

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:	North Port Police Department Teen Driver Safety Course
Priority Area for Concept Paper:	Teen Driver Safety
Amount Requested:	\$20,000.00
Type of Project:	Local
Type of Request:	Continuation - 2
Previous Year's Project Number (if Continuation):	TSP-2026-00456

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. 2024 data from the US Census Bureau lists the estimated total population of North Port as 92,875. Approximately 18% of the total population, or 16,717 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 continued 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 driving instructors.

Supporting Data:

According to local accident data, North Port Police Department had a total of 3,666 crashes reported between the dates of January 1, 2024 and February 19, 2026. Of the total 3,666 crashes that occurred, 501 crashes involved teen drivers age 19 and under. Teen driver crashes during the period stated above represent 13.67% 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: 501 total

2024 - 217

2025 - 247

2026 - 37

Teen Crash Driver Injuries between 01/01/2024 – 02/19/2026: 49 total

Fatal (within 30 days): 1

Incapacitating: 2

Non-Incapacitating: 17

Possible: 30

Teen Crash Passenger Injuries between 01/01/2024 - 02/19/2026: 31 total

Fatal (within 30 days): 0

Incapacitating: 2

Non-Incapacitating: 9

Possible: 22

North Port Police Department was able to further identify that in 41 of the 501 teen driver crashes, or 8.18%, some type of distraction was reported. Data below shows the types of distraction reported.

Teen Crash Driver Distraction between 1/01/2024 - 2/19/2026: 41 total

Distraction Reported by Officer (nonspecific) - 7

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

External Distraction (outside the vehicle, explained in narrative of crash report) - 5

Inattentive - 13

Other Electronic Device (navigation, DVD player, etc.) - 3

Other Inside the Vehicle (explained in narrative of crash report) - 7

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 13.67% was higher than that of the crash rates for age group 25-29 (13.37%) and age group 40-44 (13.15%).

Proposed Solution:

The City of North Port is requesting a subgrant award to support staffing and ancillary costs associated with hosting a series of Teen Driver Safety Courses for young drivers who live in North Port. North Port Police Department (NPPD) plans to host a total of six (6) Teen Driver Safety Course {TDSC} events during the award

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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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 15-19, live in the City of North Port, and attend high school. Students will be performing the hands-on portion of this challenge using a vehicle 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 with distracted driving and demonstrate understanding of how to maneuver appropriately in emergency situations. The Teen Driver Safety Course 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 Safety Course programs align with Chapter 7 of Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide for State Highway Offices, 11th edition, 2023, which focuses on Young Drivers. The Teen Driver Safety Course would be considered an Advanced Driver Training Course, providing training for teens who have already obtained their license. Surrounding agencies, such as Sarasota County Sheriffs Office and Charlotte County Sheriffs 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 the distance from other program offerings, teens who can 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 Safety Course 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 Safety Course 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.

In addition, the Project Director will ensure that funds from this program are used prudently and conservatively during the entire subgrant cycle.

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:

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

- a. Start project activities within 60 days of subgrant award, unless otherwise approved by the FOOT State Safety Office.
- b. 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.
- c. Schedule and advertise at least 6 Teen Driver Safety courses to licensed teen/young drivers in North Port.
- d. Train teen/young drivers in North Port through its Teen Driver Safety courses .
- e. Provide teen driver-related 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:

- a. Project activity start date.
- b. Teen driver-related crashes and fatalities are reduced by 3% countywide when compared to the 10/01 to 06/30 time period from the previous year.
- c. The number of Teen Driver Safety courses provided to licensed teen/young drivers in North Port.
- d. Train teen/young drivers in North Port through its Teen Driver Safety courses .
- e. The number of instances that teen driver-related information and education is provided to the public through the use of multimedia outlets during the project 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 and salary benefits for law enforcement officers; benefits to include FICA (Social Security and Medicare)	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	
Subtotal		\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000	
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 \$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	