

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

**Applicant Information**

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

**Head of Agency**

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**Project Contact**

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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 speed detection equipment, traffic enforcement details, and enhanced public awareness outreach and messaging will be necessary to successfully reduce the number of serious work zone related injuries and fatalities.

**Supporting Data:**

According to the FY2024 Highway Safety Matrix Ranking of Florida Cities provided by FDOT, the City of North Port currently ranks number five (5) out of 37 cities with a population of 75,000 and above within Florida for total

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actual serious injuries and fatalities taking place in work zones during 2017-2021 (see attached matrix). Local data from the North Port Police Department is seen here:

#### 2020 Traffic Data

Total # of Crashes: 1078

# of Crashes with Injuries: 91

# of Crashes with Fatalities: 2

# of Citations Issued at Crashes: 122

#### 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

### **Proposed Solution:**

The City of North Port is requesting a subgrant to support the purchase of speed measurement devices and 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 10 handheld LIDAR speed measurement devices for use with traffic patrol overtime details to strengthen work zone enforcement. The purchase of external vehicle technologies such as LIDAR will allow for staff to provide more accurate and reliable evidence of speeding (NHTSA, 2001a).

Also, to ensure increased awareness of speed detection measurements taking place in active work zones, the North Port Police Department plans to utilize unstaffed speed display devices, known as speed trailers, and unmanned marked patrol vehicles to encourage drivers to slow down. When parked police vehicles and speed feedback trailers are used in combination, data indicates reduced average traffic stream speeds and free flow speeds comparable to that seen with automated camera enforcement according to Appendix 3 of Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide for State Highway Offices, 10th ed., 2020. An 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.

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 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 overtime traffic enforcement details. Once the program period has ended, North Port Police Department will continue to use the speed monitoring equipment for regular enforcement activities as well as for future FDOT grant funded enforcement projects.

### **Project Objectives:**

Project Objectives:

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:**

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.

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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**Concept Paper Summary**

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.

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BUDGET CATEGORY	NARRATIVE:	FEDERAL FUNDS	MATCH	TOTAL	INDIRECT ELIGIBILITY
<b>A. Personnel Services</b>					
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.	\$74,785	\$0	\$74,785	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$74,785</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$74,785</b>	
<b>B. Contractual Services</b>					
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>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.</b>					
Small Equipment	Ten (10) handheld LIDAR RLR units will be purchased for use by law enforcement officers assigned to work the high-visibility work zone enforcement details taking place during the subgrant period.  10 - handheld LIDAR RLR units at \$2,499 each; Total Cost: \$24,990 1 - shipping and handling fee at \$225	\$25,215	\$0	\$25,215	
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$25,215</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$25,215</b>	
<b>D. Equipment Costing \$5,000 or More</b>					
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>E. Indirect Cost</b>					

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	\$0		\$0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Cost of Project</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>