts with confidence. Read the full article and access additional resources on our blog: [Multi-Lane Roundabouts Can Be Tricky, by Brian Benwick](#)



Traffic Safety Team Member Spotlights

North Florida Bicycle Club – The North Florida Bicycle Club members regularly participate in Traffic Safety Team meetings, bringing valuable cycling experience, roadway knowledge, and a strong commitment to safety for all road users. We would like to recognize Clay Traffic Safety Team members **Brian Benwick** and **Jeff Hohlstein**, Duval Traffic Safety Team member **Tyler Blair**, and St. Johns Traffic Safety Team member **Mark Sekelsky**. These dedicated advocates consistently attend meetings, contribute thoughtful insights, submit roadway concerns, and help educate others about traffic safety issues affecting bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists alike. Their positive attitudes and commitment to improving transportation safety make a meaningful difference in our communities.



Holly Walker, PE, RSP, CPM – Congratulations to longtime Traffic Safety Team member and advocate Holly Walker on being recognized as the **Florida AARP Smart Driver Volunteer of the Year!** Holly continues to make a lasting impact across FDOT District Two through her dedication to education, engineering, and community outreach. She regularly attends Traffic Safety Team meetings, assists with engineering concerns, and shares her expertise to help improve roadway safety throughout Northeast Florida. Holly also plays a key role in the Child Passenger Safety and CarFit programs by leading training sessions, assisting with community events, and helping to connect families and older drivers with lifesaving resources. Her passion, professionalism, and commitment to public safety continue to inspire partners across the state.

CarFit Education and Events Making an Impact



CarFit education and outreach efforts continue expanding across FDOT District Two as community partners, healthcare professionals, educators, and traffic safety advocates work together to help older drivers stay safe and comfortable behind the wheel.

CarFit is an educational program that helps drivers properly adjust their vehicles for safety and comfort by reviewing seat position, mirrors, steering wheel distance, visibility, and other important driving factors.

Expanding CarFit at UF Health Jacksonville – In February, Duval Traffic Safety Team member Rebecca Melvin, Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator with **UF Health Jacksonville**, attended CarFit Technician Training and quickly participated in her first CarFit event at Fleet Landing later that month. Her next goal is to become an Event Coordinator and help train future technicians at UF Health Jacksonville.



Building the Future of CarFit Through Education

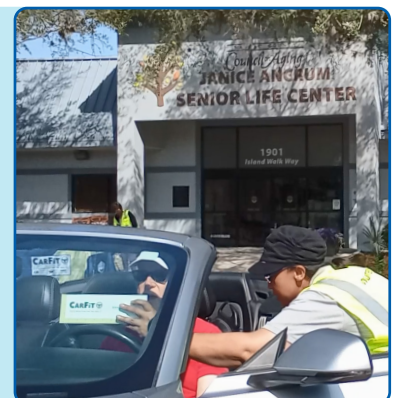
In March, longtime Traffic Safety Team member Holly Walker, PE, RSP, CPM, led CarFit training sessions with students and professors in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program at the School of Applied Health Sciences, Brooks Rehabilitation College of Healthcare Sciences, **Jacksonville University**. The hands-on training introduced students to CarFit principles and encouraged future involvement in community traffic safety efforts. Program leaders are now planning an upcoming CarFit event and hope to incorporate CarFit into part of their occupational therapy curriculum.

Activity Across FDOT District Two

From January through May 2026, District Two partners supported **25 CarFit events, one-on-one sessions, technician trainings, and virtual coordinator trainings across Alachua, Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties**. Outreach efforts involved healthcare partners, fire rescue personnel, occupational therapy students, hospitals, and community volunteers working together to expand education and increase access to CarFit resources throughout Northeast Florida.



Team member Holly Walker hosted a CarFit event at the **Nassau County Council on Aging** in April. Each participant received an individualized one-on-one vehicle fit check to help improve comfort and safety.



FDOT District Two Target Zero Team Highlights



Target Zero community outreach and events focused on saving lives in Northeast Florida:

- **Construction Career Days (CCD)**
- **Women of Transportation (WOT) Equipment Expo**
- **Transportation Day**
- **University of Florida (UF) Bike/Ped Outreach**
- **Battle of the Belts (BOB) Outreach in Alachua and Columbia**
P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School
Ft. White High School
Columbia High School (CHS)
- **University of Florida's Spring Break Safety Fair**
- **Safe Driving Presentation**
- **Gainesville Driving School**
- **Touch a Truck**
- **D2 Staff Meeting**
- **UF Scooter**
- **Free Kids Academy**
- **Summer Safety Summit**



Florida's 2026 SHSP Coming Soon

The Florida Department of Transportation is preparing to release the updated 2026 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) this summer. The plan serves as Florida's roadmap for reducing crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities while advancing the Target Zero vision of eliminating traffic deaths on all public roads.



Based on daily averages between 2019 and 2023.

District Two Traffic Safety Team members have contributed ideas, strategies, and innovations to help shape the new plan, which is built on the Safe System Approach. This approach recognizes that people make mistakes and focuses on creating a transportation system that helps prevent those mistakes from resulting in serious outcomes. To learn more, scan the QR code or visit fdot.gov/Safety/shsp/2026SHSP



Helping Make Northeast Florida Roads Safer

FDOT District Two Community Traffic Safety Teams actively address roadway safety concerns across our 18 counties. They are reviewed through the lens of the 4 E's: engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency services.

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

385
concerns investigated
over the last year

Submit a Concern



TEAM MEETINGS:

St. Johns / Putnam

6/9/26 · 7/14/26 · 8/11/26 @ 1:30 PM

Columbia / Hamilton Lafayette / Suwannee

6/16/26 · 7/21/26 · 8/18/26 @ 10:30 AM

Duval

6/17/26 · 7/15/26 · 8/19/26 @ 10:00 AM

Clay

6/17/26 · 7/15/26 · 8/19/26 @ 2:00 PM

Alachua / Dixie / Gilchrist Levy / Madison / Taylor

6/18/26 · 7/16/26 · 8/20/26 @ 10:00 AM

Nassau / Bradford / Baker / Union

7/28/26 · 9/22/26 @ 10:30 AM

Team meetings are virtual and subject to change.

Traffic Safety Events & Campaigns:

JUNE

6/1 - 7/31 Safe Summer Travel

6/6 National Secure Your Load Day

6/9 National Ride to Work Day

6/26 **St. Johns Traffic Safety Team's 29th Anniversary!**

JULY

National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month

7/4 Independence Day, Impaired Driving Campaign

7/12-18 Operation Safe Driver Week

7/13-18 Operation Southern Slow Down

AUGUST

Back to School Safety Month

8/2-8 National Stop on Red Week

8/19 - 9/7 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Mobilization

8/21 **Columbia/Hamilton/Lafayette/Suwannee**

Traffic Safety Team's 29th Anniversary!



TrafficSafetyTeam.org



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