

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY SAFETY CONCEPT PAPER
Concept Paper Summary

Applicant Information

Applicant Agency:	City of North Port
Implementing Agency:	North Port Police Department
Concept Paper Title:	Work Zone Safety Enforcement
Priority Area for Concept Paper:	Work Zone Safety
Amount Requested:	\$100,000.00
Type of Project:	Local
Type of Request:	Initial
Previous Year's Project Number (if Continuation):	

Head of Agency

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Statement of the Problem:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) State Safety Office has identified an excess number of work zone related fatalities and serious injuries on local roadways that run within the City of North Port. Due to the number of active work zones increasing within North Port Police Department's jurisdiction, the department feels that additional signage equipment, traffic enforcement details, and an enhanced public awareness outreach campaign will be necessary to successfully reduce the number of serious work zone related injuries and fatalities.

Supporting Data:

According to the FY2025 Highway Safety Matrix Ranking of Florida Cities provided by FDOT, the City of North Port currently ranks number twelve (12) out of 37 cities with a population of 75,000 and above within Florida for

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total actual serious injuries and fatalities taking place in work zones during 2018-2022 (see attached matrix). Local data from the North Port Police Department is seen here:

2021 Traffic Data

Total # of Crashes: 1318

of Crashes with Injuries: 123

of Crashes with Fatalities: 1

of Citations Issued at Crashes: 400

2022 Traffic Data

Total # of Crashes: 1549

of Crashes with Injuries: 133

of Crashes with Fatalities: 8

of Citations Issued at Crashes: 470

2023 Traffic Data

Total # of Crashes: 1573

of Crashes with Injuries: 147

of Crashes with Fatalities: 7

of Citations Issued at Crashes: 388

Proposed Solution:

The City of North Port is requesting a subgrant to support the purchase of portable changeable message signs and fund traffic enforcement details in active work zones on roadways within the City of North Port in order to reduce serious injuries and fatalities. North Port Police Department is proposing the purchase of two (2) full size three-line DOT approved message boards to increase driver awareness of active work zones, laws associated with work zones, and speed enforcement activities taking place. Because the City of North Port is one of the 10 largest cities in Florida, encompassing 104 square miles of land, multiple work zones can be active concurrently. The purchase of two message boards would allow for messaging to take place in more than one work zone at a time or be presented to traffic moving in both directions if used in the same work zone at the same time. Due to projected population growth and associated development of land, there will be many opportunities for such signage to be displayed in both local and State operated work zones. North Port Police Department also plans to conduct traffic patrol overtime details in active work zones to strengthen work zone enforcement using LIDAR devices that were purchased with a previous round of grant funding. The use of external vehicle technologies, such as LIDAR, allows staff to provide more accurate and reliable evidence of speeding (NHTSA, 2001a).

Additionally, to ensure increased awareness of speed detection measurements taking place in active work zones, the department plans to utilize the new message boards to encourage drivers to slow down, be hands free, and follow traffic laws. According to Appendix 3 of Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide for State Highway Offices, 10th ed, 2020, signage providing implications that speeds are being monitored and/or social norms messaging have been effective at reducing speeds in active work zones. Similar data indicated that speed trailers or portable changeable message signs, including speed feedback and other messaging to include "Slow Down Now", has been effective in reducing speeds in active

work zones (Brewer et al., 2006; Mattox et al., 2007). Increased police presence and visibility within active work zones will serve as a countermeasure for reducing both speed and aggressive driving, hence decreasing the number of serious crashes with injuries and/or fatalities that occur.

Finally, the North Port Police Department is also committed to providing high-visibility communications and outreach focused on work zone safety and enforcement to the public. As indicated in chapter 3 of Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide for State Highway Offices, 10th ed, 2020, effective communication campaigns are an essential piece of successful speed enforcement programs. By increasing the public's awareness of the need for work zone safety, the expected benefits of the program, and persuading motorists that detection and punishment for violations will be taking place, motorists will be more likely to cooperate with the program, exhibit caution, and obey traffic laws. North Port Police Department has an active social media following on various platforms, allowing information to be pushed out to the public in a timely manner. During the subgrant period, educational outreach materials focused on work zone safety and enforcement operations will be posted on the North Port Police Department's social media accounts at least one (1) time per month. Also, during the subgrant period, North Port Police Department will conduct and/or participate in at least two (2) educational/community outreach activities to increase work zone awareness.

Sustainability:

Without continued subgrant funding, this project could not be fully sustained. Due to budgetary constraints, funding is not available for continued overtime traffic enforcement details. Once the program period has ended, North Port Police Department will continue to use the messaging boards to increase awareness of work zones and speed measurement devices from previous funding to conduct regular enforcement activities as well as future FDOT grant funded enforcement projects.

Project Objectives:

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1. Strive to decrease serious work zone crashes and fatalities within city limits by 3% when compared to the previous three-year average.
2. Conduct at least two (2) high-visibility work zone enforcement details per month during the subgrant period until overtime funding runs out.
3. Participate in the National Work Zone Safety campaign through work zone overtime enforcement operations and educational/community activities.
4. Conduct and/or participate in at least two (2) educational/community outreach activities to increase work zone awareness during the subgrant period.
5. Provide work zone information and education to the public through the use of message boards, local media outlets, social media and/or press releases at least one (1) time per month during the subgrant period.

Evaluation:

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Evaluation Measures:

1. Work zone crashes and fatalities within North Port's city limits are reduced by 3% when compared to the previous three-year average.
2. The number of high visibility work zone overtime enforcement operations conducted per month during the subgrant period.
3. The number of work zone overtime enforcement operations conducted, and education/community activities conducted/participated in during the National Work Zone Safety campaign.
4. The number of educational/community outreach activities conducted and/or participated in to increase work zone awareness during the subgrant period.
5. The number of instances that work zone information and education is provided to the public through the use of message boards, local media outlets, social media and/or press releases each month during the subgrant period.

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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BUDGET CATEGORY	NARRATIVE:	FEDERAL FUNDS	MATCH	TOTAL	INDIRECT ELIGIBILITY
A. Personnel Services					
Overtime Salary and Benefits	Overtime salary for law enforcement officers assigned to work the high-visibility work zone enforcement details taking place during the subgrant period. Benefits to include FICA (Social Security and Medicare) and workers compensation.	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000	
Subtotal		\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000	
B. Contractual Services					
Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0	
C. Expenses - Any purchase with a per item unit cost of \$200 or more from any line item within this Category, excluding software, must have FDOT State Safety Office written approval, prior to purchase.					
Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0	
D. Equipment Costing \$5,000 or More					
Large Equipment	Two (2) full size three-line DOT approved message boards to be used for increasing driver awareness when approaching and while in active work zones during the subgrant period. Each message board costs approximately \$19,500, resulting in a total cost of \$39,000 for two (2). There is an estimated shipping fee of \$1,000 associated with the purchase.	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	
Subtotal		\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	
E. Indirect Cost					

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%		\$0		\$0
Subtotal		\$0		\$0
	Total Cost of Project	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000