



SUNGUIDE® DISSEMINATOR



Florida Department of Transportation's Traffic Engineering and Operations Newsletter

Turnpike Safety Campaign Uses DMS and Outreach to Drive the Message Home

By Dalita Singh and Ryan Brown. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) continually seeks to identify new ways to make its roadways safer. Recently, FTE Traffic Operations, Incident Management, and staff from the Public Information Office have been coordinating with the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) to increase outreach and awareness of safe driving behaviors, focusing their promotion in advance and throughout this busy holiday travel season. This effort has resulted in a myriad of outreach options and creative ways to bring the message to motorists.

FTE has been focusing on reducing distracted driving with catchy dynamic message sign (DMS) slogans, as seen in a photo (below) from November. In October, the messaging cited, "It's Scary Enough Out Here, Don't Text and Drive." Feedback from this effort has been overwhelmingly positive, as seen by recent Twitter input received by statewide Florida 511.



In addition to DMS outreach, FTE is educating the public about safe driving. Traffic Operations has taken the lead in promoting an outreach program to encourage safety within the Turnpike community. So far, they have partnered with West Orange High School in the creation of a safety poster contest. FTE has received posters and slogans from students that will be used to promote safety on the Turnpike system. The slogans will be posted on the DMSs throughout the system, at the service plazas' information displays, on the Turnpike's Facebook account, and on Twitter. The posters will also be shown on social media and possibly

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Continued on next page...

Inside This Issue December 2015

- Turnpike Safety Campaign Uses DMS and Outreach to Drive the Message Home 1
- Moment of Humor! 2
- District Four's I-595 Corridor Improvements Projects Wins at 2015 America's Transportation Awards 3
- FDOT District Six Adds New Incident Response Staging Area to I-95 4
- Beyond the USDOT CV Pilots - What CV Deployments are Next?..... 5
- Congrats to Our Award Winners! 6
- SunGuide® Software WazeReader Phase 2..... 8
- SunGuide® Disseminator Word Challenge..... 9
- ITS Florida 2016 Board of Directors.. 10
- Editorial Corner: FDOT's Traveler Information Transition 11
- FDOT ITS Contacts 12
- District Progress Reports..... Supplement

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Moment of Humor!

at the service plazas and service station gas pump video displays. The goal of the posters and different safety slogans is to spread the word about safe driving by posting messages that are not the norm, that will get motorists talking, and get the communities' involvement in the creation of the slogans and posters.

Further, Turnpike Traffic Operations is bringing the message to the people, having recently participated in a "Teach-In" event on November 9th. Teach-In is a way to bring professionals into the classroom to talk to students about academics, careers, and the future. Along with those topics, distracted driving, wearing seat belts, how to properly check tire pressure, and the Move Over law were also discussed. The students also deliberated on what to do in the case of an emergency and Turnpike Traffic Engineers dispelled quite a few unclear driving notions. The event was well received by the students, all of whom were young drivers or learning to drive. The Turnpike hopes to educate the drivers at a young age and build good driving habits that will contribute to safer roadways in the future.

In their endeavor to promote safe driving, FTE is looking into other venues to educate drivers. They are currently working with FHP, Road Rangers, towing partners, and others to promote safety at a pre-selected plaza prior to the holidays. The aim is to talk to as many drivers on the system as possible about distracted driving, the ramifications of improperly loading a vehicle with passengers, tire pressure, Safe Phone Zones, the purpose of our Road Ranger Program, the importance of the Move-Over Law, and many other subjects. They will also be forewarned about January being the "Move-Over" month, during which FHP will actively ticket anyone not following the Move-Over Law.



Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!



**Nobody likes a
Holiday Crasher.
Put down the
device.**



For information, please contact Mr. Eric Gordin at (407) 264-3316 or e-mail to Eric.Gordin@dot.state.fl.us.

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District Four's I-595 Corridor Improvements Projects Wins at 2015 America's Transportation Awards

By Natalie Cortes, FDOT District Four

Sunday, September 27, 2015, turned out to be a successful night for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) at the Eighth Annual America's Transportation Awards. Out of the 48 transportation projects from 24 states that were nominated, FDOT won the Grand Prize for District Six's \$670 million Port of Miami Tunnel Project and District Four's I-595 Corridor Improvements Project, which received more than 56,000 online votes and won the People's Choice Award.

According to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' Executive Director Bud Wright, "The America's Transportation Awards competition shines a national spotlight on some of the outstanding projects that are making travel safer and better across the country."

District Four's \$1.2 billion project relieved traffic congestion and created a multimodal transportation network along I-595 in South Florida. Through a public-private partnership, design and construction teams completed the project on time and \$275 million below the originally estimated cost of the project. With express lanes, express bus service, and a bike/pedestrian greenway, the project improved multimodal travel for the entire region.

The finalists at the ceremony were made up of winners from the Regional American's Transportation Awards announced earlier in the year. Five states took home honors in the Mid-America regional, six at the Southeastern regional, seven in the Western regional, and three in the Northeastern regional. The ten projects



The I-595 Corridor project won the People's Choice Award at America's Transportation Awards.

with the highest overall score moved on to the national competition.

All of the projects in the competition were judged in three categories: "Under Budget," "Best Use of Innovation," and "Quality of Life/Community Development."

For District Four's impressive efforts in improving transportation management, the I-595 Corridor Improvements Project won \$10,000 in support of any charity or transportation-related

scholarship program of the District's choosing.

To learn more about this year's competition and the entries, visit <http://americastransportationawards.org/2015-entries/>.

For information, please contact Mr. Dong Chen at (954) 847-2785 or email to Dong.Chen@dot.state.fl.us.

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FDOT District Six Adds New Incident Response Staging Area to I-95

By Javier Rodriguez, FDOT District Six

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six added a new staging area for incident management resources on Interstate 95 (I-95) located at the intersection of I-395.



Staging area for incident management.

The idea for this staging area came from a monthly Incident Response Vehicle (IRV) safety meeting. At the meeting, staff identified the need for a safe and accessible area to stage incident management vehicles to support 95 Express operations, particularly during the peak travel times when it is most critical.

Construction for the 1,125 square foot staging area began in September 2015, and was completed this November. It replaced a grassy patch of land between northbound I-95 and the northbound on-ramp from I-395. It was designed to support two vehicles and currently serves as a launch point for the District's IRV and a Road Ranger flatbed tow truck.

The new staging area is in line with District Six's continued commitment of improving operations along I-95 and 95 Express to benefit all drivers along those corridors. Since its completion, it has worked to improve incident response times and made it safer to stage field personnel because a guardrail was added for additional protection.

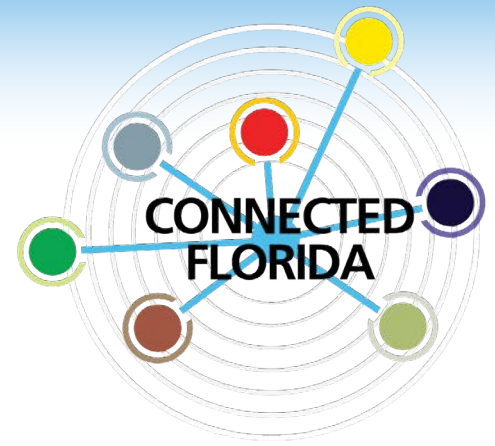
Identifying new resources and opportunities to better position incident management resources like this staging area will help FDOT and its partner agencies face the new challenges that come with growing congestion as well as the expansion of the express lanes network.

For information, please contact Mr. Rodriguez at (305) 470-5757 or email to Javier.Rodriguez2@dot.state.fl.us.

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Beyond the USDOT CV Pilots – What CV Deployments are Next?

By Suzanne Murtha, Atkins



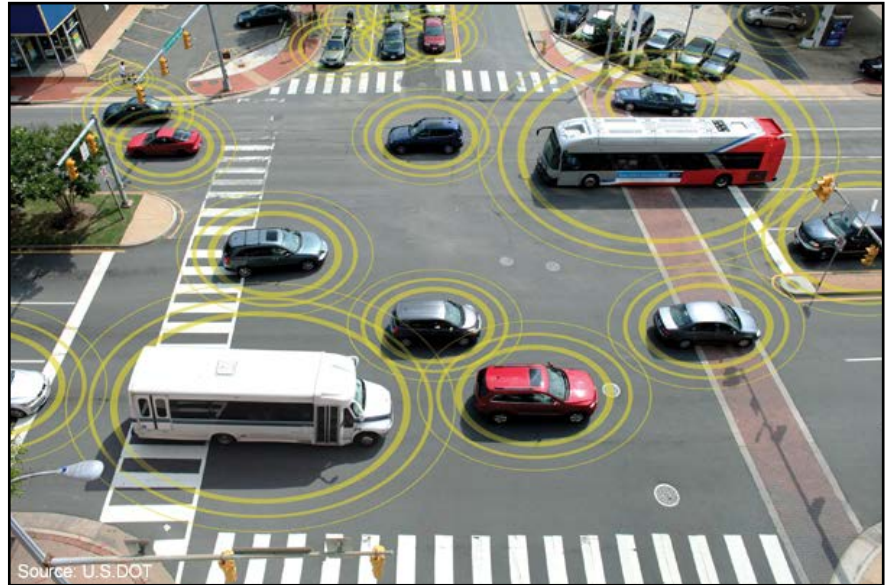
Earlier this year, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced recipients of grants to deploy connected vehicle (CV) applications across several states. We expect more grants to be awarded by the end of 2015. States, regions, and cities are planning CV programs that may be deployed by or before the USDOT pilot sites. Scalable and reasonable deployments are being planned in various places throughout the United States.

Some applications under consideration include:

- Intelligent intersections – Short-term deployment of intelligent intersections will likely include applications such as:
 - Pedestrian detection and awareness
 - Interaction for priority for emergency vehicles
 - Interaction for priority for freight
 - Applications that make use of signal phase and timing to optimize the interaction with the signals.

We expect that these applications will be deployed individually in the near term; over the medium term, intelligent intersections will have many applications—all deployed together and interacting across corridors.

- Wrong-way driving – Wrong way driving applications for CV integration are under development in several states. This is an example of how to integrate CV applications with existing technologies and enhance the deployments over time.
- Commercial vehicle-based applications – Commercial vehicles have long been the launching point for advanced transportation technologies. As commercial vehicles often function in fleets, deployment of in-vehicle technologies becomes less complicated. CV technology deployment will not be an exception. Some commercial vehicle-based deployments include:
 - Overheight warning – Overheight vehicles making contact with infrastructure is surprisingly common. This crash type causes significant damage to the infrastructure as well as problems with mobility. Overheight warning is less challenging to deploy as it involves at least one piece of static infrastructure that will not change. The message to avoid a low bridge is constant and regular.
 - Preapproval of vehicles for inspection – Several agencies are exploring deployment of highly secure CV systems to preapprove commercial vehicle applications that authenticate vehicles' weight, drivers, and equipment. Medium- and longer-term deployments will be able to execute even more complex analyses on vehicles, such as brake wear or other safety critical warnings.



*Connected vehicles can help prevent crashes at busy intersections.
Image courtesy of the U.S. Department of Transportation*

Deployment of CV systems is not just for USDOT. Look for CV deployments in your area soon.

For information, please contact Mr. Fred Heery at (850) 410-5606 or email to Fred.Heery@dot.state.fl.us.

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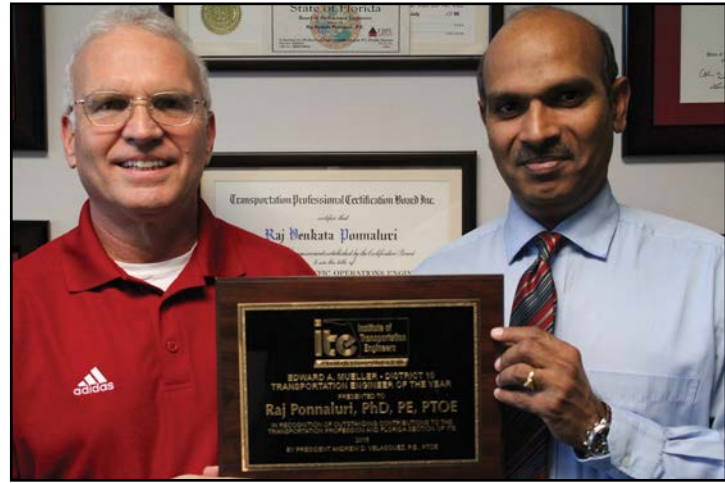
Congrats to Our Award Winners!

By Angela Wilhelm and Fred Heery, FDOT, and Larry Hagen, Hagen Consulting Services

Raj Ponnaluri Wins FSITE Transportation Engineer of the Year Award

The Florida Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (FSITE) awarded Raj Ponnaluri with the 2015 Edward A. Mueller Transportation Engineer of the Year Award for his contributions to reducing wrong-way crashes and advancing Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSM&O) in Florida. The award acknowledges outstanding contributions to the Florida Section and to the transportation profession during a given year.

Raj serves as the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) State Arterial Management Systems Engineer. Along with leading statewide efforts to reduce wrong-way crashes and advancing TSM&O in Florida in the past year, he also served as a key player in providing guidance on ramp metering and negotiating updated terms to the Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement that affects FDOT Districts and local maintaining agencies across the state.



Raj Ponnaluri (right) and Fred Heery (left).

Those who have worked with Raj know that he is not only a solid engineer, but also a natural leader and a sincere mentor to others. Raj gladly offers his input and assistance to statewide transportation efforts. His involvement contributes to the success of new and established FDOT efforts. Raj serves as a valuable resource, sharing his knowledge and answering questions that frequently arise, all while taking the initiative to learn new technological concepts. While he may not realize it, Raj is a role model who is well respected by his peers for both his technical expertise and his interpersonal skills.

Congratulations Raj!

Eric Gordin Wins FSITE Transportation Professional of the Year Award

Eric Gordin, P.E. was recognized by the FSITE with the John R. Freeman Transportation Professional of the Year award at the FSITE Annual Meeting in Tampa. Eric is currently the Assistant Traffic Operations Engineer with Florida's Turnpike Enterprise. Eric was recognized for his efforts in leading the Central Florida ITE Chapter and for his outstanding work leading the Local Arrangements Committee for the I3 Florida Transportation Showcase in Orlando earlier this year. This highly successful showcase conference was a collaboration of three Florida transportation organizations: FSITE, the Intelligent Transportation Society of Florida, and the Florida Chapter of the International Municipal Signal Association. It took a great deal of effort and hard work to coordinate all of the details and arrangements necessary for a meeting of this magnitude.



Eric Gordin.

Congratulations Eric!

Gail Holley Wins FHWA's Program Planning, Development, and Evaluation Category for Safe Mobility for Life Coalition

The National Roadway Safety Awards is a biennial competition sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Roadway Safety Foundation to recognize roadway safety achievements that help reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the nation's roadways. The competition acknowledges successful engineering solutions that agencies have integrated into their roadway safety programs.

Congratulations to Gail Holley, FDOT’s Safe Mobility for Life Program and Research Manager, for winning an award for the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition in FHWA’s Program Planning, Development, and Evaluation category.

It is recognized that as the aging population continues to increase, individuals may experience challenges such as declining vision, decreased flexibility and psychomotor performance, and changes in perceptual and cognitive performance. To help address this, FDOT developed an aging road user program in 2004 that eventually grew into the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition. This coalition identifies both engineering and behavioral solutions to improve the safety, access, and mobility for Florida’s aging population.

Ten key emphasis areas – ranging in scope from advocacy to helping seniors transition from driving – guide the work of the coalition, and several metrics are in place to measure its success. The work of the coalition preserves the value and dignity of Florida’s aging demographic while protecting the safety of all its drivers.

Congratulations Gail!



Gail Holley (fourth from right) and Peter Hsu (fifth from right).

Peter Hsu Wins FHWA’s Infrastructure and Operational Improvements Award for District Seven’s Advanced Lighting Measurement System

Peter Hsu, FDOT District Seven Safety and Special Projects Engineer, also won an award in FHWA’s Infrastructure and Operational Improvements category for his involvement in District Seven’s advanced lighting measurement system.

Nighttime traffic fatality rates are nearly three times higher than day time traffic fatality rates. The rates of nighttime pedestrian fatalities are even greater.

Peter was recognized for his work with the advanced lighting measurement system (ALMS), which uses a vehicle-mounted sensor to collect data in real time. An operator collects data while traveling in a normal traffic stream in a vehicle with the mounted sensor. The data is then downloaded and analyzed in the safety of an office.

The data have been used to address lighting in critical areas such as intersections and transit stops where pedestrians are particularly vulnerable. FDOT also has identified corridor lighting deficiencies and included their remedies in the scope of projects under development.

Congratulations Peter!

For information, please contact Mr. Fred Heery at (850) 410-5606 or email to Fred.Heery@dot.state.fl.us.



SunGuide® Software WazeReader Phase 2

By Clay Packard, Atkins



WazeReader is an application developed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) that downloads alert data from Waze, filters it, and then distributes it statewide. Phase 1 of the WazeReader is operating successfully, but there are several planned improvements, which are coming with the release of SunGuide® software 6.2. These improvements include new filtering capabilities, enhanced location information, and alert handling automation.

The new filtering capabilities of WazeReader will allow each District to work with Central Office to define a set of filters that best meet their operational needs. This is made possible by allowing any general filter to be overridden on a District-by-District basis.

There will also be changes to the filters themselves in order to reduce the overall number of alerts, while keeping the most important. Alert types may now be filtered out when the reliability score of the alert is below a certain threshold. This modification is important because analysis of Waze alerts has shown that waiting for higher reliability scores introduces delays in operator notification. Using these conditional filters, alerts for incidents with a high risk of injury, such as crashes, can be sent as soon as possible by lowering the reliability threshold. Alerts for incidents with a low risk of injury, such as vehicles stopped on the shoulder, may be sent only when the reliability score breaches a high threshold. This second case will reduce the overall workload on operators by filtering out low risk, short term alerts. For example, if a driver stopped on the side of the road is reported by Waze and then drives off one minute later, there will be a good chance that the SunGuide® operator will never be notified because the reliability score of the alert will remain low.

The next set of filtering enhancements will allow a District to not only filter by county, but also by roadway. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) is already using the first enhancement. In the past, FTE received a large number of superfluous alerts due to the fact that their managed roadways pass through several counties. FTE now only receives Waze alerts for their managed roadways. The second enhancement restricts alerts on any roadway other than state roads for all Districts. The Geographic Information System division of FDOT's Planning Office made these two improvements to the WazeReader possible. They created a shapefile using ArcGIS software and HERE map data that the WazeReader developer used to enhance location data transmitted by Waze.

Latitude, longitude, and heading sent by Waze are used to select a roadway from the shapefile. Once a roadway is selected, the name, direction of travel, and county are obtained. The consistent naming scheme and structure of the data in the shapefile allows for their use in filters, analysis, and the SunGuide software.

Operators will be pleased to hear that WazeReader phase 2 will no longer be relegated to map icons and simple pop ups on the SunGuide software operator map. The map icons will remain for ease of use, but Waze alerts will now come in through the incident detection subsystem. This means that operators will be able to focus their attention on the event list rather than watching the operator map for new Waze alerts. Giving Waze alerts a new home in the alert box was not the only goal of this enhancement. Operators will now be able to handle Waze alerts just like any other alert. They can dismiss as a false alarm, dismiss as already detected, or create a new event in SunGuide software. If they choose to create a new event, they will find that all of the available data is prepopulated in the event details dialog. These are just a few of the benefits of bringing Waze alerts in through the incident detection subsystem. There are even more benefits related to data analysis.

There are still some important unanswered questions related to Waze alerts and SunGuide software:

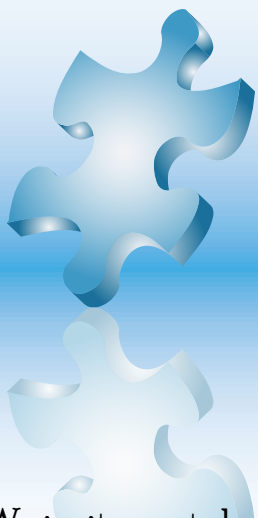
- What percentage of SunGuide software events are created from Waze alerts?
- What percentage of Waze alerts are dismissed as false alarms?
- What percentage of Waze alerts are dismissed as already detected?
- What percentage of Waze alerts are used to create a new SunGuide software event?

The integration of WazeReader and SunGuide software provides the ability to answer these questions and many more.

WazeReader phase 2 is a major improvement over its predecessor and will aid FDOT in its mission of improving public safety by leveraging crowd sourced data. The new filtering capabilities, enhanced location data, and SunGuide software automation are just the beginning. FDOT continues to be a pioneer in the transportation field by quickly adopting new technologies for the benefit of the public.

For information, please contact Mr. Derek Vollmer at (850) 410-5615 or e-mail to Derek.Vollmer@dot.state.fl.us.

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SunGuide® Disseminator Word Challenge

We invite you to have some fun
and complete the
SunGuide Disseminator
Word Challenge!

Unscramble the letters to
complete the word for the clue
found under the boxes.
Use the letters in the red circles to
complete the final puzzle.
The answers can be found on the
page 10.

Enjoy
and
Good Luck!



Traffic is “stuffed” up on the !

S I T D E D T R A C

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise is
focusing on this type of driving.

N E T C I N D I

District Six added a staging area
for this type on management.

T E N D C E N O C

C H E V H I L

States, regions, and cities are
planning these applications.

R E A Z A W E E D

An application that downloads,
filters, and distributes alerts.

ITS Florida 2016 Board of Directors

By Sandra Beck, ITS Florida

Meet the 2016 Board of Directors

The Intelligent Transportation Society of Florida (ITS Florida) held its annual elections with results as follows:

Mr. Ken Jacobs, Pinellas County Traffic Engineering, will complete his role as the 2015 President and move into the lead of the Management Committee for 2016 as the Immediate Past President.

Ms. Sara Calhoun, VIBEngineering (VIBE), has served on the Board of Directors for many years moving from a Director-at-Large through the officer positions to lead ITS Florida as President for 2016.

Ms. Connie Braithwaite, Econolite, will serve as our 2016 Vice President, She has served as the Treasurer and Secretary as well as Director-at-Large on the ITS Florida Board for the last several years.

Mr. Corey Quinn, P.E., Central Florida Expressway Authority, has served on the Board as a Director-at-Large and most recently as the ITS Florida Treasurer. He will be the ITS Florida Secretary for 2016.

Mr. Jonathan Tursky, TransCore, is our 2016 Treasurer. He has previously served as a Director-at-Large.

Directors-At-Large

Elected:

Mr. Jim Clark, P.E., Rhythm Engineering, will be starting his first term as Director-at-Large in 2016.

Mr. Mukunda Gopalakrishna, P.E., PTOE, Manatee County, will be a Director-at Large and will be serving his first term.

Mr. Terry Hensley, Gannett Fleming, was elected to a second two year term.

Mr. William 'Greg' Reynolds, FDOT, will also be returning for his first full term on the ITS Florida Board.

Returning:

Mr. Chares Stratton, Metric Engineering, and **Dr. Mohammed Hadi, Florida International University**, are returning to complete the second half of the term.

Mr. Russell Allen, will be joining the ITS Florida Board as an ExOfficio, non-voting member of the board representing FDOT. He will be replacing outgoing Ms. Elizabeth Birriel, FDOT, former President and ExOfficio.

Also leaving the Board of Directors following the end of term, are Ms. Stephanie Hoback, Wavetronix and Mr. Adam Moser, Gresham, Smith and Partners. Both Ms. Hoback and Mr. Moser will continue to actively participate in ITS Florida and its events.

For more information on ITS Florida, please check the ITS Florida web site at www.ITSFlorida.org or contact Ms. Sandy Beck, Chapter Administrator, at ITSFlorida@ITSFlorida.org.

If you wish to contribute an article to the *SunGuide*[®] *Disseminator* on behalf of ITS Florida, please email Ms. Stephanie Hoback at Stephanie.Hoback@Wavetronix.com or Sandy Beck.

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Word Challenge Answers

WAVAZERAVADER

INTENTION

VALEHILE

CONNECTIONED

DISSTRACTED

Traffic is "stuffed" up on the interstate!

Editorial Corner: FDOT's Traveler Information Transition

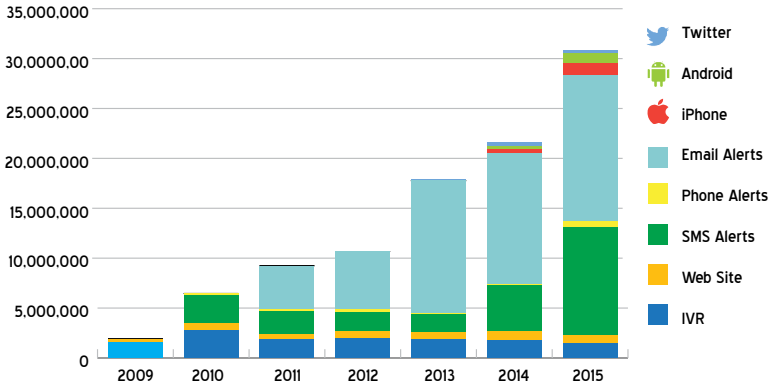
By Russell Allen, FDOT State Traffic Engineering and Operations Office

As technology has changed over the years, so have the tools used to disseminate traveler information to transportation users across Florida. Since the inception of Florida's advanced traveler information system (FL511), travelers on Florida's roadways have been receiving information on incidents, construction, travel times, and weather that affect their travel. In an effort to increase safety and mobility, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is focused the best means to disseminate information to the public. FDOT started by providing a phone number and web site, then offered personalized alerts, then partnered with private companies to share data, and finally moved on to more mobile platforms. This dissemination transition is not only related to advances in technology, but also to expanding our partnerships. As a state agency, we need to realize that we do not have to do it all. We do not have to be the sole source for providing traffic information. Our goal is to share information on events that will impact a user's trip and enhance their experience on our roadways.

In relation to technology, FL511 has seen the dissemination of traveler information move to more 'push' technology rather than 'pull,' which was typically used in the past. Our initial deployment of FL511 included offering an interactive voice response (IVR) system for the phone and a web site. As technology changed, we transitioned the method of our delivery. Our next deployment of FL511 dissemination tools provided notifications of events to users. The user could create an FL511 account, define their routes, and then create an alert for each route for which they wanted information. Then they identified how they wanted to receive the FL511 information – by phone, text, or email. These dissemination tools are all still in place today, but as technology advanced, we saw the demand from our customers for more 'dynamic' information.



To meet this demand, FDOT developed 14 Twitter accounts that 'tweet' our information as well as the FL511 Android and iPhone mobile applications. These new tools have been a huge success in getting the word out about incidents affecting Florida's roadways. The Twitter accounts especially have been a huge success as we see several media partners from across the state following our accounts and retweeting the information. Our statistics show that end users want the information and they want it now. The push technologies offered by FDOT as part of their FL511 dissemination tools have seen a significant increase in usage over the years. We want to continue that trend and provide the most technologically savvy tools to our customers.



Sharing FDOT's traveler information data also plays a major role in how we have transitioned the dissemination of issues and delays to the transportation users. Previously, the thinking was that FDOT had to do it all, but over the years, we have learned that we need to leverage our partners assets. Currently, there are several ways that FDOT shares data. We provide both our data and video feeds to several media outlets across the state as well as the nation. We have also seen a lot of media partners incorporate the information from our Twitter feeds into their web pages and retweet to their followers. When our partners take our information and incorporate it into their dissemination platforms, it helps both FDOT and Florida's travelers.

Other partners who receive our data include third-party aggregators such as HERE and INRIX. Sharing our data with these types of partners has a domino effect as they then incorporate our data into tools that they provide to major automobile manufacturers and fleet agencies. One of our newest partnerships began in March 2014, when FDOT entered into a data sharing partnership with Waze®. Under this agreement, FDOT obtains data from Waze and we share our data directly with them. It has turned out to be a win-win for both parties.

So what's next? As we move forward, we will implement a more responsive system that utilizes the user's location and automatically sends alerts to them as they are en route. The use of geo-locations will become a major factor in how FDOT

disseminates traveler information in the future. We also intend to take advantage of new advances in IVR technology in the FL511 system that allow a phone system to 'learn' the behavior of a caller. For example, if a user calls the FL511 phone system every morning and asks for I-295 between Blanding Boulevard and Baymeadows Road, the system will 'learn' that the user makes that repetitive request from day to day, and will eventually recognize the user's phone number and provide a prompt to automatically receive information rather than the user having to drill down through a menu. Another look ahead will be to make data available to resources such as Android Auto and Apple Car Play so that our data is directly ingested into the vehicle's infrastructure.



As we move forward, our FL511 system goal is to continue to provide accurate, reliable, and timely information to our transportation users in the most efficient and effective ways possible. We intend to stay current with dissemination methods available on the market. As time passes, we may see that our role in travel information will transition as well. We may move away from the disseminator role and become the collector and aggregator of data to our transportation users. Time will tell. For now, we will continue to provide information to Florida's travelers and make the data readily available to third-party end users so they may incorporate the information easily into their dissemination tools. Who knows what the future holds as far as technology, but FDOT will be ready!

For information, please contact Mr. Allen at (850) 410-5626 or e-mail to Russell.Allen@dot.state.fl.us.

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FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations Mission and Vision Statements

Mission:

Provide leadership and serve as a catalyst in becoming the national leader in mobility.

Vision:

Provide support and expertise in the application of Traffic Engineering principles and practices to improve safety and mobility.

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