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FDOT: Florida Hits All-Time High Safety Belt Usage Rate

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Today, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) announced that Florida’s statewide safety belt usage rate has reached an all-time high of 90.6 percent. FDOT released the *June 2018 Safety Belt Use in Florida* report which affirms that FDOT and its traffic safety partners are providing effective occupant protection programs. Florida’s educational efforts, *Click It or Ticket* campaigns and high visibility law enforcement campaigns have continued to help increase Florida’s safety belt usage rates. The previous record for Florida safety belt compliance was 90.2 percent (June 2017 Safety Belt Use in Florida report).

Florida Governor Rick Scott said, “I’m proud of the work FDOT does each day to keep Florida residents and visitors safe on our roadways.

FDOT Secretary Mike Dew said, “Safety is the number one priority at the Florida Department of Transportation. We recognize the integral role safety belts play in protecting drivers and passengers in a crash. Every day lives are saved and people avoid serious injury in Florida thanks to increased safety belt usage.”

Research has found that lap and shoulder combination safety belts, when used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent (NHTSA, 2011).

Florida’s first statewide survey was completed in 1999 and an annual survey has been conducted every year since. Florida’s statewide safety belt use rate continues to trend upward every year since the implementation of a primary safety belt law in 2009.

For additional information, please visit www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/seat-belts. To view the *June 2018 Safety Belt Use in Florida* report, please visit: <http://www.fdot.gov/info/CO/news/newsreleases/2018-Florida-Safety-Belt-Use-Final-Report.pdf>

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