



# Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting Report

*February 03, 2021*

*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*

Savana Wright

*Date*

February 03, 2021

## 1.0 Attendees

**Table 1.1 Coalition Meeting Attendees**

Name	Agency
Jeff Smith	Adventure Rider Training
Greg Zuest	AMA State Chapter of Florida
Todd Michael	Broward County Sheriff's Office
Karen Brunelle	Federal Highway Administration
Alan Mai	Florida Department of Health
Carmen Puccio	Florida Department of Transportation
Chris Craig	Florida Department of Transportation
Edith Peters*	Florida Department of Transportation
Javier Ponce	Florida Department of Transportation
Joey Gordon	Florida Department of Transportation
Katelyn Ruka	Florida Department of Transportation
Lora Hollingsworth	Florida Department of Transportation
Joe Glorioso	Florida Department of Transportation, District 1
Nick Hope	Florida Department of Transportation, District 2
Carlos Dardes	Florida Department of Transportation, District 6
Carlos Sarmiento	Florida Department of Transportation, District 6
Edith Wong	Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Paula Herrington	Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Peter Hsu	Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Mike Zinn	Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Kathy Daws	Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Mark Welch	Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Ray Graves	Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
William Minton	Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Jason Harris	Florida State University Police Department
Mark Parco	Harley-Davidson Riding Academy
David Summers	Health Care District, Palm Beach County
Gena Torres	Hillsborough County MPO
Michael Dobbs	Jacksonville Motorcycle Safety Training
Tim Roberts	Law Enforcement Liaison Coordinator
Andrew Johnson	Law Enforcement Liaison, District 3
Charles Kane	Law Enforcement Liaison, District 4
Janice Martinez	Law Enforcement Liaison, District 7
Ray Ochs	Motorcycle Safety Foundation
Avinash Gogineni	Ryder Trauma Center - Miami

Julissa Sarmiento	Ryder Trauma Center - Miami
Patricia Byers	Ryder Trauma Center - Miami
Joshua Riba	Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida
John Makal	Suncoast Brotherhood
Patricia Turner	University of Florida Transportation Inst.
Albert Baxter	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Chanyoung Lee	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Christen Miller	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
James Takacs	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Jeanne Kean	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Megan Cott	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Rebecca Liller	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Savana Wright	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Siwon Jang	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research

\*Motorcycle Safety Program Manager

## 2.0 Meeting Summary

Due to the continuing impacts of COVID-19, the Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition (FMSC) hosted its February 2021 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 three days from February 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Across this time span, all emphasis area groups met separately with the FDOT Program Manager, Ms. Edith Peters, and staff from the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). Several preparatory meetings were held in the weeks leading up to the Coalition meetings, to ensure area leaders were prepared to report progress and assign tasks based on the Motorcycle Safety Strategic Plan (MSSP) where needed. A large-group meeting was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, to discuss recent coalition activities, upcoming events, provide data updates and review each emphasis area’s progress to the wider group.

*Day One (February 1<sup>st</sup>):* The CUTR team and Program Management met individually with Law Enforcement, Advocacy & Policy, Roadway Engineering, and Communications & Outreach Emphasis Areas.

*Day Two (February 2<sup>nd</sup>):* Individual meetings were held with Trauma & Emergency Services, Data & Analysis and Rider Licensing & Training Emphasis Areas.

*Day Three (February 3<sup>rd</sup>):* A large-group meeting was held for all Emphasis Areas. The meeting was also open to members of the public.

### February 2021 Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting Schedule

	Day 1 (02-01)	Day 2 (02-02)	Day 3 (02-03)
9:00 AM	Law Enforcement (9 AM-10 AM)	Trauma & EMS (9 AM- 10 AM)	Motorcycle Safety Coalition Group Meeting (9 AM -12:30 PM)
9:30 AM			
10:00 AM			
10:30 AM	Advocacy & Policy (10:30 AM-11:30 AM)	Data & Analysis (10:30 AM-11:30 AM)	
11:00 AM			
11:30 AM			
12:00 PM			
12:30 PM	Roadway Engineering (12:30 PM – 1:30 PM)		
1:00 PM			
1:30 PM			
2:00 PM	Communication & Outreach (2 PM-3 PM)	Rider Licensing & Training (2 PM-3 PM)	
2:30 PM			

## Emphasis Area Meeting Notes – February 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Law Enforcement (02-01)

- Team reviewed the old law enforcement roll call video prior to the meeting and provided comments. Updates to data and statutory language are needed. The addition of new mobility devices was also discussed. Comments from the team will be summarized and sent to Ms. Edith Peters, FDOT, and the CUTR team.
- County-level motorcycle crash risk factor infographics are ready for distribution by Law Enforcement Liaisons (LELs). The CUTR team will create a Ride Smart Florida webpage where each infographic will be available for download and printing for distribution to law enforcement agencies in hotspot counties. Infographics can be found here: [Motorcycle Risk Factors by County](#)
- Endorsement tip cards are available for distribution by law enforcement. Tip cards can be found here: [Motorcycle Endorsement Tip Card](#)

### Advocacy & Policy (02-01)

- Team has been monitoring motorcycle safety-related bills.
- Mr. John Makal, Suncoast Brotherhood, is providing information to legislators related to child passenger for motorcycles in the Florida, looking into adding language to require passengers to be able to reach foot pegs. CUTR will assist with the provision of relevant educational materials.
- Mr. John Makal is also working with legislators on the redefinition of mopeds/scooters in the Florida Statutes.
- Ms. Edith Peters, FDOT, will be giving a presentation on child passenger issues at the upcoming Occupant Protection Coalition meeting.
- The team is working on obtaining approval from FLHSMV on the Florida Motorcycle and Alternative Vehicles Bench Guide.
- The team is actively identifying potential judges to fill the role previously held by Judge Joshua Riba on the Advocacy & Policy Emphasis Area team. Judge Riba remains active in the coalition, but has reduced availability.

### Roadway Engineering (02-01)

- In pursuit of task (1D) “Explore the feasibility and determine the strategy to conduct a study to measure the impact of roadway maintenance (road debris) on motorcycle safety”, the team discussed reaching out to the State Maintenance Engineer and setting up a call to discuss further.
- The CUTR team set up clearinghouse website draft on the Ride Smart Florida (RSF) website and shared with team. The team wants to update the page to make more search-friendly.
- The CUTR team is working on developing a generic motorcycle safety presentation for symposiums and conferences held for engineers and practitioners. The draft version was shared with Ms. Karen Brunelle for feedback.
- The team would like to present at the upcoming virtual symposium. A member from the group will reach out to hold a spot in the symposium schedule for the motorcycle safety presentation.

### **Communications & Outreach (02-02)**

- The team worked with the Teen Safe Driving Coalition to develop motorcycle gear use and motorcycle/scooter safety posters. The posters are still in development and have not been listed on the Teen Safe Driving website yet.
- The team disseminated a coalition member survey relating to communication efforts and developed a presentation on the findings; the results will be presented at the next in-person meeting.
- The team is working on an update to the “Watch for Motorcycles” yard signs, with the goal of having a new version printed for “2021 May is Motorcycle Safety Month.”
- Ms. Elise Batchelor, DHSMV, requested contacts for drivers’ education to conduct a survey on the impacts of COVID-19 on drivers’ education courses. The survey could include motorcycle safety materials in mail-outs.
- The team discussed contacting new Tax Collectors on the availability of motorcycle safety materials. The creation of a memo from the Tax Collector director at DHSMV is currently underway.

### **Trauma & Emergency Services (02-02)**

- The Trauma & Emergency Services (EMS) team scheduled law enforcement trainings after receiving responses from LEL surveys. Agencies want in-person trainings, so the EMS team will work with FDOT on potential travel approval.
- MTII and the Safety Council of Palm Beach agreed to include helmet removal labels in their packets. Hillsborough County MPO will assist by ordering more helmet removal labels.
- Dr. Patricia Byers, Ryder Trauma Center, will present on toxicology data at the Impaired Driving Coalition meeting.
- The team is working on analysis of non-illicit medication use in crashes as well as analysis of injuries by age group. The team also received approval for the 100 Motorcycle Crash Patient Study.
- CUTR will assist with the distribution of the EMS survey, possibly in the next email blast.

### **Data & Analysis (02-02)**

- CUTR completed GIS hotspot maps for 14 counties.
- Alan Mai, Florida Department of Health, provided an overview of the new Motorcycle Safety Report. Overall, non-fatal hospitalization decreased for 2019 and there was a decrease in hospital charges. A full overview of the report will be provided at the large-group Coalition Meeting.
- The VMT study proposal was submitted and is under review by FDOT Research Office.
- 2020 Florida Motorcyclist Survey findings will be shared via social media and new educational materials.

### **Rider Licensing & Training (02-02)**

- CUTR is experimenting with interviews of recent Basic RiderCourse (BRC) participants/ BRC sign-ups. CUTR will collaborate with training schools to email participants with information about interviews.

- The team is planning for the third year of the Endorsement and Beyond Program (EAB). A discussion was held about the idea of bundling BRC and ARC courses. The team will work with training schools to work out logistics.
- The team discussed potential changes to enhance the Florida Administrative Code. The team will meet with FLHSMV to continue discussion.

## Coalition Meeting Notes – February 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Welcome and Program Update – Ms. Edith Peters, FDOT

Ms. Edith Peters, FDOT, opened the meeting with introductions and by reviewing online meeting protocol.

An overview of communications efforts since the November Coalition Meeting was provided. The highlighted activities included:

- “Watch for Motorcycles” Santa photoshoot and billboard
- Development of motorcycle crash fact sheets for top motorcycle crash/fatality counties
- Creation of bilingual standees for outreach events, illustrating common motorcycle crash types
- Shared about 50 posts across three social media platforms
- Email blasts and video pre-rolls with motorcycle safety information

The current version of the motorcyclist and motor scooter rider section of the Florida State Highway Safety Plan was presented.

An introduction to Florida motorcycle crash trends by month was provided. Florida observed a reduced number of motorcycle crashes for all months impacted by COVID-19 (March 2020 – December 2020). However, during 2020, Florida had several months that exceeded monthly motorcycle fatalities compared to 2017-2019 averages.

A new version of the Signal Four Analytics dashboard is available. The dashboard is not public-facing and does not require a password to access. Users are able to filter data by year, law enforcement agency, traffic safety focus area, fatality/injury severity, and location. The new system is available at [www.signal4analytics.com](http://www.signal4analytics.com).

The current working plan for “2021 May is Motorcycle Safety Month” was reviewed with members of the coalition for feedback. The central event planned will be the implementation of the third year of the Endorsement And Beyond (EAB) Program. The program will provide discount vouchers for advanced rider courses in the month of May. Survey data will be collected from participants. The idea of discounted bundle courses for new riders (BRC and BRC2/BBBRC) was also discussed. An update to the current “Watch for Motorcycles” yard sign is also underway, with plans to finish and print before May. Finally, the team is looking into lighting select Florida bridges “RSF Green” for the first three days of May.

Bike Week 2021 is scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup>. Attendance of the event by RSF is pending the status of travel restrictions. Typical media outreach will occur regardless of ability to attend the event in-person.



**Upcoming Coalition Dates:**

- May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>
- August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

Full presentation available here: [February 2021 Program Update](#)

**Motorcycle Safety Report 2019 - Alan Mai, FDOH**

Alan Mai, Florida Department of Health, reviewed the 2019 Florida Motorcycle Safety Report with the Coalition. The report presents the most recent hospitalization data available. There was an increase in (estimated) median charges and total charges for motorcyclist injuries. Commercial insurance was the highest payer source for emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

Full report available here: [2019 Motorcycle Safety Report](#)

**Motorcycle Safety Foundation Presentation – Dr. Ray Ochs, MSF**

Dr. Ray Ochs, Motorcycle Safety Foundation, provided an MSF status update to the Coalition. Due to the impact of COVID-19, MSF established special waivers and made adjustments to primary courses to accommodate social distancing. The AdventureBike RiderCourse should be introduced in 2021 as an outdoor only class off-pavement. Updates are also in-progress for eCourses, including closed-captioning and Spanish translation of resources. Dr. Ochs also discussed “Project Gateway,” and RETS refresh, including a program for passengers, street experience exercises and an extension of current programs.

**2020 Florida Motorcyclist Survey Results– Dr. Chanyoung Lee, CUTR**

Dr. Chanyoung Lee, CUTR, presented the results of the annual 2020 Florida Motorcyclist Survey to the Coalition. The 2020 survey received 2,309 total responses. As observed in previous years, most respondents had a motorcycle and “rode regularly,” with a higher proportion of responses from riders in the age 50 and older age group. The survey included questions about the impact of COVID-19 on rider behaviors. Compared to riding frequency in 2019, weekly riding declined for all age groups except riders ages 30 and under during the COVID-19 outbreak. However, many riders self-reported that they rode the same amount as they typically would (43%). Of note, 2.5% of respondents indicated that they rode with a child passenger, age 8 or under in 2019. The presentation also emphasized an observed disparity between participants’ perceived value of wearing helmets and the consistency of actual helmet use. One theory behind this distinction is that riders may perceive helmets as less important as they become a more experience rider. Responses for social media preferences among riders were also provided, as well as insight into “risky” rider behaviors such as speeding, riding while impaired and not wearing a helmet.

Full presentation available here: [Florida Motorcyclist Survey 2020](#)

**2020 Motorcycle Crash Update - Dr. Chanyoung Lee, CUTR**

Dr. Chanyoung Lee, CUTR, provided an update on Florida motorcycle crash data. Reduced traffic volumes were observed after lock-down, with a volume increase observed in May. For motorcycles, a small increase in endorsements and registrations were observed in 2020. Overall, there was a reduction in the number of motorcyclist fatalities per registered motorcycles, with 502 total fatalities recorded for 2020. However, reductions were not consistent across counties, with Broward County experiencing a 25% increase in motorcyclist fatalities for 2020. Motorcyclist fatalities were reduced across all age

groups except the 31-40 age group. Florida did observe an increase in all traffic fatalities, although police-reported crashes were down compared to previous years.

Full presentation available here: [2020 Motorcycle Crash Update](#)

### **Emphasis Area Updates, Group Discussion and Closing Statements**

Each Emphasis Area provided a summary of their small-group meetings to the group at large (see Emphasis Area Meeting Notes – February 1st – 2nd above). The floor was then opened up for discussion and comment from the public. There were no comments from the public.