



## Florida Department of Transportation Research

The Enhancement and Upgrade of the Electronic Freight Theft Management System (EFTMS)  
BD548-21

In 2005, the FDOT Motor Carrier Compliance Office and the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) launched a website for reporting in-state freight thefts. This Electronic Freight Theft Management System (EFTMS) was the product of FDOT-sponsored research (BD548-12) performed by researchers at the University of Central Florida.



*Electronic theft reporting helps law enforcement respond quickly.*

Hosted by FHP, EFTMS distributes theft reports to law enforcement agencies, via email, once they are entered into the system. An online interface allows trucking industry users to directly enter theft reports into EFTMS. This system expedites the process of notifying the various law enforcement agencies of reported thefts. It also allows cooperating law enforcement agencies to utilize the information.

Based on feedback provided by system users, the researchers have developed several modifications for EFTMS since its inception.

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For more information, visit <http://dot.state.fl.us/research-center>.

Geographic Information System (GIS) enhancements now provide better theft mapping capability. A reporting framework that allows the input of more detailed information about individual thefts now makes it possible for law enforcement agencies to conduct data searches using several criteria and compare thefts for common details or patterns.

Enhancements made to the system during this project allow users to do the following:

- enter multiple vehicles in a single theft report
- map theft occurrences, as a result of GIS enhancements
- manage data entries and perform other administrative tasks without dependence on technology assistance personnel

The researchers increased the storage capacity of the database. They also updated the server technology, making the website more secure and improving its performance.

These system enhancements should make EFTMS an even more powerful tool for combating freight theft and producing consequent economic benefits.