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**Seminole County Sheriff's Office Participates in High Visibility Enforcement Program to Improve Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety**

Seminole Co. Fla., (October 16, 2023) – The Seminole County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) is participating in the Florida Department of Transportation High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) Program aimed at educating motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians on Florida's traffic laws to improve safety on county roads.

September 2023 through May 2024, SCSO deputies will be patrolling specific corridors with a focus on increasing awareness of dangerous behaviors contributing to serious and fatal injuries. Deputies will look for drivers speeding, failing to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks, conducting improper turns or signal violations, and using hand-held devices while driving. Deputies also will watch for pedestrians who cross the street illegally or fail to yield to motorists who have right-of-way. Bicyclists will be stopped for riding against traffic, riding at night without lights, or not abiding by the same laws as motor vehicles. **Warnings and citations will be issued only when appropriate.**

Funding for this program is provided through a contract with the University of North Florida's Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM), funded by the Florida Department of Transportation. The SCSO will receive funds for overtime hours for officers to conduct operations and for special training on Florida's bicycle and pedestrian laws, procedures, and best practices.

The following tips are recommended when biking, driving, or walking:

- Drivers: obey speed limits, never drive impaired, and always watch for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Bicyclists: obey traffic laws, ride in the direction of traffic, and use lights when riding at night
- Pedestrians: cross in crosswalks or at intersections, obey pedestrian signals, and make sure you are visible to drivers when walking at night

**About Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Bicycle and Pedestrian Focused Initiative:** The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) developed Florida's Bicycle/Pedestrian Focused Initiative in 2011 to lead all efforts to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in the state. The public education campaign was branded "Alert Today Florida." The goal of this initiative is to eliminate traffic crashes on Florida's roads that result in serious or fatal injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists. Objectives include advancing data collection, analysis, and evaluation to guide the implementation of comprehensive safety strategies directed towards areas with the highest representation of traffic crashes resulting in serious or fatal injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists. Additional information about pedestrian and bicycle safety is available at [www.alerttodayflorida.com/](http://www.alerttodayflorida.com/).

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