ISSUE No. 10, APRIL 2025
FDOT DISTRICT SIX - TRAFFIC OPERATIONS - SAFETY NEWSLETTER

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

FDOT
DISTRICT SIX - TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

FDOT PARTNERS WITH UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI FOR ANNUAL SAFETY FAIR

Raising awareness about the dangers of distracted driving

On February 9, 2025, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six teamed up with the University of Miami (UM) for their Annual Safety Fair Day, an event dedicated to educating students on critical safety topics. The fair brought together multiple law enforcement agencies and organizations to provide hands-on demonstrations and valuable safety tips.

Students had the opportunity to engage with safety partners, including the University of Miami Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol (FHP). One impactful activity featured FHP officers guiding students through a straight-line walk while wearing impairment simulation goggles—demonstrating just how difficult even simple tasks become under the influence. The Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) also participated, sharing key transportation safety information and highlighting various safety projects.

District Six's Put It Down campaign featured key safety messages and public service announcements prominently at the event to raise awareness about the risks of distracted driving. Our team encouraged students to stay focused behind the wheel, put down their phones, and eliminate distractions. Watch the video below to see why students, UM staff and law enforcement think that distraction-free driving is important.

Check out the event recap video

WATCH THE VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QVZDy0QjbY

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

NEW RAISED CROSSWALK INSTALLED ON COLLINS AVENUE TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

SR A1A/Collins Avenue from Harbour Way West to south of Bal Bay Drive

To address ongoing safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists, FDOT installed a **new raised crosswalk along SR A1A/Collins Avenue from Harbour Way West to just south of Bal Bay Drive**. This is part of a broader effort to reduce vehicular speed and to improve the visibility of pedestrians and bicycles crossing at that location.

Key Improvements:

- Raised crosswalk designed will increase pedestrian visibility and reduce vehicle speeds.
- Installation of **Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)** will alert drivers to pedestrians at the crosswalk.
- Upgraded pavement markings and sidewalk improvements will enhance accessibility and safety.

Why it matters: A safety study of the area revealed that many motorists failed to slow down or yield to pedestrians and bicycles—resulting in multiple bicycle crashes, including one fatality. The raised crosswalk, paired with flashing beacons, is engineered to encourage drivers to slow down and yield to pedestrians.

CITIZEN REQUESTS

The FDOT District Six Traffic Operations Office continues to investigate requests for new or enhanced pedestrian crossings, sidewalks, and school zone signage submitted by citizens, elected officials, and local municipalities in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

This is achieved through the Correspondence Tracking Program (CTP), a system that manages and documents requests from citizens who recommend improvements to the state's roads. The CTP system documents field observations, crash history data, pedestrian counts, and road conditions to generate reports and data used to identify potential safety and operational improvements.

6

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Concerns were raised about uncontrolled crosswalks with minimal safety measures at offset intersections along a multi-lane road.

0

SCHOOL ZONE

Inquiries included concern about traffic congestion and safety during drop-off and pick-up times.

2

CROSSING FEATURES

Inquiries included concern regarded collisions involving pedestrians and bicycles when they entered a roadway outside of a marked crosswalk.

If you have pedestrian or bicycle safety concerns, contact Eduardo Hernandez, Bike & Pedestrian Traffic Specialist, at eduardo.hernandez@dot.state.fl.us or at 305-470-5467.
We will get back to you as soon as possible.

CAMPAIGN SNAPSHOTS

Introducing Two New Put It Down Mini-PSAs

As part of our ongoing effort to promote safe driving behaviors, FDOT has released two new Put It Down mini-PSAs (Public Service Announcements). These powerful reminders emphasize the dangers of distracted driving and the shared responsibility we all have in preventing crashes.

A Split Second – It Only Takes One Moment to Change Everything

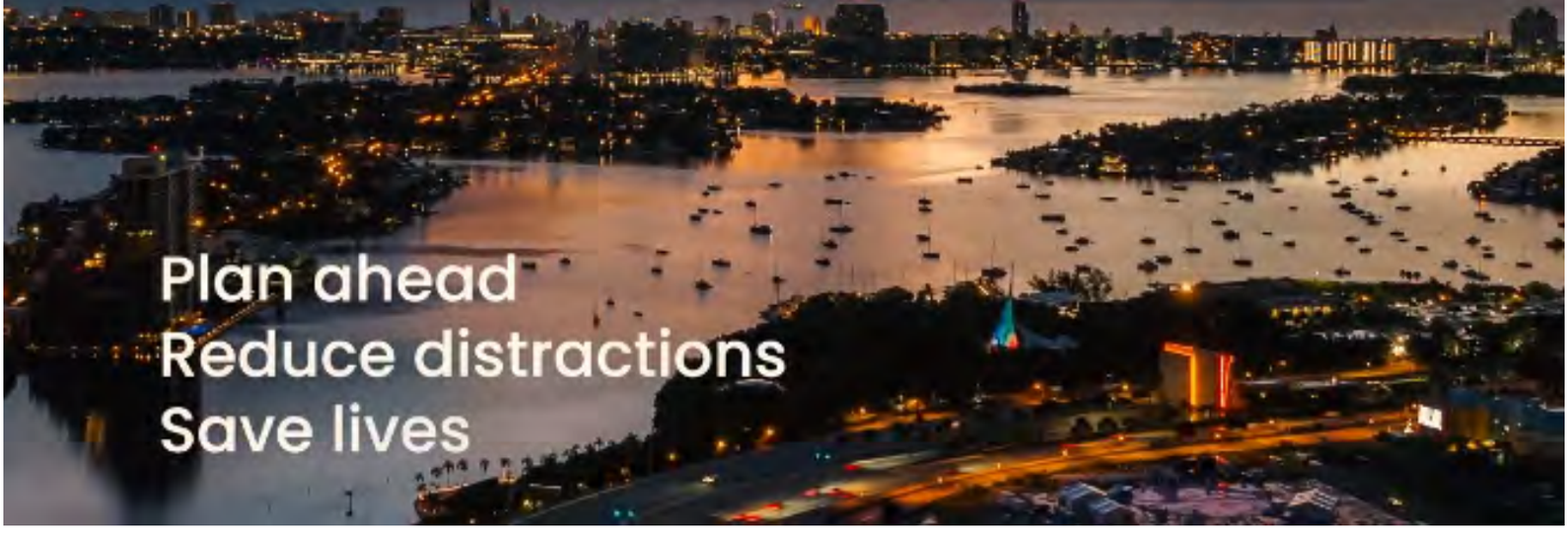
Distractions don’t just put you at risk—they endanger everyone on the road. A Split Second highlights how quickly lives can be altered when focus is lost, whether behind the wheel or at home. We’re reminding the public that texting a loved one who is driving makes you part of the problem, too. Distractions come from both ends, and everyone has a role to play in preventing them.

Before you pick up the phone, ask yourself: Is this text worth the risk? Set your phone to "Driving Mode" and encourage others to do the same. Put it Down. It Can Wait!

The PSA (Public Service Announcements) is now live on @MyFDOTMiami and has been shared across other social media platforms and various e-blasts.

WATCH THE PSA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laSXg324KRU



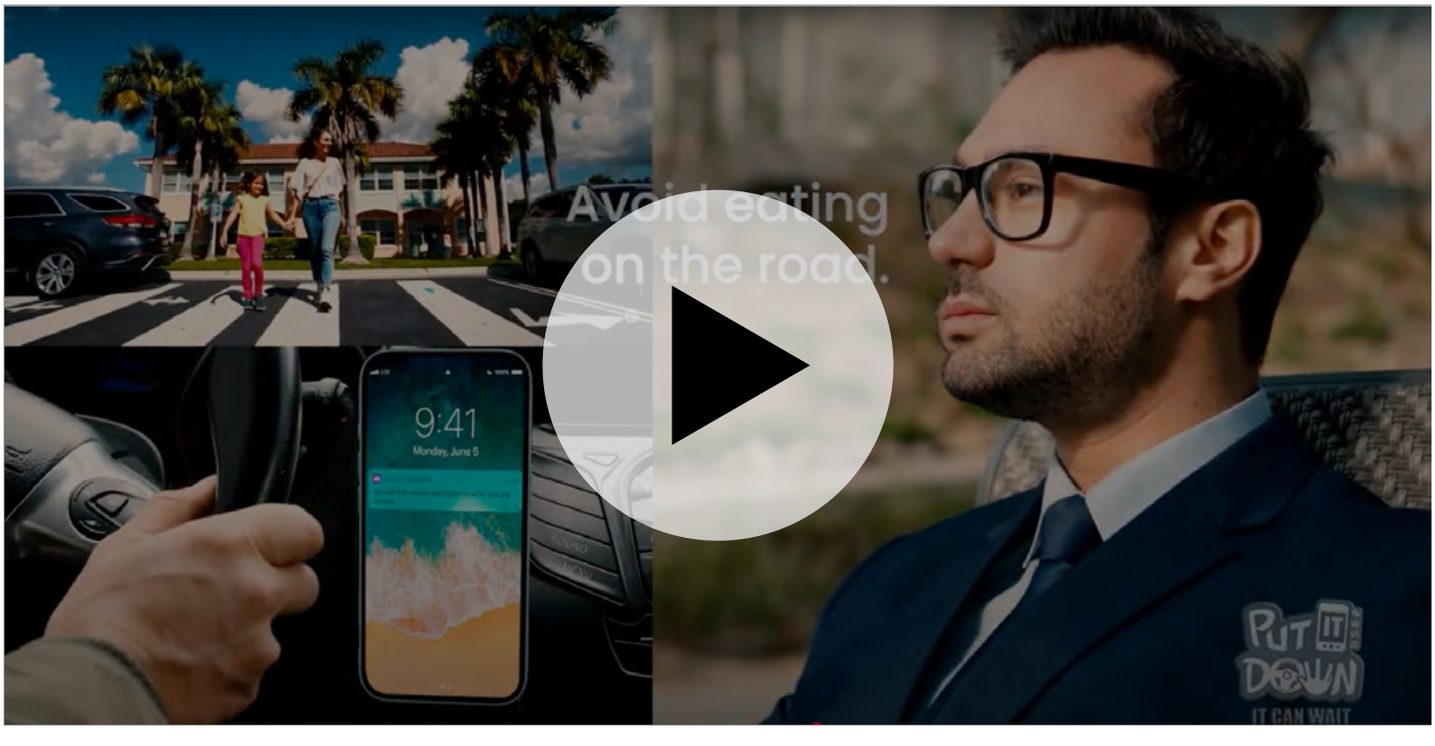
Before You Drive – Plan Ahead, Drive Distraction-Free

Distractions start before you even hit the road. Rushing out the door, grabbing a quick bite, or checking that last text can lead to dangerous habits behind the wheel. Before You Drive urges drivers to take control of their commute with simple yet effective habits:

- Leave 10 minutes earlier for a stress-free drive.
- Set your phone to “Driving Mode” before you go.
- Avoid eating on the road—your focus belongs on driving.
- Plan your route in advance to stay alert

A little preparation goes a long way in keeping you and others safe. Stay focused. Stay responsible. Put it Down!

The PSA (Public Service Announcements) is now live on @MyFDOTMiami and has been shared across other social media platforms and various e-blasts.



WATCH THE PSA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2wTQrME0bw

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

MIAMI POLICE VLOG

INTRODUCING MIAMI PD'S NEW "GHOSTED" TAHOE

The Miami Police Department unveiled a specially-designed "ghosted" Chevy Tahoe dedicated to their new traffic and DUI enforcement team. With subtle, reflective "ghost" decals and concealed emergency lights, this vehicle blends into traffic until activated.

Equipped with an on-board Intoxilyzer for roadside DUI processing, it significantly improves enforcement efficiency. Watch the full tour and see the vehicle in action here:

WATCH THE VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zAwhMbxtE8

COMING SOON

NEW SPEED ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS IN OPA-LOCKA SCHOOL ZONES

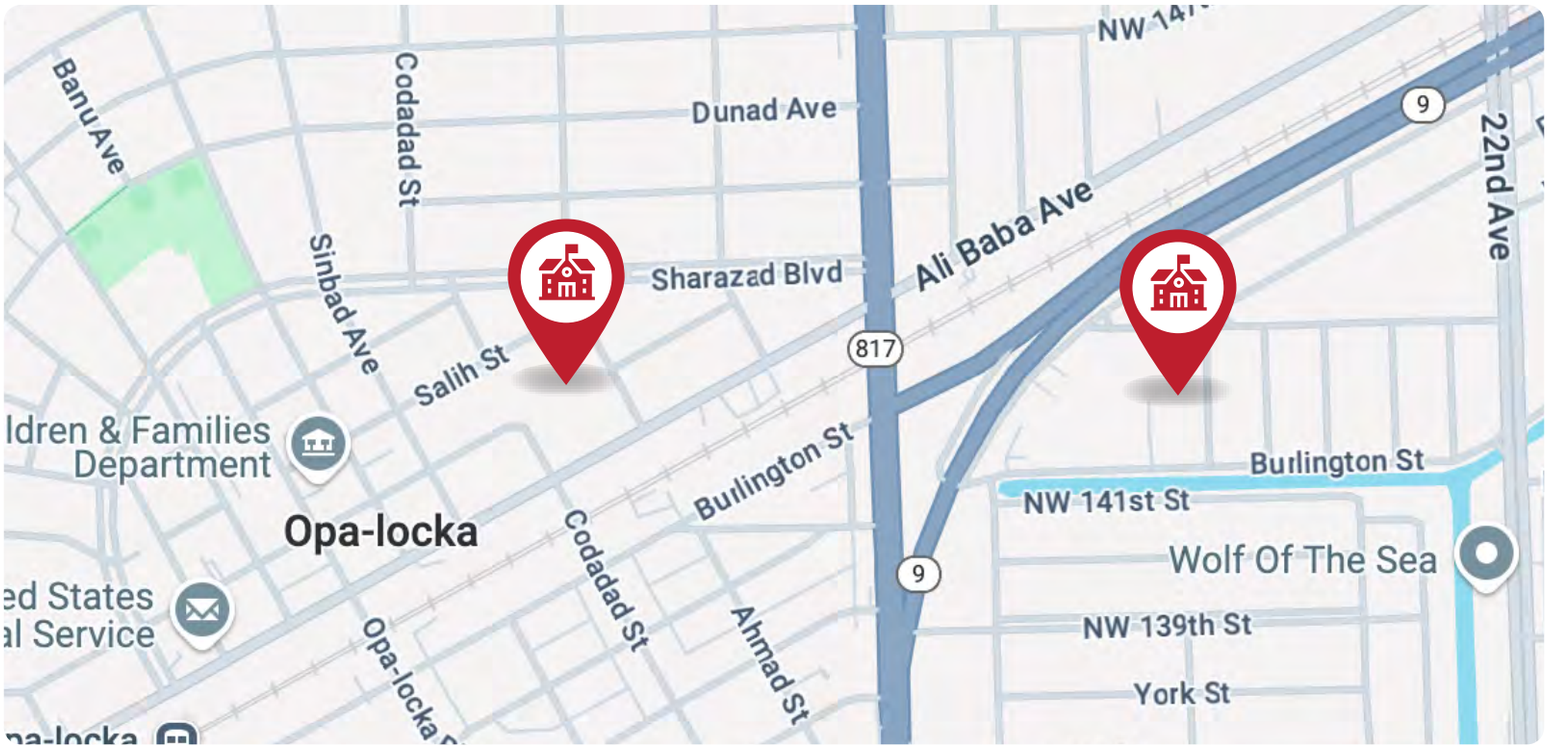
To prioritize student safety, the City of Opa-Locka will implement new speed camera enforcement program near several local schools within their municipality. The cameras target speeding in designated school zones and operate during specific weekday hours when children are arriving and leaving school.

Remember: The posted school zone speed limit is 15 mph. Outside school zone hours, regular speed limits apply. Drive carefully and help keep our children and school zones safe!

Here is what is coming to the area:

Robert B. Ingram Elementary (Ali Baba Ave)
Monday to Friday: 7:15 AM – 8:45 AM, 1:45 PM – 4:30 PM
Wednesdays only: Additional enforcement from 2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Nathan B. Young Elementary (Burlington St)
Monday to Friday: 7:15 AM – 8:45 AM, 1:45 PM – 4:30 PM
Wednesdays only: Additional enforcement from 1:45 PM – 2:15 PM



EVENTS

LIFE'S A MASTERPIECE, DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE

On February 15, 2025, our Put It Down Campaign was featured at the Coconut Grove Art Festival. This is an annual cultural event that is celebrated in Coconut Grove displaying fine artwork from over 280 world-renowned artists. Over 100,000 attendees participated in live music, culinary expos, and family-friendly activities.

FDOT hosted a booth at the event to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving. As part of the campaign, the team created a powerful message: "**Life's a Masterpiece, Don't Text and Drive**." highlighting the overall goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries across the state of Florida.

Photographed From Left to Right (Lesly Amortegui, Grace Rodriguez and Tatiana Wong)

Our booth also featured a children's station with traffic safety coloring workbooks, crayons, stickers, and temporary tattoos.

Additionally, we offered a photobooth with custom props and safety messages.

Attendees interacted with a large map showcasing a high-incident area in the nearby community, where they could place dot stickers on locations they frequently visit. Each sticker's color represented a different mode of transportation—drive, walk, bike, micromobility, or public transit—providing us with valuable insight into local travel patterns.

The event was a tremendous success. Our team distributed thousands of informational and promotional materials while sparking meaningful conversations about distracted driving and road safety in our communities.

To see the team in action, watch our video reel:

WATCH THE VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/egHtnj5rhMk

PROMOTING ROAD SAFETY: FDOT PARTNERS WITH MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY PRESENTATIONS

Shieda Castillo speaking at South Miami Senior High School

As part of an ongoing collaboration organized by “Juan Martin” with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Ms. Shieda Castillo, Community Safety Traffic Specialist, conducted important traffic safety presentations at South Miami Senior High School on January 17, 2025, and at Terra Environmental Research Institute on January 30th.

These presentations, supported by multiple agency partners such as University of Miami, Walk Safe, Bike Safe program and Mothers Against Drunk Driving, provided valuable information on staying safe on the roads—whether driving, biking, walking, or using other modes of transportation.

These events are a crucial part of our efforts to engage and educate young people, one of the most vulnerable demographics on the road. By reaching students directly, we are taking vital steps to ensure the safety of our youth in our communities and helping them make safer choices while navigating our roadways.

PEDALING TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE AT BIKE TO WORKDAY

Photographed left to right: Valter Batista, Yenia Morales, William Abin, District Six Secretary Daniel Iglesias, Andres Berisiartu, District Six Former Secretary Stacy Miller, Shieda Castillo, Enmanuel Espinal, Mario Cabrera and Rory Feinberg.

On March 7, 2025, District Six participated in the annual **Bike to Work day** event, hosted by Bike305!. The day is focused on promoting sustainable transportation, healthier lifestyles, and a cleaner environment. This initiative encourages commuters to swap their cars for bicycles, reducing traffic congestion and carbon emissions.

Communities celebrated with group rides, free bike check-ups, and interactive activities, highlighting the benefits of cycling as a fun, eco-friendly, and practical commuting alternative. The Department was thrilled to take part in this movement, engaging with participants and reinforcing the importance of safe, sustainable travel.

ENHANCING SENIOR DRIVER SAFETY WITH CARFIT

Photographed Left to Right: Sandra Block and Shieda Castillo

On March 22, 2025, District Six teamed up with Sandra Block from the Sunny Isles Police Department for a CarFit event, a vital initiative by the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition which focuses on senior driver safety. While much attention is given to external road hazards, it's equally important to ensure drivers are properly positioned within their vehicles to maximize safety.

CarFit is a free education program designed to help drivers improve the "fit" of their vehicles for comfort and safety.

This program is designed to help older adults adjust their vehicle settings—such as seat positioning, mirror alignment, and steering wheel distance—to improve comfort, visibility, and overall road safety. Simple adjustments, like maintaining the correct distance from the steering wheel and properly wearing seatbelts, can make a significant difference in reducing injury risks.

Events like these empower senior drivers with the knowledge and tools to stay safe behind the wheel.

To learn more about the program and aditional coalition information please visit: https://www.safemobilityfl.com/

SEE WHAT WE'VE BUILT

Scan the QR Code to download a copy.

BECOME A SAFETY PARTNER

Full Name *

Title *

Organization *

Phone *

Email *

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FDOT

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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