

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:	Teen Driver Challenge with North Port Police Department
Priority Area for Concept Paper:	Teen Driver Safety
Amount Requested:	\$20,000.00
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 City of North Port has been named one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Florida and the United States. 2023 data from the US Census Bureau lists the estimated total population of North Port as 88,934. Approximately 19% of the total population, or 17,786 individuals, in North Port are under the age of 18. Explosive growth is expected to continue, attracting young families for years to come. Because of the increasing number of young drivers living within the City of North Port, and taking into account the number of traffic crashes involving teen drivers over the past three (3) years, the North Port Police Department has identified the need for Teen Driver Safety education and programming that would offer both classroom instruction and hands-on experiences specifically designed to help young drivers learn vehicle safety and appropriate emergency traffic maneuvers in a safe, closed-course environment controlled by FDLE certified

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driving instructors.

Supporting Data:

According to local accident data, North Port Police Department had a total of 4,912 crashes reported between the dates of January 1, 2022 and January 15, 2025. Of the total 4,912 crashes that occurred, 631 crashes involved teen drivers age 19 and under. Teen driver crashes during the period stated above represent 12.85% of the total number of crashes that took place in North Port. Data below breaks down teen crashes by year, teen crash driver-related injury types, and teen crash passenger-related injury types.

Teen Crashes by year: 631 total

2022 - 183

2023 - 222

2024 - 217

2025 - 9

Teen Crash Driver Injuries between 01/01/2022 - 01/15/2025: 69 total

Fatal (within 30 days): 2

Incapacitating: 8

Non-Incapacitating: 27

Possible: 33

Teen Crash Passenger Injuries between 01/01/2022 - 01/15/2025: 50 total

Fatal (within 30 days): 1

Incapacitating: 4

Non-Incapacitating: 19

Possible: 27

North Port Police Department was able to further identify that in 63 of the 631 teen driver crashes, or 10%, some type of distraction was reported. Data below shows the types of distraction reported.

Teen Crash Driver Distraction between 1/01/2022 - 1/15/2025: 63 total

Distraction Reported by Officer (nonspecific) - 8

Electronic Communication Devices (cell phone, etc.) - 6

External Distraction (outside the vehicle, explained in narrative of crash report) - 10

Inattentive - 23

Other Electronic Device (navigation, DVD player, etc.) - 6

Other Inside the Vehicle (explained in narrative of crash report) - 10

Finally, when comparing crash rates amongst age groups that took place in North Port during the same time period referenced above, the teen crash rate of 12.85% was higher than that of the crash rates for age group 25-29 (12.72%) and age group 40-44 (12.6%).

Proposed Solution:

The City of North Port is requesting a subgrant award to support staffing and ancillary costs associated with

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hosting a series of Teen Driver Challenges for young drivers who live in North Port. North Port Police Department (NPPD) plans to host a total of six (6) Teen Driver Challenge events during the award period that will offer both didactic and hands-on instruction for teen drivers focused on vehicle safety, dangers of distracted and impaired driving, and appropriate traffic maneuvering for emergency situations.

Each event would last approximately eight (8) hours and will be taught by FDLE certified driving instructors in a safe, closed-course environment. Each event will have a maximum enrollment of 12 students, resulting in an instructor to student ratio of 1:3 (one instructor to every three students). Enrollment for each event will be advertised online through the North Port PD website, on all NPPD social media channels, and through community outreach events. Students must be licensed drivers between the ages of 16-19, live in the City of North Port, and attend high school. Students will be performing the hands-on portion of this challenge using a car they provide, therefore they must also provide proof of being insured.

At the beginning of the event, students will spend two (2) hours in the classroom discussing vehicle safety, distracted driving, and other topics deemed appropriate by the instructors. Upon completion of the didactic portion, students and instructors will relocate to the driving course for skills demonstrations and hands-on maneuvering practice. Upon completion of the event, teen drivers will possess a heightened awareness of the risks associated to distracted driving and demonstrate understanding of how to maneuver appropriately in emergency situations. The Teen Driver Challenge will increase the awareness and confidence of teen drivers, in turn decreasing crash rates among the youngest drivers in the City of North Port overall.

Teen Driver Challenge programs align with Chapter 7 of Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide for State Highway Office, 11th ed, 2023, which focuses on Young Drivers. The Teen Driver Challenge would be considered an Advanced Driver Training Course, providing training to teens who have already obtained their license. Surrounding agencies, such as Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, offer these programs to teen drivers in their respective jurisdictions, but often fill up fast, resulting in North Port teens not being able to attend. Also, due to the size of the City of North Port and distance from other Teen Driver Challenge offerings, teens who are able to secure a spot in other programs are required to drive far, putting additional strain on them to be able to attend. Having a Teen Driving Challenge that is local will help increase participation in advanced driver training courses overall, instill confidence in teen drivers, and foster positive relationships between law enforcement officers and teens.

In addition to hosting Teen Driver Challenge events, NPPD is committed to sharing communications and educational materials focused on teen driving safety. NPPD has an active social media following on a variety of platforms, allowing information to be shared with the public far and wide. Educational outreach materials focused on teen driver safety and distracted driving will be posted on the Department's social media accounts at least three (3) times during the subgrant period. Such materials will also be made available to the public at any community outreach events hosted by NPPD during the subgrant period.

Sustainability:

Without continued subgrant funding, this project could not be fully sustained. Due to budgetary constraints, funding is not available for continued offering of this program without the support of FDOT.

Project Objectives:

Objective 1: Start enforcement activities within 60 days of subgrant award, unless otherwise approved by the FDOT State Safety Office.

Objective 2: Strive to decrease teen driver-related crashes and fatalities citywide by 3% when compared to the 10/01 to 06/30 time period from the previous year.

Objective 3: Conduct 6 educational/community outreach events to increase teen driver awareness during the project period.

Objective 4: Provide teen driver information and education to the public through the use of multimedia outlets (i.e., message boards, local media outlets, social media, press releases, and/or printed materials) at least 3 times during the project period.

Evaluation:

Evaluation Measures:

1. Enforcement activity start date.
2. Teen driver-related crashes and fatalities are reduced by 3% citywide, compared to the 10/01 to 06/30 time period from the previous year.
3. The number of educational/community outreach events conducted to increase teen driver awareness during the project period.
4. The number of instances that teen driver information and education is provided to the public through the use of multimedia outlets during the project period.

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BUDGET CATEGORY	NARRATIVE:	FEDERAL FUNDS	MATCH	TOTAL	INDIRECT ELIGIBILITY
A. Personnel Services					
Overtime Salary and Benefits	Overtime salary and benefits for law enforcement officers assigned to staff the Teen Driver Challenge events taking place during the subgrant period. Benefits to include FICA (Social Security and Medicare).	\$16,000	\$0	\$16,000	
Subtotal		\$16,000	\$0	\$16,000	
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.					
Incentive items for event participants	Incentive item(s) for participants who attend the Teen Driver Challenge event will be purchased and could include a shirt, challenge coin, etc. The \$2,500 will allow for approximately \$34 of incentives per participant (6 events x 12 participants per class = 72 total participants; \$2500 / 72 = \$34.72).	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	
Food for event participants	Food for participants of Teen Driver Challenge event will include light breakfast items, lunch, and snack items due to length of event (8 hours). Each event will have a budget of \$250 for food (\$1500 / 6 events = \$250 per event; \$1500 / 72 total participants = \$20.83 per participant).	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	
Subtotal		\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	

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D. Equipment Costing \$10,000 or More				
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0	
E. Indirect Cost				
%	\$0		\$0	
Subtotal	\$0		\$0	
Total Cost of Project	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	