



# Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting Report

*April 30, 2020*

*Prepared for*

**Florida Department of Transportation**

*Prepared by*

**Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)**

**University of South Florida**



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Center for Urban Transportation Research  
4202 E. Fowler Ave. CUT100  
Tampa, FL 33620

*Meeting notes taken by*

Christen Miller

*Date*

April 30, 2020

## 1.0 Attendees

**Table 1.1 Coalition Meeting Attendees**

Name	Agency
Jeff Smith	Adventure Rider Training
Todd Michael	Broward County Sheriff's Office
Edie Peters*	Florida Department of Transportation
Javier Ponce	Florida Department of Transportation
Joey Gordon	Florida Department of Transportation
Edith Wong	Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Joe Glorioso	Florida Department of Transportation, District 1
Jim Stroz	Florida Department of Transportation, District 5
Carlos Dardes	Florida Department of Transportation, District 6
Carlos Sarmiento	Florida Department of Transportation, District 6
Peter Hsu	Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Ginger Regalado	Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Joel Provenzano	Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Elise Batchelor	Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Kathy Daws	Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Ray Graves	Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Mark Welch	Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Karen Brunelle	Federal Highway Administration
Alan Mai	Florida Department of Health
Shaun Vanbeber	Law Enforcement Liaison, District 6
Janice Martinez	Law Enforcement Liaison, District 7
David Summers	Health Care District Palm Beach County
Marc Parco	Harley-Davidson Riding Academy
Steffen Smith	Harley-Davidson Riding Academy
Gena Torres	Hillsborough MPO
Michael Dobbs	Jacksonville Motorcycle Safety Training
Ray Ochs	Motorcycle Safety Foundation
Patricia Byers	Ryder Trauma Center - Miami
Avinash Gogineni	Ryder Trauma Center - Miami
Julissa Sarmiento	Ryder Trauma Center - Miami
Melissa Valido	SADD
John Makal	Suncoast Brotherhood
Patricia Turner	University of Florida Transportation Inst.
Megan Cott	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Siwon Jang	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research

Jeanne Kean	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Chanyoung Lee	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Rebecca Liller	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Christen Miller	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
James Takacs	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Savana Wright	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research

\*Motorcycle Safety Program Manager

## 2.0 Meeting Summary

In light of the impacts of COVID-19, the Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition hosted its April 2020 Coalition Meetings online, via the video conferencing service GoToMeeting. In order to facilitate productive conversation, the meeting format was adjusted slightly to allow for smaller group discussions online. The meetings were scheduled across a total of four days, beginning with the annual Emphasis Area (EA) leaders' meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>. On day two and three, all emphasis area groups met separately with the FDOT Program Manager, Ms. Edie Peters, and staff from the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). A separate small-group meeting was not scheduled with the trauma and emergency services team at this time due to the significant impact of COVID-19 on members in the medical field. Additionally, the trauma and emergency services group had met recently to revise their portion of the MSSP and sent their meeting summary to the CUTR team. The series of meetings concluded on day four, with a recap meeting for all members of the coalition and guests.



### Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting Agenda – April 2020



	4-27	4-28	4-29	4-30
9:00 AM		<b>Rider Training and Analysis</b> (Jeff Smith, Mark Welch, Michael Dobbs, Ray Graves, Kathy Daws, Mark Parco, John Pretti, Steffen Smith)	<b>Law Enforcement</b> (Shaun VanBeber, Dominick DeSiato Jr, Jason Harris, Janice Martinez, Todd Michael, Brett Sheffield, Dennis Hobbs)	<b>Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting</b> HOUSEKEEPING/Edie Peters (20 min) New MSSP Process/Edie Peters (10 min) Florida's Challenges/Chanyoung Lee (10 min) Report by Each Emphasis Area (50 min) Open Discussion (30 min)
9:30 AM				
10:00 AM				
10:30 AM		<b>Advocacy and Policy</b> (John Makal, William Minton, Joshua Riba, Patricia Turner, Siwon Jang, Savana Wright)		
11:00 AM	<b>Data and Analysis</b> (Chanyoung Lee, Joey Gordon, Alan Mai)			
11:30 AM				
12:00 PM				
12:30 PM				
1:00 PM	<b>Emphasis Area Leader Meeting</b> (Invitation only) HOUSEKEEPING/Edie Peters (20 min) MSSP 2015-2020/Edie Peters (20 min) Florida's Challenges/Chanyoung Lee (20 min) Open Discussion (2-3pm)	<b>Communication and Outreach</b> (Elise Batchelor, Jeanne Kean, Megan Cott, Rebecca Liller, Christen Miller, James Takacs, Jim McGinnis)	<b>Roadway Engineering</b> (Javier Ponce, Joel Provenzano, Karen Brunelle, Alan El-Urfali, Edith Wong)	
1:30 PM				
2:00 PM				
2:30 PM				
3:00 PM				

All meetings will be held through GoToMeeting. Please contact Megan Cott ([mcott@cutr.usf.edu](mailto:mcott@cutr.usf.edu)) if you have questions.

### Day One (April 27<sup>th</sup>)

A meeting was held with leaders from each emphasis area. The purpose of this meeting was to review new strategies and goals for the new Florida Motorcycle Safety Program Plan (MSSP), which is currently being developed. In addition to providing a plan for the Motorcycle Safety Coalition, the new MSSP will discuss achievements and challenges from the past five years. Prior to the meeting, coalition members were asked to provide a self-assessment of their area's accomplishments, which were then reviewed with the group. Next, the updated version of the MSSP business plan was briefly reviewed. The meeting concluded with a discussion of Florida-specific challenges in motorcycle safety.

#### *Day Two (April 28<sup>th</sup>)*

Day two consisted of three small group meetings, including the rider licensing and training group, data and analysis group, and the communications and outreach group. Each group was shown the 2016 version of their area's plan, compared to the latest version. Where needed, members requested revisions to the plan, with an emphasis on finalizing strategies and goals by the end of the week. Each emphasis area member was sent a copy of the meeting notes and was encouraged to let the CUTR team know if they had any additional revisions.

#### *Day Three (April 29<sup>th</sup>)*

Day three consisted of meetings with the remaining small group emphasis areas: law enforcement, advocacy and policy, and roadway engineering. Again, members were shown their current plan, and revisions were discussed.

## **Presentation Notes – April 30**

### **Welcome and Program Update – Ms. Edie Peters**

The final day was open to all members of the coalition and guests, including district champions. A recap of days one through three was provided, and the updated MSSP business plan was discussed.

Ms. Edie Peters, FDOT, reminded the Coalition that the Florida Motorcycle Strategic Safety Plan (MSSP) provides performance metrics and outlines how to manage the program. It shows the program's growth and how to improve in the future. Currently, the coalition is in the process of developing a new MSSP with new relevant tasks based on the strategies and goals.

### **Florida's Challenges – Dr. Chanyoung Lee**

Dr. Chanyoung Lee, CUTR, presented *Florida's Challenges: The future of motorcycle safety in Florida*.

Florida's warm weather, beaches, and scenic highways encourage year-round riding by residents and visitors. The number of motorcyclists in Florida is growing. In 2019, Florida had 1.3 million motorcycle endorsements and over 600,000 registered motorcycles. Florida hosts several major motorcycle rallies that attract riders from all over the U.S., including Daytona Bike Week, Biketoberfest and Leesburg Bike Fest.

Florida does not have a universal helmet law. There has been an increase in un-helmeted riders, from 0.5% in 1998 to 44.7% in 2010. In a recent study, sports bike riders had highest rate of usage and scooter riders had lowest. When asked about limitations, 62% of respondents indicated motorcycle helmets were "too hot," followed by the complaint that helmets were "uncomfortable" (37.5%) (2016 FL Motorcyclist Survey). The coalition wants to encourage voluntary helmet use in the new MSSP.

There are gaps in Florida's motorcycle legislation. Florida is one of the few states where you can register a motorcycle without insurance. The insurance minimum (\$10,000) for un-helmeted riders is difficult to enforce and financially insufficient for the average cost of a motorcycle crash. Also, there are no age restrictions for child motorcycle passengers in Florida.

Florida has three riding populations of concern in regards to risk-level tied to motorcycle injuries and fatalities; the aging rider population (50+), the scooter riding population and the younger riding population.

Florida can anticipate significant social, economic and health challenges related to motorcycle safety issues. Florida should continue efforts to develop data-driven, evidence-based solutions to reduce motorcycle crashes, injuries and fatalities in its strategic plan.

A discussion took place about motorcycle types and how to identify a standard motorcycle. Standard bikes are best identified by their natural, upright riding position, with the handlebar and foot pegs positioned comfortably.

View the full presentations: [Florida's Challenges](#)

### **Major Achievement Under the Current MSSP (2016-2020) – Ms. Edie Peters**

The CUTR team collected coalition members' individual feedback on their areas' accomplishments in the past five years. Ms. Edie Peters, FDOT, shared summary for each emphasis area:

- *Program management:* Four regularly-scheduled Coalition meetings, including yearly Emphasis Area Leader meetings were facilitated. A statewide annual motorcyclist survey was conducted to monitor the progress of Florida's comprehensive motorcycle safety program. Multidisciplinary agencies and organizations helped develop, and were involved in, the State of Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition (FMSC) Charter.
- *Data & Analysis:* Coalition members conducted a quarterly review of motorcycle crashes and fatality information in Florida, linked rider training data with crash data to conduct analyses on rider injury severity and submitted motorcycle VMT research proposal to FDOT Research Office for funding.
- *Rider Licensing & Training:* Members facilitated a change in the way motorcycle endorsements appeared on Florida licenses, as most police officers were not properly reporting whether or not a rider had the endorsement when completing a crash report. The Coalition also established a tuition subsidy program to promote experienced rider courses (ERC's), supported Quality Control and Assurance Specialist Courses (QAS-CC) and started efforts to update Florida Administrative Code (FAC) 15A-12 to improve motorcycle training and licensing system in Florida.
- *Law Enforcement:* A motorcycle-specific policy was created and presented to our state law enforcement partners. Coalition members updated and distributed the Florida State Statute Quick Reference Guide for several years, and provided agencies in the top 10 high-risk counties with funding opportunities to address motorcycle issues through enforcement and educational grants. Members also used Signal 4 Analytics to compile all motorcycle crash data and motorcycle enforcement data. This has enabled our law enforcement partners to use the data to focus their enforcement efforts.
- *Emergency Services (EMS):* Members surveyed EMS and medical facilities for motorcycle-specific policies and guidelines. They initiated and provided "Stop the Bleed" training state-wide, which taught first responders how to properly remove a motorcycle helmet from an injured rider, and created online training for EMS and medical personnel on motorcycle-related injuries.
- *Engineering:* Members established a network with district champions for collaboration, and developed a presentation on motorcycle work zone crashes to share with agencies in high-priority counties. Two members of Coalition were selected as members of the Federal Highway

Administration (FHWA) Motorcycle Advisory Council (MAC) and brought up motorcycle safety design considerations for highways and structures. Members also made T2 training video available online, submitted a research proposal on high friction surface treatment (HFST) for motorcycles through FDOT District 2, and developed content for educational materials on Florida's "dead red" law.

- *Advocacy & Policy:* Members tracked motorcycle safety related bills and provided legislators with supporting data and educational materials, including 300-word policy briefs. Members also developed a draft of comprehensive motorcycle guide for judges and traffic hearing officers.
- *Communication & Outreach:* Members attended various events with educational materials to promote motorcycle safety among motorcyclists and motorists. The "Watch for Motorcycles—Driver Tips" tip card was included in the Florida Driver License Handbook (English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole) as a page. Motorcycle safety educational materials were mailed out to Florida Tax Collector/ driver licensing offices and RSF posters were mailed to approximately 250 high school driver education classes. Finally, members developed partnerships with the Florida Teen Safe Driver Coalition, the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition, and FLHSMV FLOWmobiles.

View the full presentations: [FMSC-MSSP review 2015-2020](#)

### Report by Each Emphasis Area

Each emphasis area leader provided the coalition with a briefing on their emphasis area group meetings and shared their new goals and strategies for the new MSSP:

- *Program Management Goal:* Manage motorcycle safety programs in Florida as part of a comprehensive plan that includes centralized planning, implementation, coordination, and evaluation to maximize the effectiveness of the programs.
- *Data and Analysis Goal:* Collect and analyze data relevant to motorcycle safety, and share findings with stakeholders, including the Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition.
- *Rider Licensing and Training Goal:* Ensure the quality of Florida's Licensing system and motorcycle training programs, to support and prepare motorcyclists for safe riding on Florida roadways.
- *Trauma and Emergency Services Goal:* Decrease motorcycle crash fatalities and injury burden in Florida through data analysis, education and training.
- *Law Enforcement Goal:* Provide law enforcement agencies with communication, education and enforcement resources as it relates to reducing motorcycle crashes, injuries, and fatalities on Florida roadways.
- *Roadway Engineering Goal:* Enhance and promote motorcycle safety-related engineering practices, including centralized program coordination, planning, design, implementation, and evaluation.
- *Advocacy and Policy Goal:* Support legislative and judicial initiatives that promote motorcycle-related laws and regulations that improve motorcycle safety.
- *Communications and Outreach Goal:* Develop, implement and evaluate communication strategies to improve public awareness of motorcycle safety issues.

View the full presentations: [MSSP Business Plan Update V8](#)

## Open Discussion

- Discussed upcoming MSF RiderCoach Preparation (RCP) dates: June 22-28, 2020.
- Florida is hosting the NHTSA LEL Regional Conference February 2021.
- David Summers mentioned a drop in motorcycle crash fatalities in March - April 2020. However, there have still been motorcycle crash injuries. He suggested pushing May's normal motorcycle safety messages.
- Dr. Patty Byers requested that a survey be sent out to emergency responders to find out what trainings they have already completed.

## Closing Statements – Ms. Edie Peters

Ms. Edie Peters, FDOT, reminded the coalition about upcoming efforts for “May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month” including:

- Motorcycle Safety Awareness posts have been created and will be posted on all Ride Smart Florida's social media platforms.
- Posts were sent to FDOT and **FLHSMV** for them to share on their social media platform.