

## FDOT Recognizes Rail Safety Week

From September 21-27, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) joined other DOTs and transportation organizations throughout the country to recognize Rail Safety Week and to remind Floridians to be safe on or near rail crossings.

This year's Rail Safety Week was unique as it was the first since the implementation of FDOT's statewide rail safety initiative, [Operation STRIDE](#) (Statewide Traffic and Railroad Initiative using Dynamic Envelopes). FDOT Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E. worked under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis to launch Operation STRIDE in December 2019 with the goal of preventing additional fatalities on or near rail crossings on state roads and state-owned land crossings.

Operation STRIDE's comprehensive strategy to prevent fatalities consists of engineering countermeasures called Dynamic Envelopes, in addition to associated education, and enforcement efforts. A Dynamic Envelope is an area near railroad crossings designed to keep motorists out of the danger zone. White connecting X's are used to visually highlight the zone at railroad crossings that drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians should not stop to increase safety for motorists.



Over the past 10 months, more than 75 percent of the dynamic envelopes at crossings under the department's purview have either been completed or are in the process of being installed. Since the beginning of Operation STRIDE, the department has preliminarily seen a reduction in rail crossing incidents across the state and will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the countermeasure as the data begins to normalize. Additionally, the department continues to partner with local and private rail partners

by sharing the FDOT rail safety design standards and framework and encouraging their participation and implementation of the safety and engineering efforts across the state.

During [Rail Safety Week](#), the department also took the opportunity through social media channels and outreach, such as a virtual rail safety webinar and media availabilities throughout the state, to continue its rail safety efforts and to inform and familiarize Floridians with the Operation STRIDE initiative, including how to navigate Dynamic Envelopes. To learn more about Operation STRIDE and to see various resources including safety tips, videos and photos of completed Dynamic Envelopes, go to FDOT's dedicated [Operation STRIDE](#) webpage.