FLORIDA MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COALITION

COALITION MEETING REPORT

August 11 – 12, 2026

PREPARED FOR

Florida Department of Transportation

PREPARED BY

Center for Urban Transportation Research
University of South Florida

Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting Report

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Prepared by

Center for Urban Transportation Research

3808 USF Alumni Drive,

Tampa, FL 33620

Meeting notes taken by

Savana Wright

Date

August 11 –12, 2026

1.0 Attendees

Name	Agency
Chuck Meeth	American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE)
Lana Lang	American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE)
Griz Deaver	American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE)
John Makal	American Legion Riders
James Wineland	American Legion Riders
Victoria Ziegler	American Legion Riders
Juan Barros	Broward County Sheriff's Office
Todd Michael	Broward County Sheriff's Office
Cali Bogan	Element Engineering Group, FDOT D7 Consultant
Alexis DiBlanda	Florida Department of Health
Leilani Gruener	Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Brandy French*	Florida Department of Transportation
Chris Craig	Florida Department of Transportation
Joey Gordon	Florida Department of Health
James Landini	Florida Department of Transportation
Kody Butcher	Florida Department of Transportation
Rhonda Taylor	Florida Department of Transportation
Robert Hardy	Florida Department of Transportation D1
Sergio Contreras	Florida Department of Transportation D1
Annely Karron	Florida Department of Transportation D2
Kody Butcher	Florida Department of Transportation D2
Landon Murray	Florida Department of Transportation D2
Sean Fitzgerald	Florida Department of Transportation D2
Shieda Castillo	Florida Department of Transportation D6
Sara Christiano	Florida Department of Transportation D7
Kelly Farabee	Florida Department of Transportation D7
William Minton	Florida Highway Patrol
Shaun Vanbeber	Florida Law Enforcement Liaison (LEL) Program D6
Eric Kruizenga	Florida Rider Training Program
James Garrett	Florida Rider Training Program
Mark Parco	Harley-Davidson Riding Academy
Nelson Rojas	Latin American Motorcycle Association (L.A.M.A)
LaCheryl Jones	Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF)
Ray Ochs	Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF)
Hildi Brooks	Quest
Joel Provenzano	Retired (Florida Department of Transportation)
John Pretti	Retired (Florida SafeRider Inc. Motorcycle Training Academy)
Scott Campbell	Suncoast Brotherhood
Aida Leiva Gonzalez	Survive the Ride - University of Miami
Patricia Byers	Survive the Ride - University of Miami
Mariaugusta Montealegre	Survive the Ride - University of Miami

Alexandria Roeder	Tampa General Hospital
Keith Brown	Tampa Police Department
Sebastian Meyer	Tampa Police Department
Chanyoung Lee	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
EJ Chedester	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Jamie Bohn	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Savana Wright	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Siwon Jang	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Young Keun Yang	USF Center for Urban Transportation Research
Carter Dabney	Young Rider Representative (UCF Knight Riders Motorcycle Club)
Francesca Bolohan	Young Rider Representative
Sierra Partridge	Young Rider Representative
Stepan Vandysh	Young Rider Representative

* Florida Motorcycle Safety Program Manager

2.0 Meeting Summary

From August 11 – August 12, 2026, the Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition (FMSC) held its fourth meeting for the 2025-2026 subgrant cycle. The August 2026 Coalition Meeting was open to all members, guests, and the public. The meeting was held at Hyatt Place Tampa Wesley Chapel.

Day One (August 11): The first half of the August 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. EA Leaders provided updates on key achievements since the last Coalition meeting. Next, Dr. Chanyoung Lee, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), gave a presentation on the latest Florida Motorcycle Crash data, and Mrs. French provided the results of the Annual Coalition Member Survey. After a break, Dr. Ray Ochs and Ms. LaCheryl Jones, Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), provided updates on MSF. Next, Ms. EJ Chedester, CUTR, provided a presentation on "The Brain on Two Wheels." The meeting concluded with closing statements, an announcement of upcoming meeting dates, and a public comment period.

Day Two (August 12): On Day Two, Mrs. Brandy French made general announcements. Next, Dr. Patricia Byers, Ryder Trauma Center, presented on the educational outcomes of their Motorcycle Injury Prevention Program for EMS Personnel. Next, the Coalition broke out into their EA groups to review their Motorcycle Safety Strategic Plan (MSSP) Workbook and determine what tasks they would accomplish before the next Coalition meeting. Leaders from each group reported out a summary of the discussions to the Coalition. The meeting concluded with closing statements, an announcement of upcoming meeting dates, and a public comment period.

Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting: Day 1
Tuesday, August 11, 2026 (1:00 pm – 5:30 pm)

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
1:00-1:15 pm	Welcome & Introductions	Brandy French
1:15-2:00 pm	Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Update	Dr. Siwon Jang & EA Leaders
2:00-2:30 pm	Florida Motorcycle Crash Update	Dr. Chanyoung Lee
2:30-2:50 pm	Coalition Member Survey Findings	Brandy French
2:50-3:10 pm	Break	
3:10-4:00 pm	MSF Update	Dr. Ray Ochs & LaCheryl Jones
4:00-4:45 pm	The Brain on Two Wheels	EJ Chedester
4:45-5:00 pm	FL Motorcycle Safety Education Program Update	Lana Lang
5:00-5:30 pm	Public Comment Period & Closing Statements	Brandy French & Chris Craig

Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Meeting: Day 2
Wednesday, August 12, 2026 (9:00 am – 12:30 pm)

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
9:00-9:15 am	Review of Day One and Discussion	Brandy French
9:15-10:00 am	Educational Outcomes of STR Motorcycle Injury Prevention Program for EMS Personnel: Pre- and Post-Survey Results	Dr. Patricia Byers
10:00-11:00 am	Emphasis Area Breakout: MSSP Discussion	
11:00-11:15 am	Break	
11:15-12:00 pm	Report Out/Group Discussion	EA Leaders
12:00-12:30 pm	Future Coalition Meeting Dates, Public Comment Period & Closing Statements	Brandy French & Chris Craig

3.0 Coalition Meeting Notes

August 11th, 2026

Figure 1. Mrs. French welcoming the Coalition.

Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Day 1 Welcome and Program Updates – Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT & EA Leaders

Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT, opened the Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition meeting with introductions. All attendees were provided with copies of the meeting agenda and a copy of the Motorcycle Safety Strategic Plan (MSSP) Workbook. Attendees were reminded to complete the online meeting sign-in and informed that travel reimbursements will be processed electronically via Docusign. Next, Emphasis Area (EA) leaders and the CUTR team provided an overview of recent efforts:

- **Program Management** monitored post-May meeting action items, held pre-meetings with EA leaders, and conducted the annual Coalition Member Survey. Findings from the survey were summarized in a subsequent presentation.
- **Advocacy & Policy** published model language for a novice motorcyclist helmet requirement on the RideSMART Florida website. The team monitored proposed E-bike legislation and child motorcycle passenger legislation, reporting that neither bill passed. Last, the team presented at the Conference of County Court Judges in July 2026, where motorcycle safety curriculum is undergoing review for judges' continuing education credits.
- **Communications & Outreach** finalized the Florida Motorcycle Operator Handbook. The new handbook was published on the RideSMART Florida website and linked on the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) website. The team also managed the May is Motorcycle Safety Month campaign, with 53 volunteers placing "Watch for Motorcycles" yard signs at the selected sites of fatal motorcycle crashes in Florida in 2025. The effort was paired with a social media campaign that garnered over 260,000 views. Motorcycle Safety Month was also promoted by members of the Coalition, including a concerted effort by FDOT D1, and Mr. Joel Provenzano, who published an article about motorcycle safety featuring an impactful story of a young rider's fatality. The CUTR team also drafted the "Passenger Princess Protocol," a tri-fold brochure developed in response to the Coalition's request for passenger-oriented safety materials. Last, the RideSMART Florida outreach team attended the IPTM Symposium on Traffic Safety, the Florida Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Challenge, and the Conference of County Court Judges. The team is also planning outreach for Biketoberfest 2026 in Daytona.

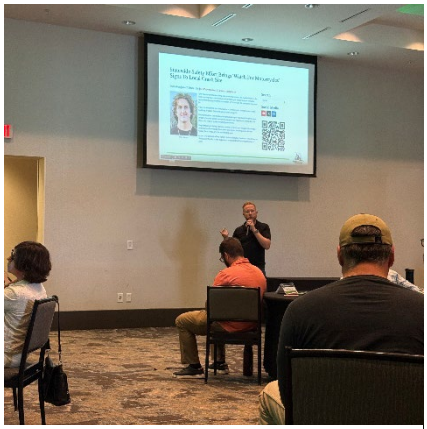

Figure 2. Joel Provenzano sharing his Motorcycle Safety article.

- **Data & Analysis** completed an update of data on the RideSMART Florida website. County-level crash fact documents were also updated and published to the website. The 2026 annual Florida Motorcyclist Survey and bi-Annual Florida Drivers Survey are currently in progress.
- **Law Enforcement** finalized the Motorcycle Education Program for Every Rider (MEPER) online course for law enforcement with a streamlined login and automated certificate system. Motorcycle safety training was delivered in person to 44 Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) recruits.
- **Rider Licensing & Training** posted the Florida Motorcycle Operator Handbook on the FLHSMV website. The team is currently monitoring the transition to a new FLHSMV automated driver testing vendor to explore updating the motorcycle knowledge test. Last, suggested updates to the Florida Administrative Code (FAC) dealing with the Florida Rider Training Program (FRTP) (FAC 15A-12), were made available for public comment.
- **Roadway Engineering** added the "Motorcycles Use Caution" (W12-55) sign to Florida's Highway Sign Library and Traffic Engineering Manual. The team also updated FDOT Design Manual Section 215.4.1.2 allowing rub rails on guardrails in high-traffic areas. Mr. James Landini, FDOT, represented the Coalition at the Florida Association of County Engineers & Road Superintendents (FACERS) annual meeting and the National Motorcyclist Advisory Council (MAC) meeting.
- **Trauma & Emergency Services** delivered training to 357 first responders and attended three outreach events. The Survive the Ride (STR) team upgraded the EMS safety curriculum with state-of-the-art trauma interventions and successfully secured approval for two state Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits. The STR team also partnered with Tampa General Hospital and HCA Healthcare to scale and deliver training across the state. Moving forward, the group is initiating a pilot project in the Florida Keys to expand EMS and first responder training, updating patient safety educational materials and collaborating with the Gordon Center to develop an updated online training module.

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

Figure 3. Dr. Chanyoung Lee providing data updates.

Dr. Chanyoung Lee, CUTR, presented an update on Florida motorcycle crash trends from 2015 to 2025. The presentation emphasized the lingering impacts of the post-COVID-19 surge in traffic fatalities, ongoing challenges surrounding impaired riding, and safety concerns specific to scooter operators. Dr. Lee established that while overall statewide traffic fatalities declined by 21% from their 2021 peak, motorcyclist fatalities remained stagnant, rising from 16.4% of total traffic deaths in 2020 to 19.8% in 2025. County-level data indicated that six key areas, (1) Miami-Dade, (2) Marion, (3) Broward, (4) Duval, (5) Hernando, and (6) Lee, showed significant increases in motorcyclist fatalities in recent years, while Pasco County exhibited the highest fatal crash rate at 9.0%. The presentation further outlined critical risk factors and behavioral patterns affecting crash outcomes across different demographic groups. Sport bikes accounted for the majority of crash-involved operators under 35 years of age, whereas cruisers and touring bikes predominated among riders aged 55 and older. Substance impairment was identified in

28.3% of all fatally injured riders, peaking at 39.6% within the 40–49 age group, with drug involvement most prevalent among younger riders and alcohol leading among older riders. Additionally, travel speed proved to be a critical factor in crash severity, as 52% of fatally injured riders in single-vehicle crashes were estimated to be traveling at speeds of 50 mph or higher.

Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Survey Findings – Brandy French, FDOT

Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT, presented the results of the FY 25–26 Florida Motorcycle Safety Coalition Survey, highlighting key metrics on member engagement and feedback. The survey yielded 36 complete responses, comprised of 32 coalition members and 4 guests. The Coalition has observed sustained meeting attendance levels consistent with recent subgrant cycles. Members demonstrated overwhelmingly positive sentiments towards Coalition meetings, with most respondents (97%) reporting they were either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the meetings they attended. A clear majority strongly agreed that the meetings were well-structured, productive, and met their core objectives. Participants specifically praised the data-driven research, technical insights, and collaborative networking opportunities provided by the Coalition. The report also detailed actionable feedback and future priorities identified by coalition members to enhance meeting efficacy and statewide traffic safety initiatives. While members expressed high satisfaction with logistics and moderation, suggestions for improvement focused on engaging younger riders, inviting expert guest speakers, and fostering greater active participation during discussions. Looking ahead to upcoming breakout sessions and future agenda topics, respondents requested an expanded focus on rider education and licensing, motorcycle safety technology (such as airbag gear and autonomous vehicle integration), legal policy comparisons across jurisdictions, and targeted outreach strategies to address high-risk behaviors.

Figure 4. Mrs. French sharing the findings of the Coalition member survey.

Figure 5. Mrs. Jones providing an MSF update.

Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Update – Dr. Ray Ochs & Mrs. LaCheryl Jones, MSF

Dr. Ray Ochs and Mrs. LeCheryl Jones, MSF, presented a comprehensive update on MSF's strategic initiatives, leadership transitions, and core operations. The presentation covered MSF's history and outlined its modern leadership under President and CEO Christy LaCurrele. The presentation detailed the evolution of MSF's 360 Rider Training framework and highlighted newly launched programs. The presentation reviewed key operational statistics, noting that while traditional training enrollment has faced a downward trend, initiatives like

nationwide MSF RIDE Days have successfully introduced new riders to the sport, with half of participants subsequently obtaining their motorcycle license. Key digital releases were reviewed, such as the updated Basic RiderCourse (BRC) e-course and an e-bike e-course developed to promote road safety among youth. Looking forward, MSF is committed to expanding training access, integrating technology-enhanced learning, accommodating electric vehicles, and diversifying outreach.

The Brain on Two Wheels: Cognitive Traps in Skilled Riding – EJ Chedester, CUTR

Ms. EJ Chedester, CUTR, examined how neural processing and perceptual gaps, rather than a lack of mechanical skill, contribute to a motorcyclist's risk on the road. The session detailed key cognitive vulnerabilities, including saccadic masking (where the brain suppresses visual input during eye movement), inattentional blindness, and confidence bias, wherein increased experience inadvertently shrinks a rider's safety margins. The presentation covered the "constant bearing problem," which leads drivers and riders to overlook objects with no relative position change during maneuvers like left-turn-across-path (LTAP) scenarios. Finally, the presentation summarized the impact of cognitive load, which overloads working memory and delays reaction times.

Figure 6. Ms. Chedester presenting on cognitive traps in riding.

To counteract these cognitive traps, Ms. Chedester discussed practical strategies for riders, emphasizing that better riding begins with understanding how the brain constructs reality on the road. Actionable steps recommended for riders include stabilizing gaze, actively scanning key zones, pre-setting safety limits, creating subtle lane position shifts to overcome static visibility, and limiting secondary distractions like excess electronics to reduce cognitive load while moving. The presentation underscored the necessity of proactive, conscious hazard management to maintain adequate safety buffers.

Florida Motorcycle Safety Education Program Update – Lana Lang, ABATE

Figure 7. Mrs. Lang presenting updates from the Florida Motorcycle Safety Education Program.

The FLHSMV Motorcycle Safety Education Program presented a status report on its recent safety initiatives. Core objectives focused on saving lives, maximizing impact, engaging the community, and including all riders statewide. The group attended more than 135 outreach events, including targeted outreach during major events such as Daytona Beach Bike Week and Biketoberfest. To drive engagement and public awareness, the program developed creative assets, including bilingual social media toolkits, digital newsletters, an annual calendar, and public safety videos. Mrs. Lang concluded by reaffirming the program's ongoing commitment to data-informed safety messaging and cross-platform collaboration to reduce motorcycle-related crashes across Florida.

August 12th, 2026

Day 2 Welcome – Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT

Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT, welcomed the Coalition back for Day 2 of the August FMSC meeting. Mrs. French shared the agenda for the day and reminded the Coalition about the public comment period at the conclusion of the meeting.

Education Outcomes of a Motorcycle Injury Prevention Program for EMS Personnel: Expanded Outcome Analysis – Dr. Patricia Byers, Ryder Trauma Center

Dr. Patricia Byers, Ryder Trauma Center, provided background on the involvement of trauma and EMS in the Motorcycle Safety Coalition going back almost twenty years, explaining how motorcycle trauma response has changed over time in Florida. With this history in mind, she shared the recent expanded outcome analysis of the FDOT-funded "Survive the Ride" motorcycle injury prevention program for EMS personnel. The goal was to evaluate changes in EMS knowledge related to motorcycle injury prevention, trauma epidemiology, and injury patterns using a pre- and post- survey design.

Figure 8. Dr. Byers presenting on the performance of EMS training.

Addressing the lack of specific motorcycle triage criteria in Florida, the presentation highlighted that 6,771 personnel across 18 counties were trained, with South Florida accounting for the highest concentrations of participants. Pre- and post-survey evaluation data from 1,480 respondents with a median of 11 years of EMS experience demonstrated substantial improvements in knowledge across multiple critical domains, including motorcycle trauma epidemiology and general motorcycle crash injury prevention. Participant feedback overwhelmingly supported the impact of the educational program, with over 95% of surveyed personnel agreeing or strongly agreeing that the training improved both their overall understanding of motorcycle safety and their triage knowledge. Notable specific gains included a rise in the correct identification of shear-related injuries from 73% pre-training to 94% post-training. Concluding the presentation, Dr. Byers emphasized that the program's measurable success in boosting provider confidence and clinical understanding strongly supports the continued expansion of statewide EMS motorcycle trauma education.

Emphasis Area Breakout Session Discussions

Members broke out into groups to discuss their section of the MSSP Workbook. EA groups were also instructed to complete a worksheet documenting accomplishments and identifying tasks to focus on for the next subgrant cycle. Once complete, emphasis areas had time to review their section of the MSSP Workbook 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 was monitoring a child passenger bill and e-bike bill, but neither were passed. During the subgrant cycle, the team finalized language for a new rider probationary helmet law model language. In the next subgrant cycle, the team will share the helmet model language with the American Legion Rider (ALR).

Figure 9. Advocacy and Policy breakout group.

Data & Analysis is working on obtaining EMS and hospital data for analysis. The team is done with the Motorcycle Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) data project, but is working with Joey Gordon, FDOT, on improvements. Finally, the CUTR team has issued its annual Florida Motorcyclist Survey and bi-annual Florida Drivers Survey. Results from the surveys will be available at the next Coalition meeting.

Communications & Outreach will focus on motorist messaging in the next subgrant cycle. The team would also like to develop a new safety gear series. Last, the team plans to work with FDOT D6 to translate materials and have the Coalition prioritize materials to translate first.

Law Enforcement is currently awaiting the passage of e-bike legislation before developing educational materials to assist law enforcement with regulatory enforcement. In the interim, members want to draft an "Everyday Rider" guide focused on personal protective equipment (PPE) while revamping existing educational materials as needed. To expand community outreach, the group highlighted a need for additional funding for SMART Courses and agreed to continue promoting and updating the MEPER course for law enforcement. Ongoing tasks include updating County Crash Fact documents on an annual basis and providing survey support to Dr. Byers. Finally, the group discussed professional networking structures for motor officers, noting that while the LEL program currently serves this purpose, no dedicated state or national motor-officer association exists, making local police rodeos a key opportunity for professional engagement.

Figure 10. Rider Licensing and Training breakout group.

Rider Licensing & Training noted that the Florida Administrative Code 15-A update is currently open for public comment. To enhance rider coaches' engagement and professional development, the team is exploring the feasibility of hosting an in-person rider coach summit. Marketing efforts will focus on creating promotional materials for SMART Courses to distribute within Basic RiderCourse (BRC) classes, as well as continuing the distribution of endorsement tip cards to unendorsed riders. Finally, the group is awaiting participant data from last year's BRC offerings to guide future programming strategies.

Roadway Engineering confirmed the successful update of the design manual and identified several additional manuals for future revision. The team is evaluating a new road maintenance reporting tool currently being developed by Element Engineering for FDOT District 7, with discussions focusing on its operational implementation. To ensure motorcyclist safety is actively integrated into future design standards, the group plans to send representation to upcoming quarterly Greenbook Committee meetings. Additionally, team members are scheduled to present at the Florida-Puerto Rico ITE conference in October. Final priorities include completing a collaborative review of the Engineering Clearinghouse in September and coordinating with CUTR to demonstrate the new website during the November meeting.

Trauma & Emergency Services plans to advocate for statewide EMS training through the trauma response committee while collaborating with LELs to improve survey response rates. The team would like to update instructional videos and training materials on emergency release tabs and removable padding in DOT-compliant helmets to enhance trauma response protocols. Additionally, the team noted the completion of the leg protection survey and requested donations of retired helmets for upcoming hands-on training sessions. Future plans include the creation of a dedicated "Survive the Ride" website.

Meeting Closing Statements – Mrs. Brandy French and Mr. Chris Craig, FDOT

Mrs. Brandy French, FDOT, closed out the meeting with a reminder about upcoming Coalition meeting dates. The floor was open for questions and comments from the public by Mr. Chris Craig. He announced that kickstand pucks were available for members to use in safety outreach.

Next meetings:

- November 4th- 5th, 2026
- February 3rd – 4th, 2027