



FDOT District Six Safety Newsletter – May 2026

Eyes on the Road. Hands Off the Phone.



**FDOT District Six is raising
awareness to reduce
distracted driving.**

The campaign encourages safer choices through
community outreach and education.

Put it Down introduction:

FDOT District Six's Put it Down campaign aims to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving through awareness, education, and community action.

Throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, the District Six Safety Team engaged with residents, students, families and partner organizations to reduce distracted driving incidents and increase understanding of Florida's texting while driving laws. The campaign highlights the importance of staying alert, following traffic laws, and respecting fellow road users to help achieve the overarching goal of reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries statewide. The campaign reached tens of thousands of residents and millions of impressions through outreach, advertising and social media. The safety team also collected nearly 900 surveys; 672 in English and 227 in Spanish.

Welcome to the May 2026 Edition of the
FDOT District Six Safety Newsletter.



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Virtual Reality Showcased at Events



Ms. Shieda Castillo, Community Traffic Safety Specialist, recently presented a Virtual Reality (VR) experience during the Florida Teen Safe Coalition Driving Quarterly update meeting, amplifying the importance of passenger responsibility. Participants used the Just Drive Simulator to experience how distracted driving can lead to accidents. Users experience how distractions behind the wheel can lead to life-altering consequences and learn about the responsibility of speaking-up, the simulator provides the

perspective of the passenger and is a reminder of the role passengers play, not only in their potential to distract the driver, but in their ability to prevent a crash. The VR experience was also highlighted at the Put it Down Kick-off Meeting held virtually on April 1. The District Six internal staff tested the Just Drive Simulators and were surprised at how witnessing a virtual traffic accident spurred conversations about accident prevention. For more information, visit <https://fdotsafetyresources.com/putitdown>



**Check out what
our staff has to
say about it**

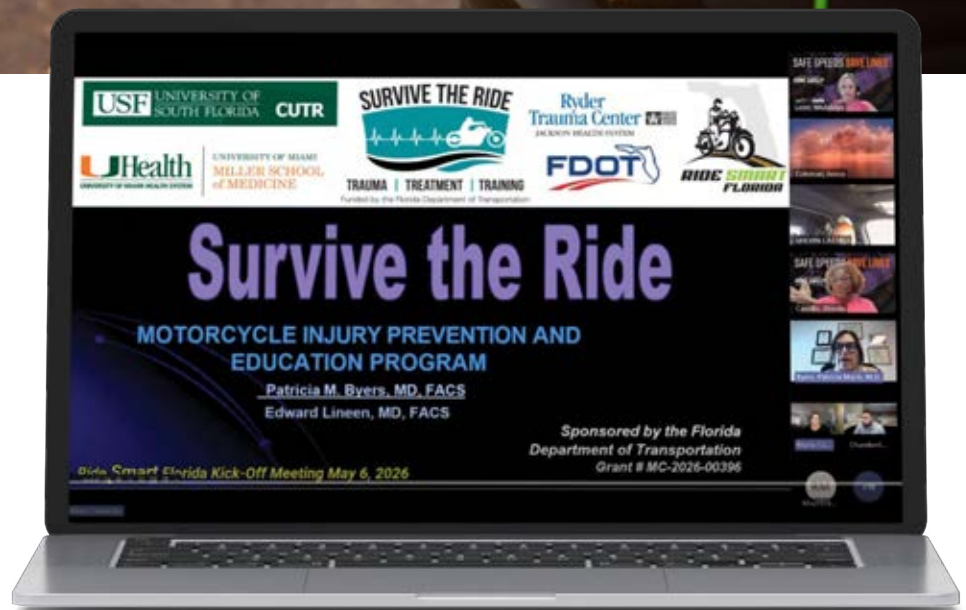
*Scan the QR code to
watch the video.*



Ride Smart Motorcycle Safety Campaign Highlights UM Survive the Ride



The Safety Office launched the 2026 “Ride Smart Florida” safety campaign, which aims to promote awareness about motorcycle driving safety in Miami Dade and Monroe counties. The campaign highlights the importance of making smart decisions to ensure the well-being of riders and all road users. Running until the end of June, the campaign utilizes various communication channels, including media advertisements, community outreach, social media, and Public Service Announcements (PSAs), to convey crucial motorcycle and scooter safety messages. Guest speaker Patricia M. Byers, MD, FACS with the University of Miami Survive the Ride presented information about The Motorcycle Injury Prevention and Education Program. The presentation and video of the meeting are available at <https://fdotsafetyresources.com/>



Legislative Update on Micromobility



Florida lawmakers are moving toward a statewide rule beginning July 1, 2026, regarding e-bikes. Riders must yield and signal when passing pedestrians on shared pathways and cannot exceed 10 mph on sidewalks when pedestrians are within 50 feet. This is considered a “slow down for safety” provision. By mandating a speed reduction only when pedestrians are close, the law balances efficiency for the rider with safety for the walker. The new law also requires law enforcement agencies to track crashes involving e-bikes and report that data to the state and directs the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to publish a statewide summary report in October 2026 under the E-Bicycle Safety Act (CS/SB 382). Violations will be treated as non-moving infractions. These statewide rules seek to reduce conflicts between fast-moving micromobility devices and pedestrians, a growing concern in our dense urban areas.



For more information scan the
QR code or visit:
[https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/
Bill/2026/382/?Tab=BillText](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/382/?Tab=BillText)





Florida's 2026 Safety Plan to be Released in Summer

Florida's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is more than a document—it's the state's blueprint for preventing crashes and saving lives. FDOT is currently updating the plan for the 2026 cycle and continues to pursue the Target Zero vision of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries on all public roads. The SHSP's scope goes far beyond engineering; it promotes a Safe System Approach, acknowledging that humans make mistakes and that roads must be designed, operated, and enforced in a way that keeps those mistakes from becoming tragedies.

This update is not happening in a vacuum. FDOT has asked the public input on ideas, strategies, and innovations that will help Florida achieve its goal of Target Zero. Feedback can range from pinpointing a dangerous intersection, to suggesting new educational campaigns or innovative approaches/public engagements. FDOT emphasizes that none of us can achieve Target Zero alone—everyone has a role in saving lives. The new 2026 Strategic Highway Plan is expected to be released in Summer 2026.

HELP SHAPE FLORIDA'S ROAD SAFETY FUTURE

YOUR VOICE CAN HELP PREVENT CRASHES, REDUCE SERIOUS INJURIES, AND SAVE LIVES ACROSS FLORIDA.



Scan the QR code or visit:
www.fdot.gov/Safety/shsp/2026SHSP



Traffic Safety Coalitions Focus on Eliminating Roadway Fatalities



Traffic safety coalitions are vital to saving lives and strengthening communities. By bringing together law enforcement, public health professionals, educators, engineers, policymakers, community organizations, and governmental partner coalitions create a unified approach to preventing crashes, reducing injuries, and eliminating traffic-related fatalities. Through collaboration, shared data, and coordinated strategies, traffic safety coalitions amplify impact, promote evidence-based solutions, and ensure that traffic safety remains a shared community responsibility rather than an isolated effort. Understanding this concept, Ms. Shieda Castillo, Community Safety Traffic Specialist, is a member of the Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition, Florida Teen Driving Coalition and the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition.

The following is a list of some of the coalitions showcased on the FDOT website – <https://www.fdot.gov/Safety/safety-coalitions/coalitionsresources.shtm#:~:text=Safe%20Mobility%20for%20Life%20Coalition&text=It%20is%20the%20Coalition's%20mission,of%20Florida's%20aging%20road%20users>





The Florida Motorcycle Safety

Coalition is a group of safety partners from around the state who meet quarterly to share the common goal of reducing fatalities of motorcycle riders and their passengers. Ride Smart Florida uses data-driven research to develop, implement and evaluate counter measures and works with safety partners around the state to reduce fatalities and serious injuries to motorcycle riders and their passengers.

The Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition assists the state of Florida Motorcycle Safety Program with implementing the Motorcycle Safety Strategic Plan (MSSP) goals and strategies. The Program is funded primarily by America Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. No. 114-94) supporting highway safety programs. The Coalition is led by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), with administrative assistance from the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida.



Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://ridesmartflorida.com/motorcycle-safety-coalition/>



The Florida Teen Safe Driving Coalition

funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), is a statewide partnership dedicated to reducing crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving teen drivers. Through coordinated education and outreach, the Coalition brings together law enforcement, schools, health professionals, government agencies, and community organizations to address teen driver safety across Florida.

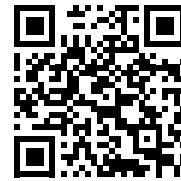


Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://flteensafedriver.org/about>



Safe Mobility for Life Coalition: Florida is also leading the nation in preparing to meet the transportation safety and mobility challenges that arise from the inevitable increases to the aging population. The Florida Department of Transportation developed and maintains a website to support the work and efforts of our Safe Mobility for Life Coalition. It is the Coalition's mission to reduce crashes by improving the safety, access, and mobility of Florida's aging road users.



Scan the QR code or visit:
<http://safemobilityfl.com/>



Event Highlights

(January – May Events)

Targeting Students through Strategic Partnerships

The FDOT District Six Safety Team recently partnered with the University of Miami (UM) to host their annual safety fair at the main campus in Coral Gables. The team highlighted the Put it Down Safety Campaign, focusing on providing Distracted Driving Awareness to students, staff and visitors. More than 50 surveys were completed and about a dozen folks took the impairment goggle test by walking a line drawn on the floor or putting plastic cups into a pyramid. Many partners were in attendance including the Miami-Dade County Transportation Planning Organization and

Miami-Dade County Public Schools as well as various police departments participated in this fun and educational activity. One student was pleased to take the Driver's License booklet home provided to him at the Put it Down table to give to his younger brother who was learning to drive. Others commended that they appreciated the focus of the safety campaign, particularly the police officers. Many enjoyed the impairment goggles and were surprised to see how much it affected their mobility.



MORE THAN 50 SURVEYS WERE COMPLETED



Event Highlights

(January – May Events)

UM Safety Fair

Context: Held at the University of Miami's Coral Gables campus, the UM Safety Fair brought together students, staff, and community partners for a day of interactive safety education.

Engagement: Through campaign giveaways, a six-question survey, and the impairment goggle activity, participants experienced firsthand how distractions and impairment can affect coordination and decision-making.

Impact: Many students said how significantly the goggles affected their mobility, making the risks of impaired driving more tangible and reinforcing the campaign's message in a college-aged setting.



Scan the QR code to watch the video.

Event Highlights

(January – May Events)

Rain or Shine, Team Commits to Safety

Our Safety Team joined District Six volunteers at the Calle Ocho Festival on March 15, connected with attendees despite rainy conditions at one of the nation's largest Latin music celebrations. Through bilingual surveys, interactive activities, and Put It Down giveaways, the team engaged families, elders, and new drivers in meaningful safety conversations. Participants shared how impactful it was to receive these messages in a culturally vibrant and accessible environment.



Scan the QR code to watch the video.

First-Ever Key West Bike Rodeo

Safety Team Corrals Bike Safety Messages

Context:

The 2026 Key West Bike Rodeo was a free interactive bike safety event hosted by the University of Miami's BikeSafe program.

Engagement:

The event featured safety training, obstacle courses, bike repairs, and a youth bike raffle.

Impact:

- Learn essential bicycle handling and safety skills
- Practice starting, stopping, and hand signals
- Get free safety swag!



...is in The Keys!

We're kicking off National Bike Month with a "bike rodeo" - an interactive bicycle safety fair for kids and young adults - in your neighborhood!

- Learn essential bicycle handling and safety skills,
- Practice starting, stopping, and hand signals,
- Get free safety swag!

Follow us online @bikesafe

This event is brought to you by:



Key West High School
Saturday, May 9
10AM - 1PM

2100 Flagler Avenue
Key West, Florida 33040

UHealth
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



Event Highlights

(January – May Events)

A Night in D9

Context: A Night in D9 was a community pop-up event hosted at Coral Reef Senior High School, designed to support parents and new drivers with practical safety information.

Engagement: Families explored “Put It Down” campaign materials including flyers, lanyards, keychains, sweat towels, and coloring books, creating opportunities for both learning and discussion across age groups.

Impact: The event encouraged meaningful conversations between parents and young drivers, reinforcing the importance of staying focused behind the wheel and modeling safe driving habits at home.



Saint Andrew's Car Show

At the Saint Andrew's Car Show, our team connected with community members while promoting the “Put It Down” Distracted Driving Awareness campaign. Attendees of all ages engaged with educational materials, completed a quick mobile survey, and learned more about the dangers of impaired and distracted driving. The impairment goggles were a highlight of the event, especially for teens. Sparking conversation and hands on learning through fun but impactful demonstrations. With strong participation and 67 completed surveys collected, the event was a great opportunity to raise awareness and encourage safer driving habits within the community.

20th Deering Seafood Festival

At the 20th Deering Seafood Festival, our outreach team hosted a pop-up activation in the Spring and Easter Fun Kids Zone, creating a welcoming space for families to learn together. With safety education, and free giveaways, parents and children alike participated in hands-on activities throughout the day. Reaching more than 8,000 attendees and collecting 124 surveys, the event demonstrated the value of meeting families where they are to share important safe-driving messages in a fun, family-friendly setting.



Event Highlights

(January – May Events)



Community Voices:

Community Feedback received from outreach events from January to April 2026.

Participants said they were pleased to understand the “Put it Down” safety campaign. Some even told their co-workers to go and experience the virtual intelligence installations.

A participant shared that a family member was killed by a distracted driver traveling the wrong way on I-95. She expressed concern that the driver received only a six-year sentence.

Teenagers especially loved trying the impairment goggles. Many returned with friends to try them again, and they enjoyed challenging each other with simple tasks while “impaired.”

A student was pleased to take the Driver’s License booklet to give to his younger brother who was learning to drive.

An event organizer stopped by the “Put it Down” (PID) table, took the survey, participated in the impairment goggles activity and said he was very impressed with the campaign.

A woman shared that her brother was killed while riding a bike when a car hit him. She wants to push for three-foot signs to advise drivers to stay at least three feet away from bicyclists. She even provided a photo of a sign she had seen elsewhere in Florida.



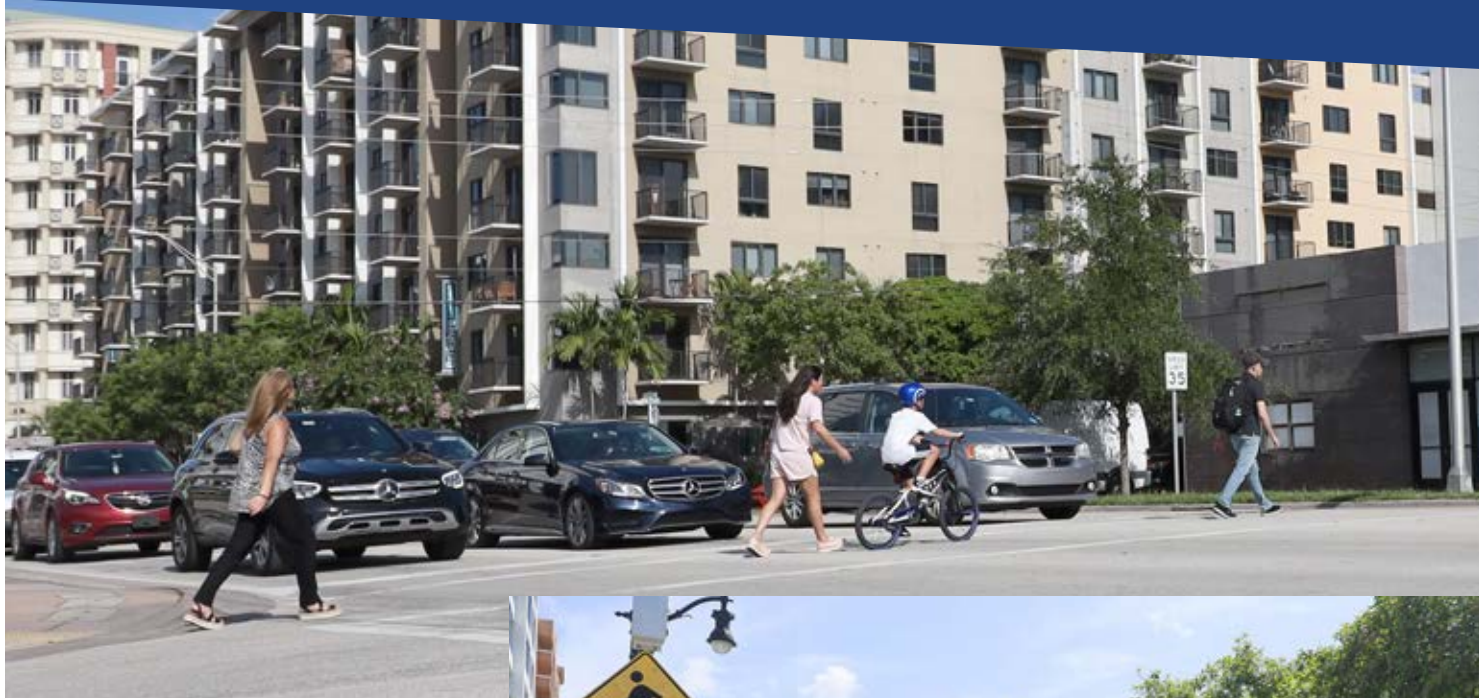
Safety Team Sponsors Excellence in Teaching



The FDOT Safety Office recently sponsored the 2027 M-DCPS Teacher of the Year & Rookie Teacher of the Year Recognition Awards Ceremony. Shaquellia Homes, Executive Director, M-DCPS Office of Community Partnerships, Business and Education Access, presented Shieda Castillo with the plaque. Homes is an active CTST member.



Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Study Insights Presented at CTST Meetings



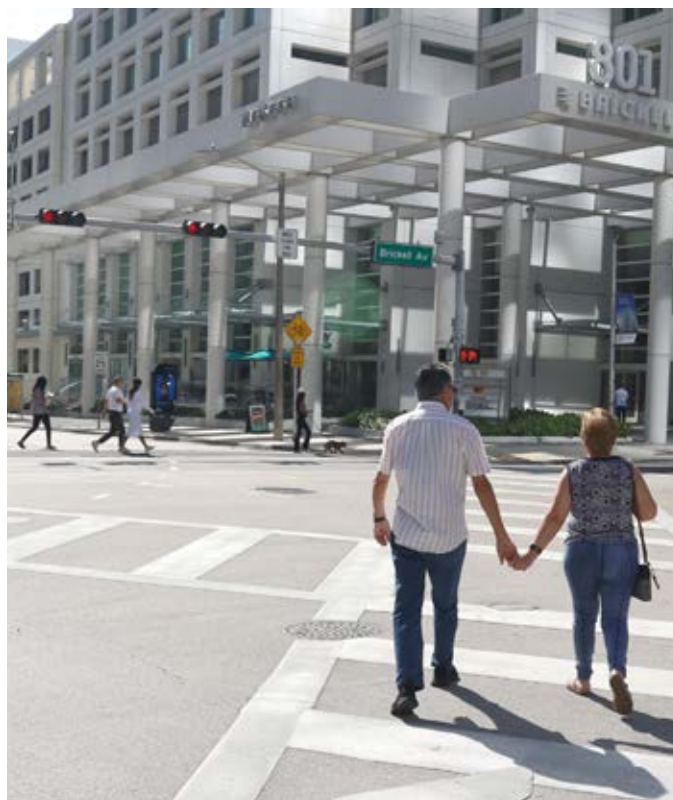
A recent safety analysis conducted for the FDOT District Six Community Traffic Safety Team provides valuable insight into pedestrian and bicycle crash patterns across Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. The study evaluated five years of crash data (2021–2025) and applied a systematic network screening methodology to identify high-risk corridors and intersections on the State Highway System. This data-driven approach establishes a defensible framework for prioritizing safety improvements and supports coordination among County and municipal agencies to address locations with the greatest need.

The findings highlight several important trends relevant to jurisdictions throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. A significant majority of pedestrian and bicycle crashes occur at midblock locations, rather than at intersections. In Miami-Dade County, these crashes are more prevalent along 2- to 5-lane roadways



These findings call for immediate, targeted action to improve midblock safety, enhance visibility, and implement speed management strategies that protect vulnerable roadway users across both counties.

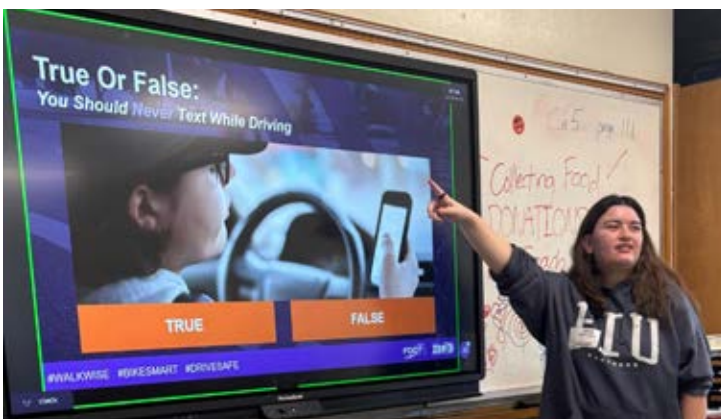
with posted speeds between 30 and 45 mph, while in Monroe County, they are more commonly observed along 2- to 4-lane roadways with 45 mph posted speeds. Additionally, many crashes take place under clear weather and dry pavement conditions, with a notable proportion occurring during nighttime hours. These patterns emphasize the importance of improving midblock crossing opportunities, enhancing roadway lighting, managing vehicle speeds, and addressing visibility and driver behavior to improve safety outcomes countywide.



To address these issues, the study outlines a combination of engineering, education, and enforcement strategies that can be implemented by Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties and their municipalities. Recommended measures include enhancing pedestrian and bicycle crossings, reducing crossing distances through geometric improvements, implementing signal timing enhancements such as Leading Pedestrian Intervals, expanding bicycle infrastructure, and increasing targeted enforcement and public awareness campaigns. By leveraging these strategies and continuing coordination through the CTST framework, Miami-Dade and Monroe County jurisdictions can advance a proactive and comprehensive approach to improving safety for all roadway users.



Ongoing Efforts Towards Zero Fatalities



Florida International University (FIU) students Stephanie Quiroz, and Gabriela Llorca recently held safety presentations at the following schools: Marathon Middle High School (Monroe County): Friday, May 1; G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School: Monday, May 11 and Friday, May 22 and Maritime and Science Technology Academy (MAST Academy): Wednesday, May 27. This is the result of a collaboration between the District Six Safety Office and FIU.



Safety Spotlight

SAFETY PROJECT:

FDOT Project Improves Left-Turn Movements

After a rise in left-turn crashes at the intersection of SR 5/US 1 and SW 17 Avenue, FDOT began the process of designing and constructing the current safety project. The likely reason for the left-turn crashes is that drivers didn't have enough safe openings in oncoming traffic to make their turns. Previously, drivers turning left in both directions had a green light but still had to wait for a gap in traffic before turning.

The project improvements include changing the left-turn signals so drivers turning left from both directions will only be allowed to turn when they get a protected green arrow. The plan also adds more space in the left-turn lanes going east and west to help traffic flow better.

Proposed improvements as part of the project included modifying left-turn operations to protected only left-turn phases for eastbound and westbound approaches as well as extending eastbound and westbound left turn lanes.



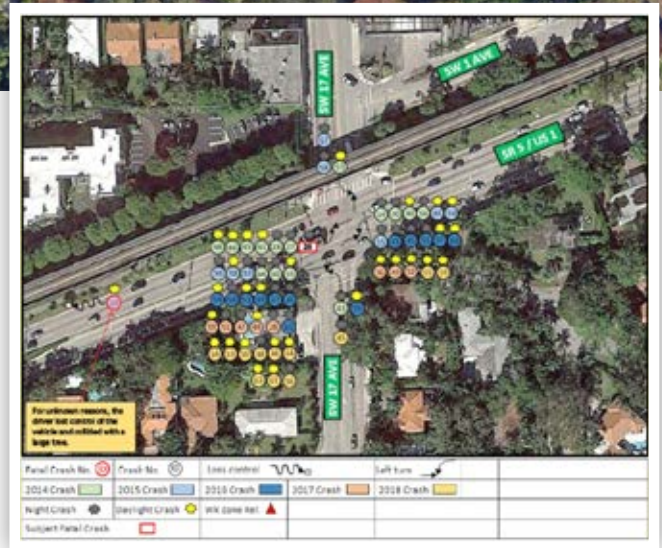
SR 5 / US 1 westbound left-turn lane onto SW 17 Avenue



SR 5 / US 1 eastbound left-turn lane onto SW 17 Avenue



**PROJECT LOCATION:
SR 5/ US 1 and SW 17 Ave**



DISTRICT SIX CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER IS NOW AVAILABLE - ISSUE 4 (MAY 2026)

Project updates, construction highlights, and community outreach efforts from FDOT District Six Construction.



Scan the QR code or visit: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Quarterly-Newsletter.html?soid=1142304110520&aid=fkyTbB_PdBg



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FDOT SAFETY RESOURCES go to
fdotsafetyresources.com/newsletter-items/

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