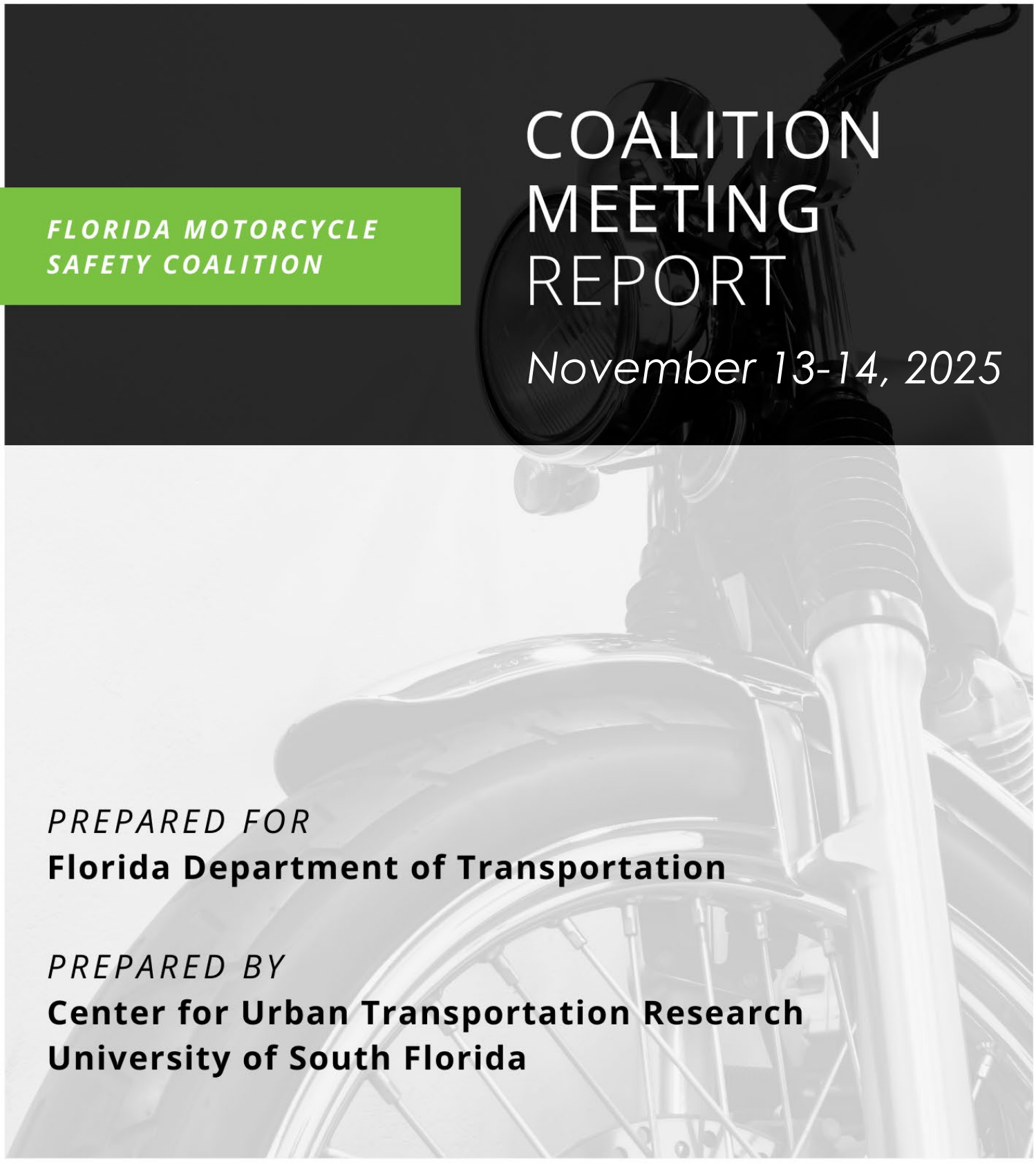
FLORIDA MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COALITION

COALITION MEETING REPORT

November 13-14, 2025



PREPARED FOR

Florida Department of Transportation

PREPARED BY

Center for Urban Transportation Research
University of South Florida

RIDE SMART FLORIDA

FDOT

TARGET ZERO FATALITIES & SERIOUS INJURIES

CUTR

Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting Report

November 13-14, 2025

Prepared for

Florida Department of Transportation

Prepared by

Center for Urban Transportation Research

3808 USF Alumni Drive,

Tampa, FL 33620

Meeting notes taken by

Savana Wright

Date

November 13-14, 2025

1.0 Attendees

Name	Agency
Lana Lang	American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE)
Griz Deaver	American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE)
Victoria Ziegler	American Legion Riders
Juan Barros	Broward County Sheriff's Office
Todd Michael	Broward County Sheriff's Office
Billy Hattaway	England-Thims & Miller, Inc.
Chris Craig	Florida Department of Transportation
Brandy French*	Florida Department of Transportation
Joey Gordon	Florida Department of Transportation
James Landini	Florida Department of Transportation
Rhonda Taylor	Florida Department of Transportation
Annely Karron	Florida Department of Transportation, District 2
Cali Bogan	Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Joe Glorioso	Florida Department of Transportation, District 1
William Minton	Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Kathy Daws	Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Leilani Gruener	Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
John Pretti	Florida SafeRider Inc. Motorcycle Training Academy (Retired)
Mark Parco	Harley-Davidson Riding Academy
Shaun VanBeber	Law Enforcement Liaison, District 6
Matt Gentile	Motorcycle Safety Foundation
Gary Nager	Neighborhood News
Joseph Stanziani	Neighborhood News
Hildi Brooks	Quest Marketing and Communications
Joel Provenzano	Retired (FDOT)
Michael Dobbs	RSF Outreach Specialist
Patricia Byers	Ryder Trauma Center - Miami
Aida Gonzalez	Ryder Trauma Center - Miami
Mariaugusta Montealegre	Ryder Trauma Center - Miami
Edward Lineen	Ryder Trauma Center - Miami
Scott Campbell	Suncoast Brotherhood
Alexandria Roeder	Tampa General Hospital
Jamie Bohn	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Elizabeth Chedester	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Siwon Jang	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Chanyoung Lee	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Odlanier Pena Moulier	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Savana Wright	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Young Keun Yang	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research

* Florida Motorcycle Safety Program Manager

2.0 Meeting Summary

From November 13-14, 2025, the Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition (FMSC) held its first meeting for the 2025-2026 subgrant cycle. The November 2025 Coalition Meeting was open to all members, guests, and the public. All meetings were held at Hyatt Place Tampa Wesley Chapel.

Day One (November 13th): The first half of the November Coalition Meeting was held in the afternoon of Day One. Mrs. Brandy French, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), welcomed the Coalition, shared the agenda for the day, and reviewed housekeeping items. Next, Dr. Jang, CUTR, led an overview of key coalition achievements from each emphasis area leader since the August 2025 meeting. Dr. Chanyoung Lee, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), presented the latest motorcycle crash data for the state of Florida. After a break, Mr. Chris Craig, FDOT, presented an update on the new draft State Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), and Lana Lang, American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE), shared information on ABATE's motorcycle safety awareness program. Last, Bill Minton, Florida Highway Patrol, and Dr. Lee provided an overview of e-bike definitions and introduced proposed legislation that will update the current Florida definition of e-bikes and motorcycles.

Day Two (November 14th): On Day Two, Mrs. Brandy French made general announcements. Ms. Savana Wright, CUTR, presented SMART Course survey results and Florida Motorcyclist Survey results for the 2024-2025 subgrant cycle. Next, Ms. Wright and Dr. Siwon Jang, CUTR, led a large group discussion to identify Coalition priorities for the 25-26 Subgrant Cycle. Then, the Coalition broke out into emphasis area groups to review their current MSSP business plan and discuss plans for the 2025-2026 subgrant cycle. The groups reconvened and reported their discussions to the Coalition. The meeting concluded with a public comment period and a reminder of the next meeting dates.

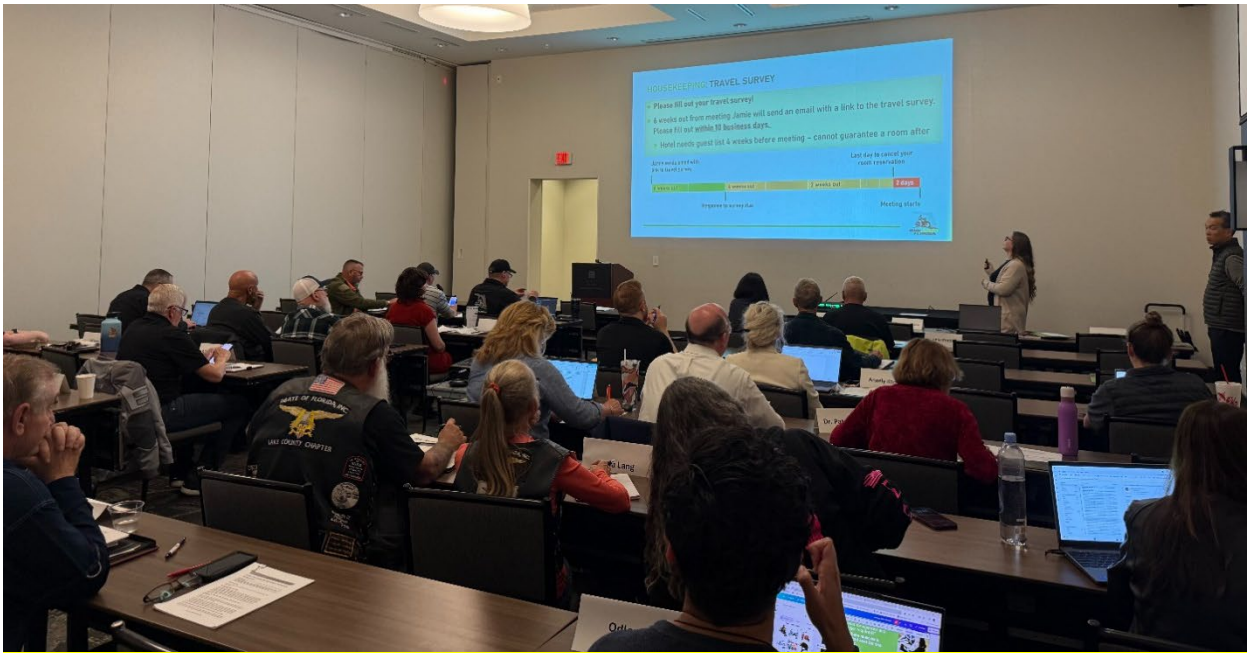


Figure 1. November 2025 Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting, Day 1.

Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting: Day 1
Thursday, November 13, 2025 (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm)

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
1:00-1:15 pm	Welcome & Introductions	Brandy French
1:15-1:45 pm	FY 24-25 Florida Motorcycle Safety Program Update	Dr. Siwon Jang & EA Leaders
1:45-2:15 pm	Florida Motorcycle Crash Update	Dr. Chanyoung Lee
2:15-2:30 pm	Break	
2:30-2:45 pm	SHSP Update	Chris Craig
2:45-3:30 pm	ABATE's Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program	Lana Lang
3:30-4:30 pm	E-bike Definitions, HB243, SB382, and More	Bill Minton & Dr. Chanyoung Lee
4:30-5:00 pm	Public Comment Period & Closing Statements	Brandy French

Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting: Day 2
Friday, November 14, 2025 (9:00 am – 12:30 pm)

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
9:00-9:10 am	Review of Day One and Discussion	Brandy French
9:10-9:45 am	SMART Course Survey and Florida Motorcyclist Survey Results	Savana Wright
9:40-10:10 am	Large Group Discussion: 25-26 Subgrant Cycle	Savana Wright
10:10-10:30 am	Break	
10:30-11:30 pm	Emphasis Area Breakout: MSSP Discussion	
11:30-12:00 pm	Report Out/Group Discussion	EA Leaders
12:00-12:30 pm	Future Coalition Meeting Dates, Closing Statements, & Public Comment Period	Brandy French

3.0 Coalition Meeting Notes

November 13th, 2025

Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting: Welcome and Program Updates – Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT

Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT, opened the FMSC meeting with introductions. All attendees were provided with an agenda and RideSMART Florida folder with additional materials. Mrs. French reviewed housekeeping items, including the FMSC Charter, and membership application. Attendees were encouraged to fill out the membership application and turn it in to the CUTR team.

Next, Emphasis Area (EA) leaders provided an overview of the Coalition's efforts since the August 2025 meeting:

- **Program Management** held meetings to review and update the MSSP Business plan with the CUTR team and Emphasis Area Leaders. Dr. Lee, CUTR, presented at the Pedestrian and Bicycle Coalition about E-bike issues to promote inter-coalition collaboration. Finally, Mrs. French informed the Coalition that FDOT is overseeing eight SMART Course agencies and seven enforcement subgrants in the 25-26 Subgrant Cycle.
- **Communications & Outreach** executed social media calendars for September, October, and November in 2025. The team also completed a review of Florida motorcyclist handbook. The outreach team had 789 visitors at Biketoberfest participate in the RideSMART Challenge. Upcoming motorcycle safety outreach events were shared with the Coalition. Members were encouraged to reach out to the CUTR team if interested in assisting at upcoming events.

Figure 2. EJ Chedester providing an update on recent outreach efforts.

- **Data & Analysis** distributed the annual Florida Motorcyclist Survey. The team also provided data collection support for the SMART Course. Final end-of-course survey results for the 24-25 Subgrant Cycle were analyzed and shared with participating agencies. Finally, the team is working on updating its RidersVoice.com survey.
- **Law Enforcement** attended the 2025 Florida Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Challenge. The team discussed coordinating training for the Florida State University Police Department to revitalize on-track training. The team also facilitated revisions to the Law Enforcement Motorcycle Education Program for Every Rider (MEPER) curriculum.
- **Rider Licensing & Training** is working on revising the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) operator's handbook to make it more Florida-specific. Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) is in the process of changing its motorcyclist licensing knowledge test vendor. Currently the motorcycle endorsement knowledge test is a paper test with twenty-five questions. A Sponsors meeting was held on October 8, 2025, but the event had low attendance. The team is

seeking to understand how to engage Sponsors more effectively in the future. Finally, the team executed its endorsement tip card distribution. A total of 75,000 letters were distributed, and 1,142 people had attended training to get their endorsement as of September 2025.

- **Roadway Engineering** is revising the engineering countermeasure website. Template pages were created by CUTR, and the team is collecting images and external resources. The team also provided final feedback on the 2025 Florida Design Manual, and the team is collecting comments on Standard Plans. The Traffic Engineering Manual is in the review and comments phase.
- **Trauma & Emergency Services** is coordinating First Responder Training at West Dade High School and LEL trainings in Broward. Ongoing research includes a study on toxicology and crash patient outcomes and an EMS Survey of motorcycle policies. The team is also working on securing EMSTARS access and expanding their "teachable moment" education materials to include Spanish slides and test materials.

Full presentation available here: Day 1 Program Updates

Florida Motorcycle Crash Data Update – Dr. Chanyoung Lee, CUTR

Figure 3. Dr. Lee presenting the latest crash data.

Dr. Chanyoung Lee, CUTR, presented the latest Florida motorcycle crash data. Dr. Lee explained that Florida 2024 crash data has not been finalized, but it appears that the dataset is relatively stable. As of November 2025, there were a total of 592 motorcyclist fatalities in 2024, representing a slight decrease from the previous year. As a surrogate measure of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), an analysis of motorcycle fatalities per registered motorcycles has been conducted. Consistently, Florida has a higher fatality rate when compared to the national average. Florida's temperate climate allows for a longer riding season, thereby contributing to this discrepancy. Dr. Lee used three years (36 months) of crash data, starting in April 2022 to capture motorcycle crash patterns following the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time frame, it is notable that motorcyclist fatalities increased among riders under the age of 40 when compared to 2012-2014 numbers. Sport bikes are more prevalent among younger age groups; however, sport bikes were overrepresented in fatal crashes from 2022- 2025. Overall, about 60% of the time, motorcyclists were at-fault in motorcycle crashes. Interestingly, as age group increased, the proportion of single vehicle crashes increased, while multi-vehicle crashes where the rider was at-fault, decreased. Looking more closely at young riders, about a quarter were impaired, a quarter were not helmeted, and about 30 percent were speeding. In all, motorcycle safety is one of the most significant traffic safety issues in Florida. In the past three years, about 37% of motorcycle crash victims were younger than 30. The group discussed whether this issue stems from lack of training or if this group may be more risk accepting in general.

Full presentation available here: Florida Motorcycle Crash Data Update

Strategic Highway Safety Plan Update – Mr. Chris Craig, FDOT

Mr. Chris Craig, FDOT, provided an update on Florida's new Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), currently under development. A draft copy of the SHSP was shared with all members of the Coalition. The overarching message of the SHSP is "No One Should Die on Florida's Roadways." While numbers are going down, Florida experienced 9 deaths and 42 serious injuries daily on average from 2020-2024. As such, the state is dedicated to eliminating all fatalities and serious injuries to achieve its Target Zero goal. The SHSP recognizes that crashes are rarely based on a single factor. There are 20 key strategies in the new plan. FDOT will finalize the new SHSP in May 2026. Mr. Craig asked members to read through the document and provide feedback within the next two weeks. Next, Mr. Craig shared an opportunity to provide feedback on FDOT's proposed research needs statements regarding motorcycle safety. There were two items on the list. The Coalition also provided two additional research ideas, including potential improvements to the dead-red condition for motorcyclists.

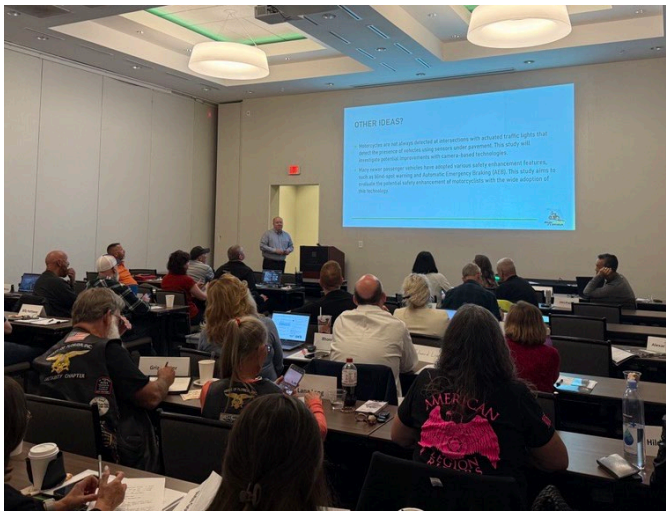


Figure 4. Mr. Chris Craig updating the Coalition on the new Florida SHSP.

Full presentation available here: Strategic Highway Safety Plan Update

ABATE's Motorcycle Safety Awareness Program – Ms. Lana Lang, ABATE

Lana Lang, ABATE, shared a "Share the Road" activity worksheet with the Coalition. The worksheet is used by ABATE members to engage with a wide variety of audiences. They have used the worksheet to directly engage with road users and to understand their perception of motorcyclists. A video related to "Share the Road" created by ABATE was presented. A second video on driver awareness was also shared. This video had interactive components which prompted viewers to guess the speed of different vehicles traveling at the same speed, demonstrating that vehicle size can significantly impact speed perception.

E-bike Definitions, HB243, SB382, and More – Mr. William Minton, FHP and Dr. Chanyoung Lee, CUTR

Mr. William Minton, FLHSMV, provided an overview of ongoing and emerging issues with outdated vehicle definitions in the State of Florida. Presently, electric bicycles are delineated by three classes, following national definitions. Each class has different speed specifications. Specifically, if an e-bike is going over 30 mph, it falls under the definition of a motorcycle under FS 316. New vehicle types are emerging quickly, and they do not fit neatly under the current Florida statute definitions. Furthermore, much of the law contains outdated thresholds that use engine displacement in Cubic Centimeters (CC), which does not easily translate to the power thresholds of electric-powered vehicles. The group discussed the challenges

of identifying vehicles on the street and the need to simplify statutory language based on speed. Dr. Lee also noted a potential challenge in interpreting the language that specifies the weight of micromobility devices as "under 50 pounds." Given that most e-bikes exceed this weight threshold, they may not be regulated by ordinances that are specific to micromobility devices.

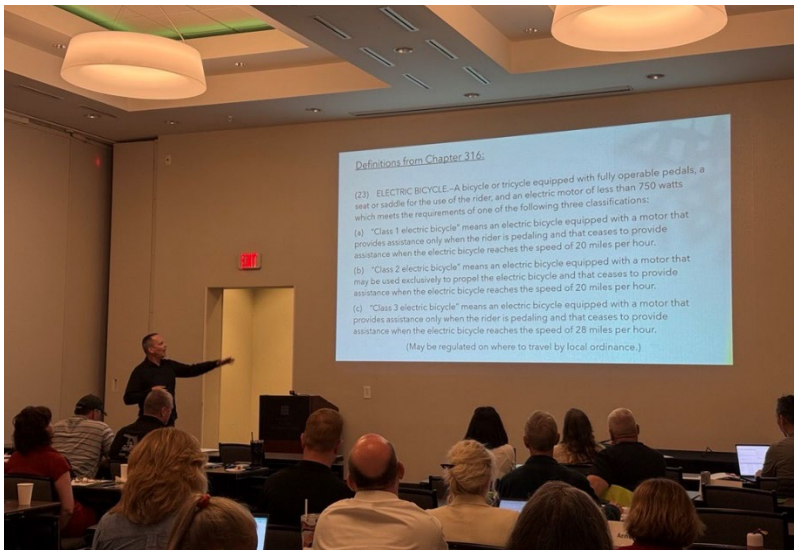


Figure 5. Mr. Bill Minton explaining Florida statute vehicle definitions for e-bikes and motorcycles.

Dr. Lee, CUTR, also shared language from House Bill 243 and Senate Bill 382 that propose edits to accommodate the wide variety of vehicles by adding watts and speed thresholds. However, the proposed language excludes vehicles that currently are defined as mopeds. Challenges with vehicle definitions impacts enforcement of motorcycle safety issues because law enforcement officers may not want to write citations for violations that they are not confident about. Presently, vehicle misclassification is highly prevalent in Florida's crash data. Dr. Lee encouraged the Coalition to review and provide feedback on the proposed bills.

Full presentation available here: E-bike Definitions, HB243, SB382, and More

November 14th, 2025

Day 2 Welcome – Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT

Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT, welcomed the Coalition back for Day 2 of the November FMSC meeting. Mrs. French shared an updated agenda for the day.

SMART Course Survey and Florida Motorcyclist Survey Results – Ms. Savana Wright, CUTR

Ms. Savana Wright, CUTR, provided an overview of two key surveys completed during the 2024-2025 subgrant cycle. First, Ms. Wright covered the SMART Course Survey. The SMART Course survey is an online end-of-course survey given to SMART Course participants to track demographics and determine participants' course experience. During the subgrant cycle, the CUTR team collected 423 responses from five law enforcement agency locations. Of the 423 responses collected, 85% of participants were male, with the majority riding mostly for recreation. Touring motorcycles were the most common bike type at 52%. The survey revealed that the SMART Course is very popular among previous participants, with 107 participants indicating that they had already taken a SMART Course four or more times, with almost half of participants (204) reporting that this was their first SMART Course. The most valued skills reported

Figure 6. Ms. Wright sharing the findings from the 2025 Florida Motorcyclist Survey.

were Maneuvering Skills (146 mentions), such as U-Turns and Slow Speed Maneuvers, and Braking & Avoidance Skills (88 mentions).

Next, Ms. Wright shared the findings of the 2025 Florida Motorcyclist Survey, which collected 754 responses via a postcard and social media advertisement. The 2025 survey found that cruiser popularity was consistent across riders aged 30 and older, while sport-style bikes were prevalent among younger riders (under age 49), and touring bikes among older participants (Age 50 or older), with a growing proportion of riders over 65 riding trikes/three-wheels. Regarding risky behaviors over the past 12 months, younger riders (under age 30) reported the highest rates, including riding 20 mph or more above the speed limit (68.3%), riding while preoccupied (53.7%), and riding when tired/sleep deprived (41.5%). The top safety concern reported was general driver awareness and visibility, and the three most dangerous roadway conditions were identified as rough roads (65.4%), slippery surfaces (52.1%), and traffic signal sensors that fail to detect motorcycles (50.2%). To conclude, Ms. Wright highlighted findings that can influence the Coalition's development of future educational campaigns. While alcohol impairment and speeding remain persistent behavioral risks among young riders, road rage is emerging as a growing concern.

Full presentation available here: SMART Course Survey and Florida Motorcyclist Survey

Large Group Discussion: 25-26 Priority Setting

Dr. Siwon Jang and Ms. Savana Wright, CUTR, led the group in a priority setting activity for the 25-26 Subgrant Cycle. A list of potential priorities was shared with the Coalition. Six key areas of interest were identified and presented: (1) Voluntary Helmet Use Promotion, which includes developing strategies to promote helmet use among riders over age 21 and enforcing helmet use among riders under age 21; (2) Motorcycle Licensing Evaluation and Improvement, which involves evaluating components like knowledge testing, instructor training, and aging rider license renewal; (3) New Rider Educational Packet Development, which focuses on providing materials to riders after graduating the BRC; (4) Share the Road Campaign Update, which aims to find alternate messaging to "Watch for Motorcycles"; (5) Scooter Body-Type Motorcycle Safety Issues, which evaluates safety issues for scooter-style motorcycles (50cc-300cc) and identifies solutions; and (6) Electric Powered Two-Wheel Vehicle safety issues, which involves evaluating and developing educational materials for e-bikes and other related vehicles. Participants were

asked to rank these six areas from most important to least. From this exercise, the Coalition indicated that the New Rider Packet Development was the top priority, followed by helmet use promotion, and licensing evaluation and improvement. Based on these results, the Coalition was instructed to take the top three priorities and discuss ways their emphasis area could contribute to each item in the 25-26 Subgrant Cycle.

Full presentation available here: 25-26 Priority Setting

Emphasis Area Breakout Session Discussions

Members broke out into groups to discuss tasks that could support the three priorities identified in the priority setting activity: (1) new rider packet development, (2) helmet use promotion, and (3) licensing evaluation and improvement. Emphasis area groups were instructed to complete a worksheet identifying tasks for each priority. Once complete, emphasis areas had time to review their section of the MSSP Business Plan and discuss any ongoing action items. Upon returning from the breakout sessions, each area leader provided the coalition with a summary of their group's discussions.

- **Advocacy & Policy** discussed how voluntary helmet use could be further promoted in the BRC. Although e-bike issues were not identified as a top three priority, the emphasis area felt they could still make some progress in cleaning up the Florida statutes to improve safety for e-bikes that fall under the definition of a motorcycle. The team also felt they could focus on child passenger issues. Bill Minton, FHP, proposed that a mandate for passenger age could be implemented. The Coalition also discussed adding height or weight restrictions in line with current booster seat regulations.
- **Communications** discussed that the new rider handbook and educational packet for new riders could be developed together. Along those lines, the development of a new rider handbook for Florida aligns with the Coalition's goal to improve Florida's motorcycle licensing system. To move forward with this goal, the team will determine the overall direction of the handbook and work closely with MSF to determine authorship and the depth of updating allowed.
- **Data & Analysis** would like to collect data on the date of endorsement compared to a rider's first crash date to inform the development of educational materials for new riders. Data summaries could be included in a packet for new riders. For helmet promotion, the team can provide injury severity data. Meanwhile, the team will work on extracting body part injury information from the EMSTARS data, attempting to link the sources to conduct more in-depth analysis of motorcyclist injuries. Last, the team can use endorsement data to link crash data and evaluate the effectiveness of training.
- **Law Enforcement** would like to focus their efforts on promoting "Road Ready: A Guide to Motorcycle Safety." New riders can be directed to take the course. The team also discussed adding the existing motorcycle violation checklist to any packet for new riders.
- **Rider Licensing & Training** discussed the importance of coming up with some sort of recognition system for training, including offering incentives for the completion of training. Regarding the new rider packet, the group felt print may not be the best format for delivery, given the young audience. Regardless of format, the helmet promotion task can be incorporated into the new rider packet by adding materials to encourage helmet use.
- **Roadway Engineering** would like to develop a cheat sheet for road signs and markings to share in the new rider packet. Relatedly, a guide to intersections could be beneficial to new riders. Lastly,

the team discussed that showing the physics of a motorcycle helmet might encourage some riders to wear a helmet. The team felt a cross-section of the helmet might be effective imagery to include in educational materials.

- **Trauma & Emergency Services** feels that it would be beneficial to translate the new rider packet to Spanish. The packet could include a helmet removal sticker and extremity and fracture injury information. The packet could be distributed through EMS courses and added to patient intervention efforts. The team also discussed piloting a program for less severe motorcycle injuries.

Meeting Closing Statements – Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT

Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT, closed out the meeting with a reminder about upcoming Coalition meeting dates. The floor was opened for questions and comments from the public. No additional comments were made.

Next meetings:

- February 11th-12th, 2026
- April 30th- May 1st, 2026
- August 11th – 12th, 2026