



## Fact Sheet: Central Florida & Pedestrian Safety

### PEDESTRIAN CRASH STATISTICS

These are some trends that have emerged from analysis of Central Florida crashes:

- From 2017 to 2018, pedestrian fatalities dropped from 85 to 70 (17.6% decrease). In the same period, Central Florida's three-county population grew by 139,588 people.
- When looking at the past decade, pedestrian fatalities peaked in 2017 at 85.
- Most pedestrian fatalities occur at night, and on high speed roads (with posted speeds at 40 mph+). Pedestrian failure to yield accounts for more than half of deaths.
- Most pedestrian fatalities in Central Florida occur among working-age adults.
- Pedestrian safety is a priority for the region. No one should die while crossing a street. **We'll keep working to reach our goal of ZERO pedestrian fatalities.**

Some things that can be done from a transportation perspective to improve pedestrian safety include:

- Adding sidewalks
- Installing medians or refuge islands (reduces mid-block pedestrian crashes)
- Installing lighting in key corridors or upgrading to brighter LED lighting (reduces pedestrian crashes and especially fatalities)
- Installing additional enhanced crosswalks at un-signalized locations (improves safety where pedestrians are already crossing)

### WHAT METROPLAN ORLANDO IS DOING

**Adopting FDOT Safety Performance Measures.** These statewide rules, adopted by the MetroPlan Orlando Board in early 2018, call for increased attention to safety in transportation planning and specify that for all traffic safety measures, the target must be for **ZERO fatalities or serious injuries on all roads**. MetroPlan Orlando must re-affirm support for this safety performance goal in 2019, and progress will be evaluated regularly.

**Leading Complete Streets efforts.** MetroPlan Orlando has been leading regional Complete Streets efforts for the past few years. This approach considers the needs of all users, rather than building streets just for car use. We have drafted a regional Complete Streets policy and have assisted our partners in adapting policies for their use. Several Complete Streets project have already been completed, and more are on the way.

**Evaluating transportation plans for public health.** Since 2016, MetroPlan Orlando has been looking at transportation plans in terms of how they meet health and safety needs. This helps us emphasize our organization's approach to plan holistically.

**Analyzing pedestrian crash statistics.** MetroPlan Orlando regularly examines pedestrian crash data to identify trends and see how infrastructure and education can address underlying causes. We are currently updating our Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, first released in 2012. The plan includes priorities for funding

transportation solutions to reduce pedestrian crashes, and a comprehensive set of engineering, enforcement and education strategies for local governments to implement.

**Using technology to count pedestrians and cyclists.** We use up-to-date cameras to monitor pedestrian and cyclist movements near various intersections, helping to give our crash statistics context in terms of how many people are walking or biking there.

## WHAT BEST FOOT FORWARD IS DOING

*Local government transportation planners, engineers, law enforcement, medical staff, school staff, crossing guards, and nonprofits are actively working together through the Best Foot Forward for pedestrian safety (BFF) coalition, which coordinates Central Florida's pedestrian safety efforts with a Triple E approach – Education, Engineering, and Enforcement.*

This group was formed in Orange County in 2012 and expanded into Osceola County in late 2017. Plans are under way for a BFF effort to begin soon in Seminole County.

Here are some recent accomplishments:

- BFF monitored and enforced 22 crosswalks in the City of Orlando and Orange County in 2018. Data showed that drivers were yielding to pedestrians significantly more in 2018 than in 2012 – the first year of the program.
- Driver yield rates increased more than 40% on roads posted 35 mph or slower from 2012 to 2018. Yield rates increased almost 20% during those six years on roads posted 40 mph or higher.
- Osceola County Sheriff's Office, Kissimmee Police Dept., and St. Cloud Police Dept. gave out a total of 429 citations and warnings during 16 BFF enforcement details in 2018 – the first full year of operation in Osceola County.
- More drivers in Osceola County and the City of Kissimmee were yielding to people in BFF-monitored crosswalks by the end of 2018, compared to those yielding in 2017, when baseline figures were gathered. Increases ranged between 2% and 11%, depending on the type of road.
- BFF partners participated in 378 community events and safety education presentations between 2012 and 2018.

## WHAT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING

Local governments throughout Central Florida are taking steps to improve pedestrian safety and increase public awareness. Efforts include new initiatives, as well as annual spending on safety and accessibility projects, such as lighting and sidewalk retrofits to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Here are just a few examples of things going on locally:

- **City of Orlando Vision Zero:** This initiative aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries within the city by 2040, through a systemic approach to increase safety and mobility for everyone.
- **City of Orlando Colonial Overpass:** This project will provide a safe off street connection for pedestrians and cyclists over a major road between two areas of the Central Business District. This project will also help complete an off street trail through Downtown Orlando.

- **Orange County INVEST in our Home for Life:** This program will provide \$15 million over five years for pedestrian safety projects at intersections and other locations that will enhance features such as sidewalks, crosswalks, signals, turn lanes, updated signage and other necessary improvements.
- **Orange County Walk-Ride-Thrive!:** This pedestrian safety partnership with schools and community groups created “Eyes Up, Ears Open” messaging to address distracted walking, and wrapped signal cabinets with pedestrian safety messages at high-crash intersections. Pedestrian safety messaging was installed on LYNX buses, at high-use bus shelters, and on an I-Ride Trolley.
- **City of Kissimmee Central Avenue Corridor Study:** This study within Kissimmee’s Medical District is dedicated to providing transportation options and improvements that are healthier for the user and environment, promoting a model city for alternative and healthy transportation. Study priorities include accommodating the needs of all users, improving biking and walking conditions, and promoting improved health and transportation options.

## **BACKGROUND**

Dangerous by Design reports were released by Smart Growth America in 2009, 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2019. The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford Metro Area has been repeatedly named among the most dangerous metro area for pedestrians in the nation in this report. The report’s Pedestrian Danger Index only takes people who walk to work into account, excluding transit riders (who are pedestrians), recreational walkers, and the more than 70 million tourists who visit Central Florida annually and also walk to get around.