



Florida's Law Enforcement Liaison Program

Why Do We Have a Law Enforcement Liaison Program?

Florida's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) was developed as a long-term roadmap towards safer roadways. The 2023 SHSP outlines 13 Emphasis Areas, along with specific implementation strategies for each. Florida, along with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), sees active involvement of law enforcement as a key element in the creation of safer highways. In NHTSA's *Countermeasures That Work* guide, high visibility enforcement and other traffic enforcement strategies are listed as evidence-based countermeasures in the nine highway safety program areas that are examined.

Florida designs and builds some of the best roads and bridges in the country, but in order to have the greatest traffic safety impact, great roads are not enough, a critical part of the process is law enforcement. Together, the Florida Highway Patrol, sheriffs' offices, police departments, and state agencies conduct focused and high visibility operations, creating the voluntary compliance that is necessary for safer roadways. However, traffic safety is just one of many priorities that local law enforcement agencies must address.

The challenges in Florida related to traffic enforcement are not unique. Focus areas for law enforcement span communication, training, coordination, and participation.

The Florida Law Enforcement Liaison (LEL) Program is a grant-funded program sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and NHTSA. The goals and objectives of the LEL Program are to partner with law enforcement agencies to promote and increase participation in the NHTSA national enforcement waves and the annual Florida Law Enforcement Liaison Traffic Safety Challenge to increase awareness and participation in traffic safety-related efforts.

In order to keep highway safety a priority and continue the active, enthusiastic involvement of law enforcement, Florida has developed a proactive, engaged LEL program that facilitates ongoing communication, participation, fosters interagency coordination, and promotes the goals and priorities of the FDOT State Safety Office.





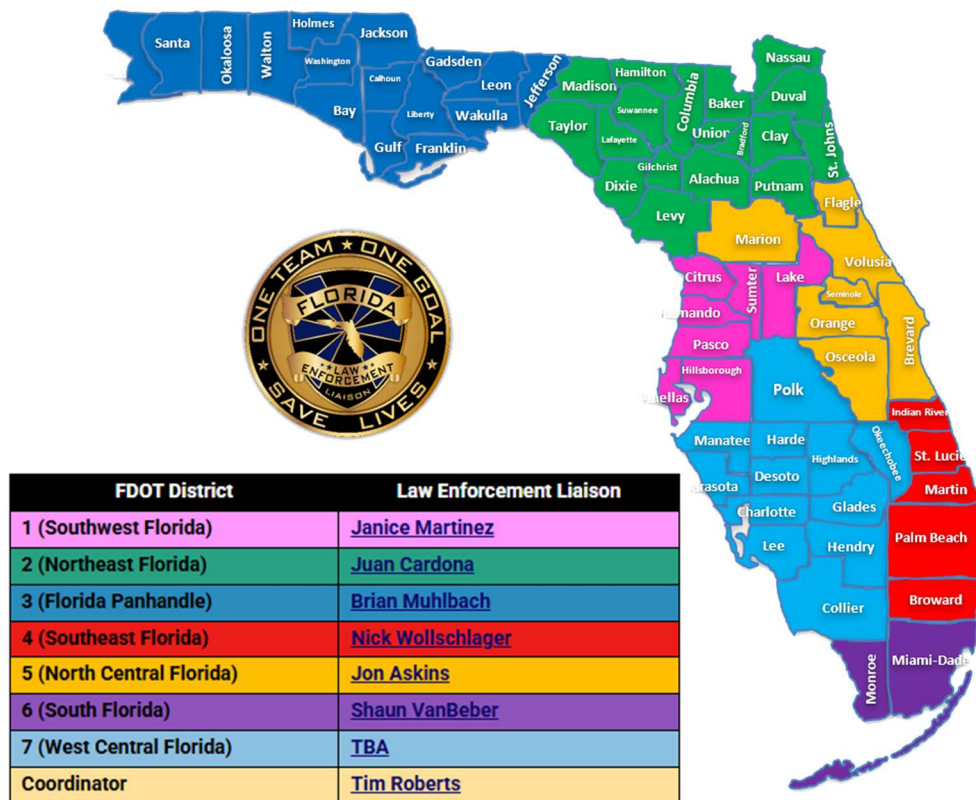
What is a Law Enforcement Liaison?

An LEL serves as a vital link and conduit between a State Highway Safety Office (SHSO) and that state's law enforcement community. LELs help promote and enhance state and national highway safety programs, initiatives, and campaigns and perform a myriad of functions, including planning, organizing, networking, promoting, recruiting, implementing, reporting, and evaluating law enforcement's role in traffic safety projects, activities, and achievements.

Florida's LELs are sworn and retired law enforcement officers working under a grant-funded program sponsored by the FDOT and NHTSA. One of their most important tasks is to recruit and encourage state and local law enforcement participation in the national and state traffic safety mobilizations, thus continuously working toward a culture of sustained and effective traffic enforcement programs. The involvement of state LELs has increased the number of law enforcement agencies participating in traffic safety activities, and this contributes to crash reductions.

Florida's Law Enforcement Liaison Program

Florida's LEL Program started in 2000 and currently has 8 members made up of 1 coordinator and 7 LELs assigned to each of the 7 FDOT districts.





Florida's Law Enforcement Liaisons' Primary Duties

Encourage and Support Law Enforcement Participation

NHTSA requires continued law enforcement participation in the following three national education and enforcement campaign waves for the state to receive federal funding:

Approximate Dates	Campaign	Target
• May 15 – June 4	<i>Click It or Ticket</i>	Safety Belt Use
• August 16 – September 4	<i>Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over</i>	Impaired Driving Prevention
• December 13 – 31	<i>Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over</i>	Impaired Driving Prevention

Additional NHTSA Campaigns

In addition to the three required national campaigns, NHTSA strongly encourages states and law enforcement agencies to participate in additional education and enforcement campaigns:

Approximate Dates	Campaign	Target
• July	<i>Operation Southern Slow Down</i>	Speeding Prevention
• September	<i>Hands Across the Border</i>	Impaired Driving Prevention

Traffic Safety Coalitions

Florida's LEL program participates with the FDOT traffic safety coalitions. Currently at least one LEL sits on each of the following coalitions:

- Impaired Driving Coalition
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition
- Traffic Records Coordinating Committee
- Motorcycle Safety Coalition
- Safe Mobility for Life Coalition
- Teen Safe Driving Coalition
- Occupant Protection Coalition
- Rail Safety Coalition



Subgrant Opportunities

The Florida LEL program assists the FDOT State Safety Office with helping law enforcement agencies apply for subgrants from FDOT to support their increased traffic safety enforcement. FDOT awards subgrants to traffic safety partners who undertake priority area programs and activities to improve traffic safety and reduce crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities. Subgrants may be awarded for assisting in addressing traffic safety deficiencies, expansion of an ongoing activity, or development of a new program. The LEL program assists agencies with crash data identification for the grant year, review of current enforcement focused efforts and provides best practice approaches to thirteen Emphasis Areas of the data-driven Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).

District Community Traffic Safety Teams

Each FDOT district has multiple Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTSTs) that focus on local projects to reduce crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities. The Florida LEL program assists the district CTSTs in raising awareness and providing safety resources to their local areas using data driven approaches to address areas with the highest number of crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities. The Florida LELs participate with all the active CTSTs, with each district currently having the following number of CTST teams:

- District 1 – 9 CTSTs
- District 2 – 8 CTSTs
- District 3 – 9 CTSTs
- District 4 – 4 CTSTs
- District 5 – 8 CTSTs
- District 6 – 2 CTSTs
- District 7 – 6 CTSTs

Law Enforcement Coordination

The Florida LEL program regularly assists many federal, state, local, and nonprofit agencies with any needed assistance for coordination with law enforcement agencies participating in traffic safety initiatives. Agencies regularly assisted include:

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
- Florida Highway Patrol (FHP)
- Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA)
- Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA)
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
- Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)



Florida Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Challenge

The Florida Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Challenge recognizes law enforcement agencies for outstanding traffic safety programs. Its goal is to enhance traffic safety education and enforcement to reduce crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities on Florida's roadways. It follows the structure of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) National Challenge Program and aligns with Florida's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

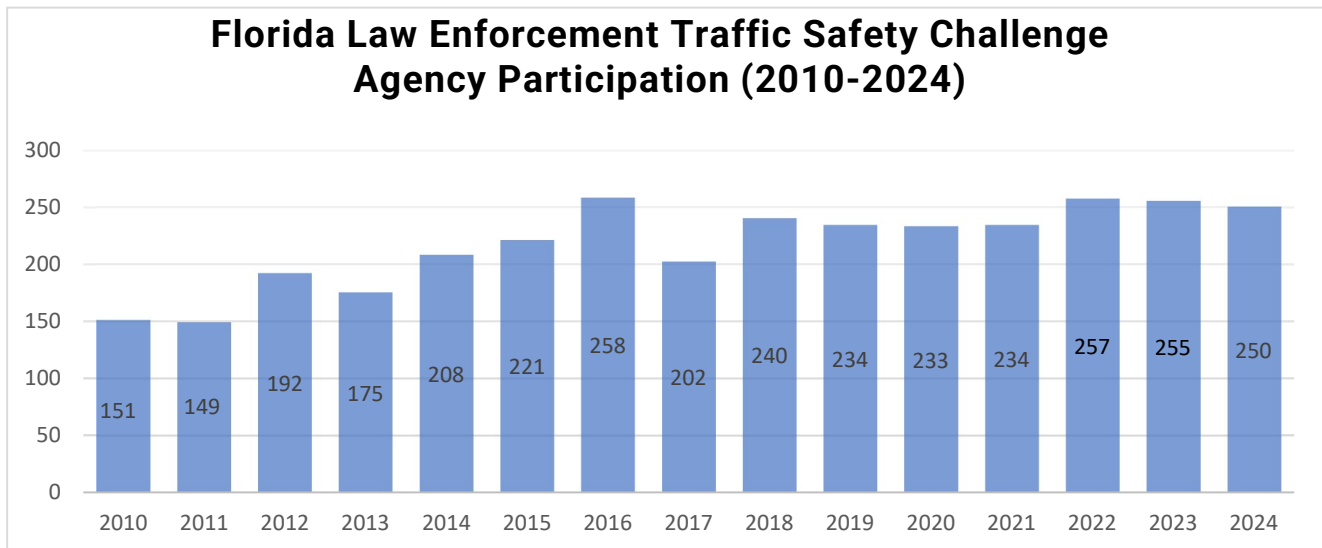
Through the challenge, the State's seven Law Enforcement Liaisons (LELs) work with local, county, and state law enforcement agencies to encourage participation in state mobilizations and the three NHTSA traffic safety national mobilizations and campaigns. Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to conduct routine enforcement patrols to address particular program areas, as well as high visibility enforcement operations (i.e., saturation patrols, checkpoints), educational programs, and earned media activities.

Participating agencies submit applications via the Florida Law Enforcement Liaison Program website by a given deadline. Agencies are evaluated and scored using a points-based system across the following traffic safety categories:

- Policy & Guidelines
- Training of Officers
- Officer Recognition
- LEL Program Participation
- Public Information & Education
- Traffic Enforcement Activity
- Traffic Safety Effectiveness



**Florida Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Challenge
Agency Participation (2010-2024)**





NHTSA *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* Campaign Waves

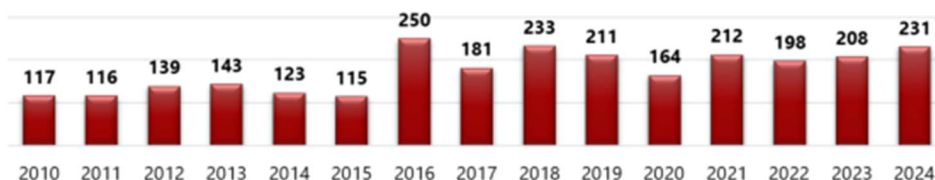
One condition of the traffic safety federal funding requires Florida to have law enforcement agencies participate in the two national *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaigns.

Due to the importance of impaired driving campaigns to highway safety and the central role law enforcement plays in these initiatives, the Florida LEL Impaired Driving Awareness Program aims to increase high-visibility enforcement and active participation through educational printed materials. The program is designed to prioritize impaired driving enforcement across Florida and sustain high participation levels in the campaign's most critical component: law enforcement. The program's goal is to reduce alcohol-related crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities on Florida's roadways. It achieves this by encouraging law enforcement agencies to place greater emphasis on routine impaired driving enforcement, conduct high-visibility DUI operations (such as sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols), expand DUI enforcement training for officers, and raise public awareness about the state's impaired driving crash problem.

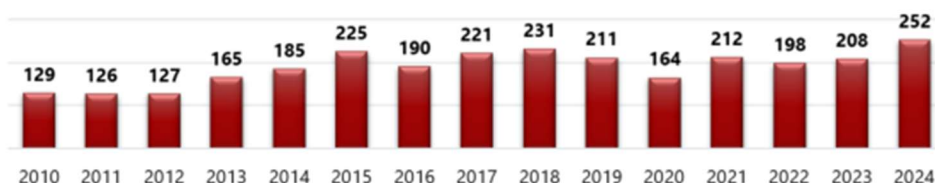
To participate, Florida law enforcement agencies are encouraged to increase enforcement and public education on impaired driving during the campaign period and submit an activity report online via the Florida LEL Program's reporting portal by the specified reporting deadline.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Agency Participation (2010–2024)

Labor Day Campaign



Holiday Campaign





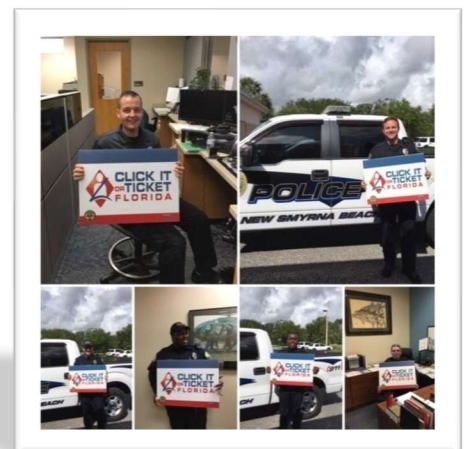
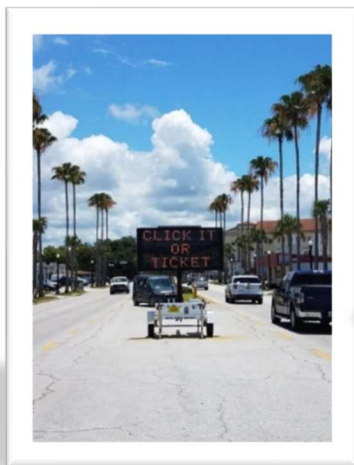
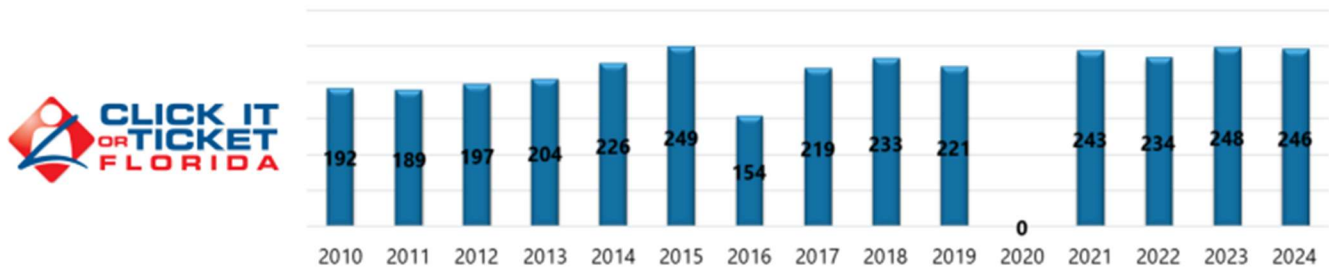
NHTSA *Click It or Ticket* Campaign Wave

Another condition of the traffic safety federal funding requires Florida to have law enforcement agencies participate in the national Occupant Protection campaign.

To ensure Florida's law enforcement agencies remain actively and enthusiastically engaged in occupant restraint enforcement, the Florida LEL Occupant Protection Awareness Program aims to increase high-visibility enforcement of safety belt and child restraint laws. The program achieves this by providing printed educational materials, such as banners and yard signs, while recognizing the campaign's most vital component: law enforcement.

To participate, Florida law enforcement agencies are encouraged to increase enforcement and public education on safety belt usage during the campaign period and submit an activity report online via the Florida LEL Program's reporting portal by the specified reporting deadline.

**Click It or Ticket
Agency Participation (2010–2024)**





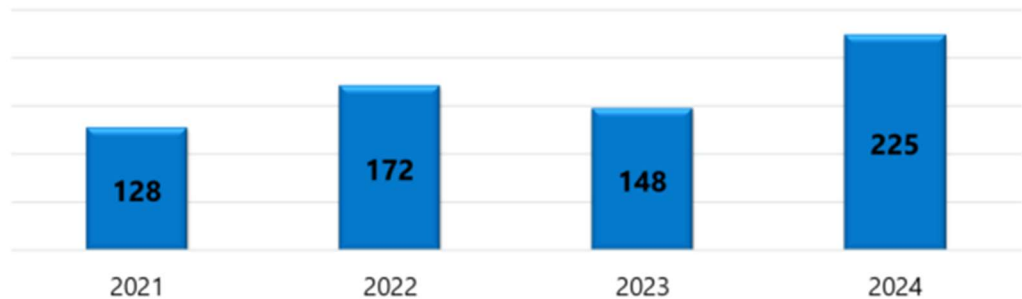
Operation Southern Slow Down Campaign

Operation Southern Slow Down is a traffic safety initiative designed to unify the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Region IV states of Florida, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee public safety agencies and partners, leveraging a longstanding tradition of collaboration.

This initiative is aimed at reducing speed-related fatalities and serious injury crashes by focusing on speeding and aggressive driving. State and local law enforcement agencies across all five states conduct the campaign, focusing on detecting and citing drivers who ignore posted speed limits. The overall goal is to highlight and reduce the prevalence of this dangerous behavior. Organized press events are held in each state to amplify the message and help reduce speed-related crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities on interstates, major highways, and local roads.

To participate, Florida law enforcement agencies are encouraged to increase enforcement and public education on speeding and aggressive driving during the campaign period and submit an activity report online via the Florida LEL Program's reporting portal by the specified reporting deadline.

Operation Southern Slow Down Agency Participation (2021–2024)





Hands Across the Border Campaign

With the increase in summer holiday travel comes an unfortunate rise in crashes on Florida's highways and roadways. Impaired driving, aggressive driving, distracted driving, and the failure of drivers and passengers to wear their seat belts result in more serious injuries and fatalities on Florida's roadways.

The annual Hands Across the Border campaign began in 1991 as an effort to combat impaired driving. During this event, law enforcement agencies from Florida, Georgia, and Alabama team up to conduct roadside sobriety checkpoints and increased high-visibility enforcement, demonstrating their shared commitment to reducing fatalities and injuries on our roadways.

For six days leading up to Labor Day weekend, the Florida Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies join their partners in bordering states to form a major zero-tolerance impaired driving enforcement effort across the Southeast. Troopers, police officers, and sheriff's deputies from Florida, Georgia, and Alabama converge near state lines to reinforce their common goal of saving lives. These events are marked by the iconic handshake between command staff from different law enforcement agencies, reaffirming their commitment to the campaign.





**For more information:
www.floridalel.info**