

# Florida Rail Safety Coalition



*February 25, 2025*



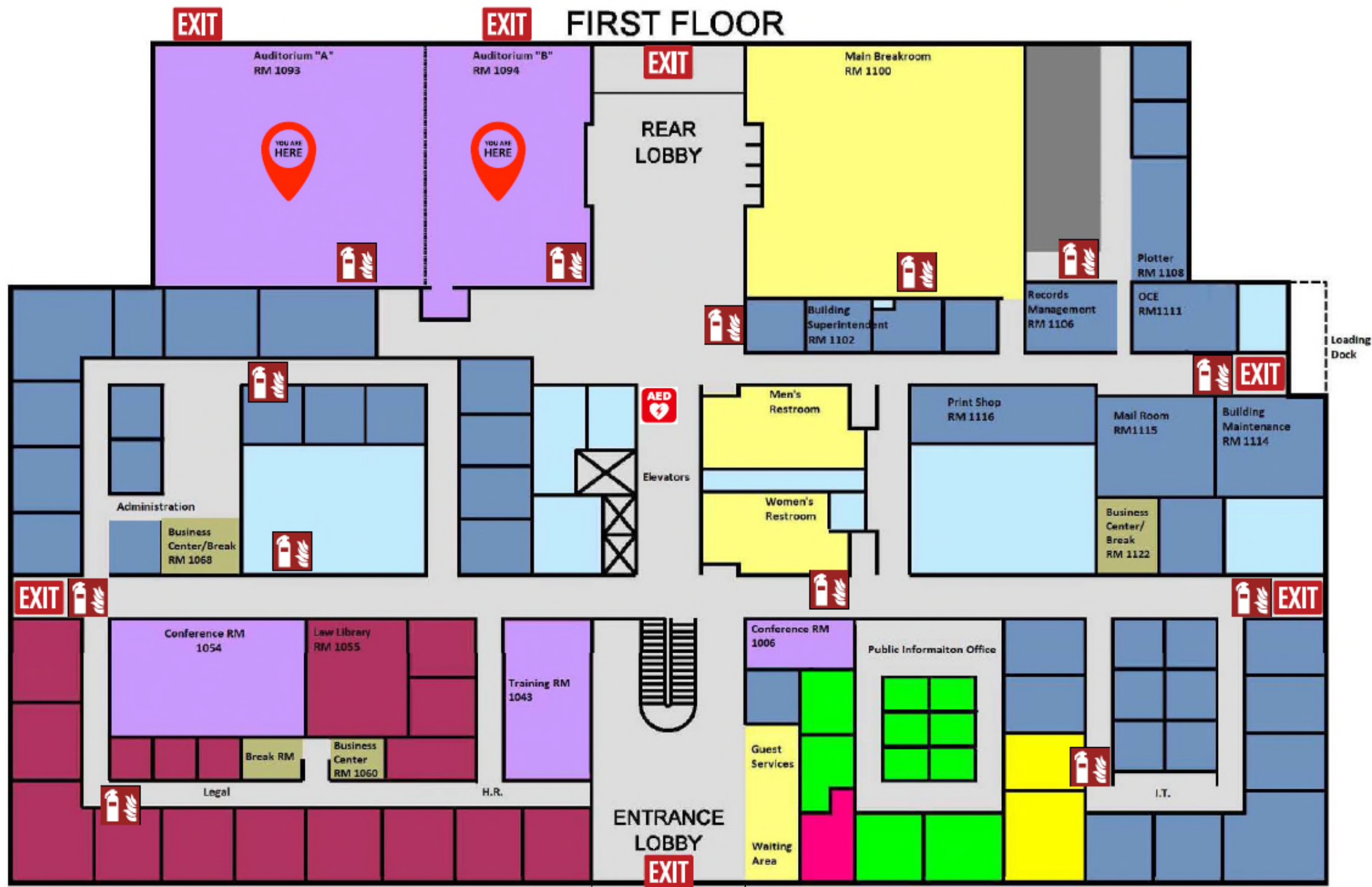
**FREIGHT  
& RAIL**

**FDOT.GOV/FRSC**

# Safety Briefing

Florida Turnpike Enterprise Milepost 263 Turkey Lake Headquarters  
Bldg. 5315 Ocoee, FL

- AED/first aid kits
- Closest hospital
- Safety/tripping hazards
- Active shooter protocol (run, hide, fight)
- Evacuation route & predetermined place of safety
- Restrooms/water
- Who is CPR certified
- Medical conditions/concerns



**ORLANDO HEALTH- CENTRAL HOSPITAL**  
 10000 COLONIAL DR. W.  
 OCOEE, FL 34761



**FLOOR 1 OF THE FDOT TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE HQ | OCOEE, FL**



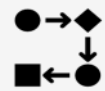
The background is a blue-tinted photograph of a highway. In the upper right, there are traffic lights and a sign that reads "REPORT A PROBLEM OR EMERGENCY 1-877-235-7245 DOT# 6221571 CTFC A785 64". At the bottom, there are yellow and blue diagonal stripes.

# Welcome, Agenda Review & Opening Remarks

# Agenda



**FRSC Welcome and Progress Overview**



**Strategic Plan Development**



**Rail Safety Tool & Manual**



**Subgroups**



**Breakout Groups**



**Member Comments**



**Public Comments**



**Closing Remarks and Next Steps**



# Key Accomplishments

- Membership Brochure
- Subgroups Brochure
- Rail Safety Tool & Crossing Manual
- Draft Strategic Action Plan:
  - Incorporated survey feedback from November's virtual meeting - Menti results analyzed to revise the strategic plan.
  - Goals and Objectives identified to mitigate critical rail safety challenges in the state - Action Plan Matrix draft developed.



# Strategic Plan Overview

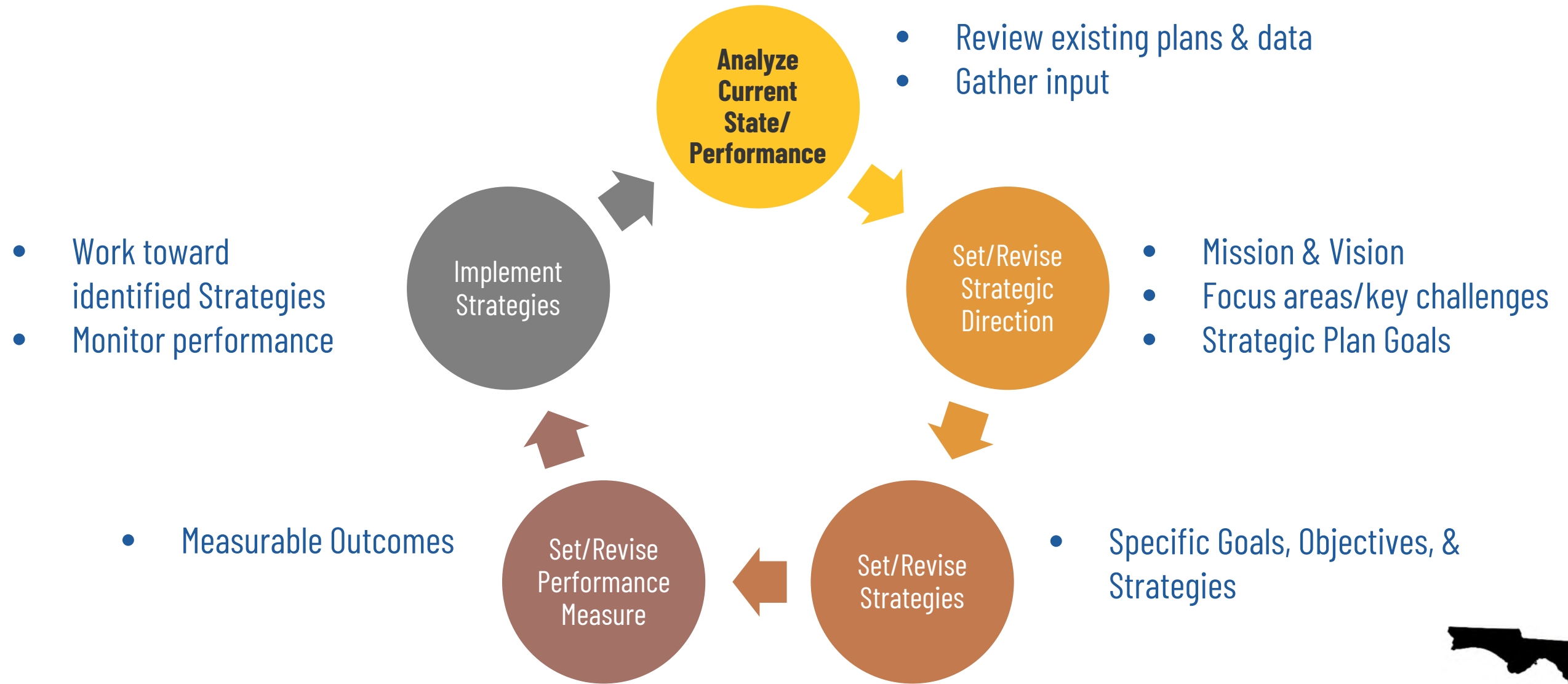
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# Strategic Planning Recap

- Strategic planning is a process to determine what an organization wants to accomplish over a given time period, and how to do that.
- A valuable aspect is the periodic process of confirming goals, assessing progress toward an outcome, evaluating what is effective and what is not, and adjusting strategies to improve performance.



# Strategic Planning Process Recap



# Strategic Action Plan Update

- Draft goals are based on the coalition's identified areas of focus:
  - Improve **Rail Crossing Safety**
  - Enhance **Trespass Prevention and Enforcement**
  - Develop and Implement New **Rail Crossing Standards**
  - Promote **Innovative** Opportunities
  - Use **Partnerships** to Increase Effectiveness
- Draft objectives begin to break down solutions into achievable actions that can be measured.



# Mentimeter Polling

Join on the web or by scanning the QR code:

Go to

[www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)

Enter the code

9668 3947



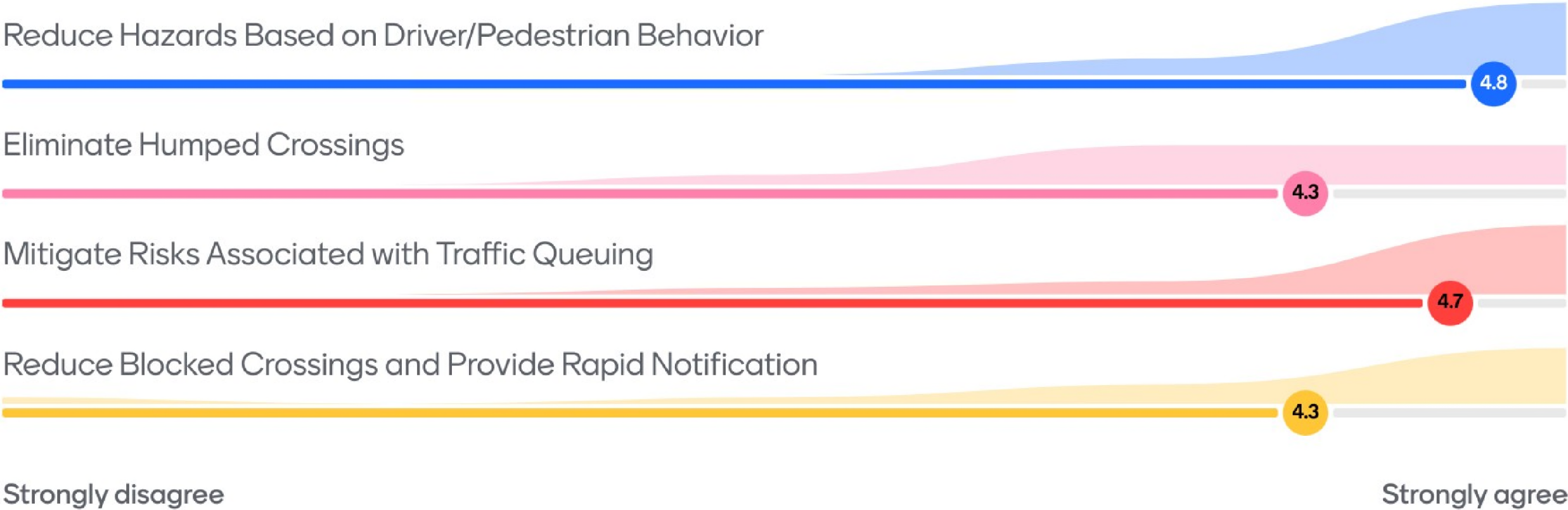
Or use QR code



# How well do you agree with the wording of the draft Strategic Action Plan Goals? Tied to 5 Identified Focus Areas.



# How well do you agree with the draft Strategic Action Plan Objectives under the Improve Rail Crossing Safety Goal?



## What other Strategic Action Plan Objectives should be included under the Improve Rail Crossing Safety Goal?

ENS sign education

Identify supplemental funding streams, IE state, federal

Educating public

Innovative ideas

Education

Rail crossings near road crossings, look at them as 1 intersection to reduce clutter

Add Predictive and AI Technologies which give advanced notification about an upcoming blocked crossings.

Section 130

## What other Strategic Action Plan Objectives should be included under the Improve Rail Crossing Safety Goal?

Identify research conducted in this area we can learn from, identify new research needed

Discourage trespassing on right of way.

We should aim for opportunities to close and remove at-grade crossings along rail corridors through roadway closures or grade separations.

Add "Reduce Vehicle Incursion onto ROW" Remove reference to "blocked crossings" I don't think this is a real rail safety issue. This is a roadway/driver convenience issue.

Incorporate safe pedestrian crossing at At-grade locations

Mandate rail crossing safety a part of drivers education both initial and recertification.

Implement statewide initiative to keep vehicles from driving around tracks

Education and outreach

## What other Strategic Action Plan Objectives should be included under the Improve Rail Crossing Safety Goal?

More public education

Enforcement for RR trespassing

Funding sources to close redundant crossings to include removing tracks at crossings that are no longer used but not yet closed, to eliminate said crossing(s).

Reduce Train Delays Associated with Disabled vehicles on tracks

Mandate rail safety education and enforcement to all developments happening near railroad tracks.

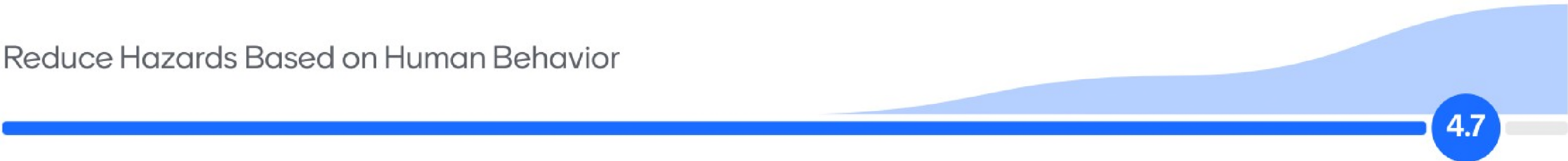
Ensure clearer visibility for approaching vehicles.

Increase commercial vehicle education...

Early education

# How well do you agree with the draft Strategic Action Plan Objectives under the Enhance Trespass Prevention and Enforcement Goal?

Reduce Hazards Based on Human Behavior



Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

## What other Strategic Action Plan Objectives should be included under the Enhance Trespass Prevention and Enforcement Goal?

Identify and address the root causes of trespass

Collaborate with trail agencies to avoid at grade trails

Land use coordination regarding travel patterns contributing to trespass

We need to support more safety blitzes!

Work with railroads to design parks and trails that do not invite trespassing on railroad property

Partner with Suntrail and agencies regarding trail crossings

Partner with agencies to keep homeless camps away from railroads right of ways.

Commission a study on suicide by train in Florida looking for contributing factors and understanding why people choose trains so that targeted mitigations can be developed.

## What other Strategic Action Plan Objectives should be included under the Enhance Trespass Prevention and Enforcement Goal?

Promote new technologies that can support deterring and detecting trespassing.

Promote legislation to indemnify railroads from harm when studying trespassing and testing countermeasures

# How well do you agree with the draft Strategic Action Plan Objectives under the Develop and Implement New Rail Crossing Standards Goal?

Establish New Standards Validated With Industry Knowledge



Implement New Rail Crossing Standards



Strongly disagree

Strongly agree



## What other Strategic Action Plan Objectives should be included under the Develop and Implement New Rail Crossing Standards Goal?

Consider maintenance obligation triggered by new standards. Delineators are an incredible countermeasure but they require weekly inspection and replacement which exceeds the railroads' abilities.

Humped crossings

Categorize between urban vs rural

Diagnostic review mandatory before quiet zone can be implemented

Develop context based criteria

Recommendation to change the language to review, update, and develop. Develop alone reads as though there aren't any existing standards.

Consider standards for roadways and intersections feeding and adjacent to crossings, not just crossings themselves. These roadways contribute to the risk factors.

# How well do you agree with the draft Strategic Action Plan Objectives under the Promote Innovative Opportunities Goal?



## What other Strategic Action Plan Objectives should be included under the Promote Innovative Opportunities Goal?

Innovative definition include common sense, low tech solutions

Pass legislation to shield railroads from liability risk when testing pilot projects

Implement pilot programs on state road crossings, with the idea of success being contagious (and implementing these programs at local road crossings)

Promote adoption of innovation on local roadway system

Balance the gap between testing pilot and legislation

# How well do you agree with the draft Strategic Action Plan Objectives under the Use Partnerships to Increase Effectiveness Goal?

Empower All to Contribute to the Statewide Rail Safety Vision



Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

## What other Strategic Action Plan Objectives should be included under the Use Partnerships to Increase Effectiveness Goal?

Create community champions

The Florida Chamber has a Safety Conference, that includes a mental health component

LinqThingz would like to engage in a study for rail safety using new crossing technology to improve safety at crossings.

Key partners should include schools

Let's frame the Objectives as: Empower  
Incentivize Inform Enlist

LinqThingz would like to do a targeted crossing research project to show how Predictive technology can help.

Who can I contact to get a copy of the manual?

I'd like to see what the proposed counter measures are, please. Who can I contact? Thank you, Karen Linnell from LinqThingz.

## What other Strategic Action Plan Objectives should be included under the Use Partnerships to Increase Effectiveness Goal?

Contact Information:  
Karen Linnell 414-350-  
4785

# State Action Plan Matrix Example

## Goal: Improve Rail Crossing Safety

### Objective 1.1: Reduce Hazards Based on Driver/Pedestrian Behavior

#### Strategies

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- Identify locations with the highest number of highway-rail grade crossing incidents and develop recommendations to solve challenges.
- Create a statewide list of grade crossing closure and separation needs.
- Develop and deploy statewide educational campaigns to improve awareness and knowledge of highway-rail grade crossing safety.
- Partner with law enforcement on safety blitzes in areas with a high number of highway-rail grade crossing incidents
- Analyze the effectiveness of fees and penalties to deter unsafe behaviors at highway-rail grade crossings



# Next Steps – Action Plan

Today the breakouts are focused on brainstorming concrete strategies needed to achieve the Goals & Objectives. The Subgroup handout includes draft strategy ideas based on prior plans and input from the November meeting.

Be considering the following information to make sure we have measurable outcomes:

- **What** actions or changes will occur
- **Who** will carry out these actions/changes
- **By when** they will take place, and **duration**
- **What resources** (i.e., money, staff) are needed to carry out these changes
- **Communication** (what is shared and who are the audience(s)?)





# Update on Rail Safety Tool & Crossing Manual

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# AGENDA

## Status Update

- › FDOT Rail Crossing Manual
- › FDOT Rail Crossing Countermeasure Application
- › Benefit Cost Analysis

## Next Steps

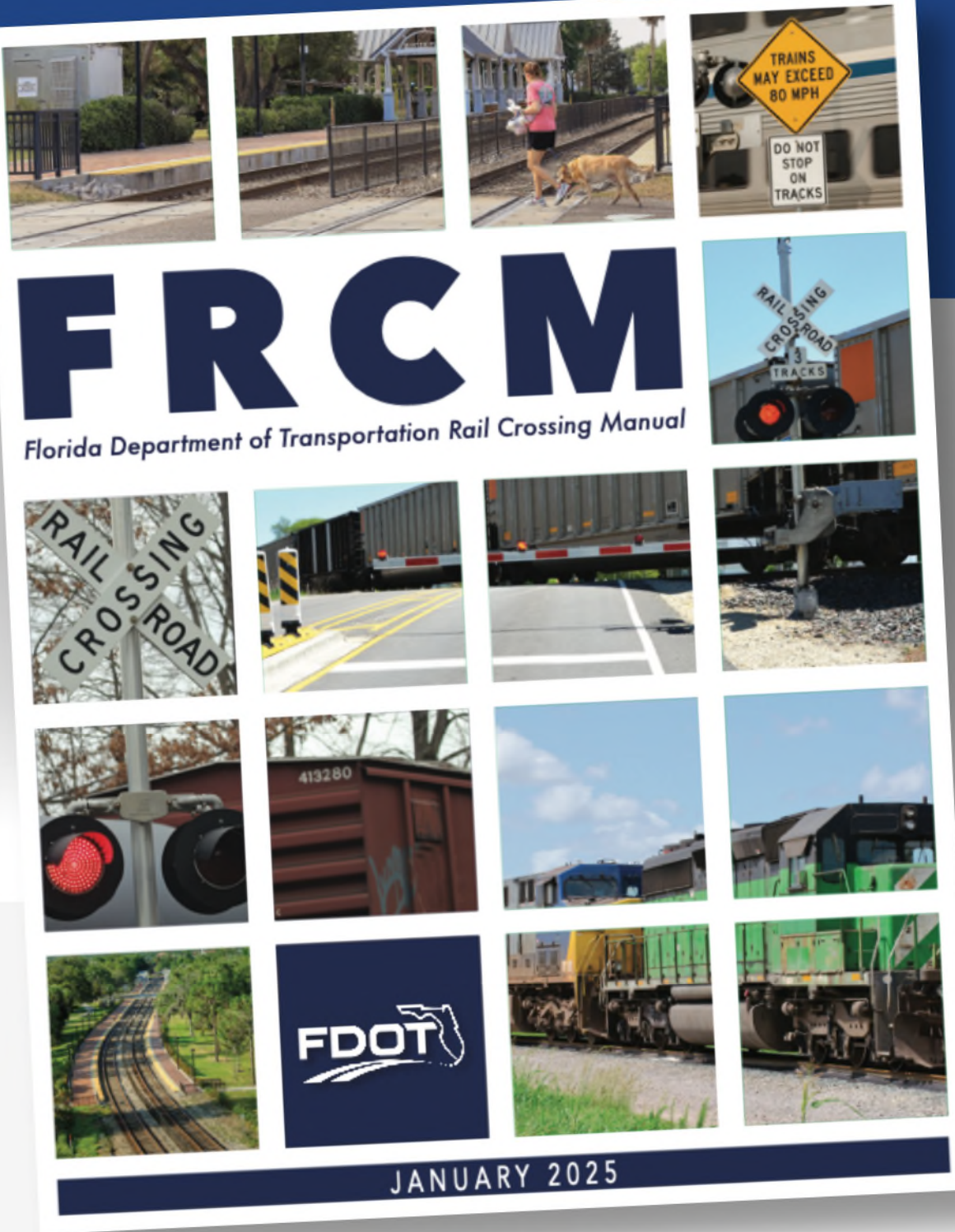
## Questions



# FRCM Manual

# FRCM

Florida Department of Transportation Rail Crossing Manual

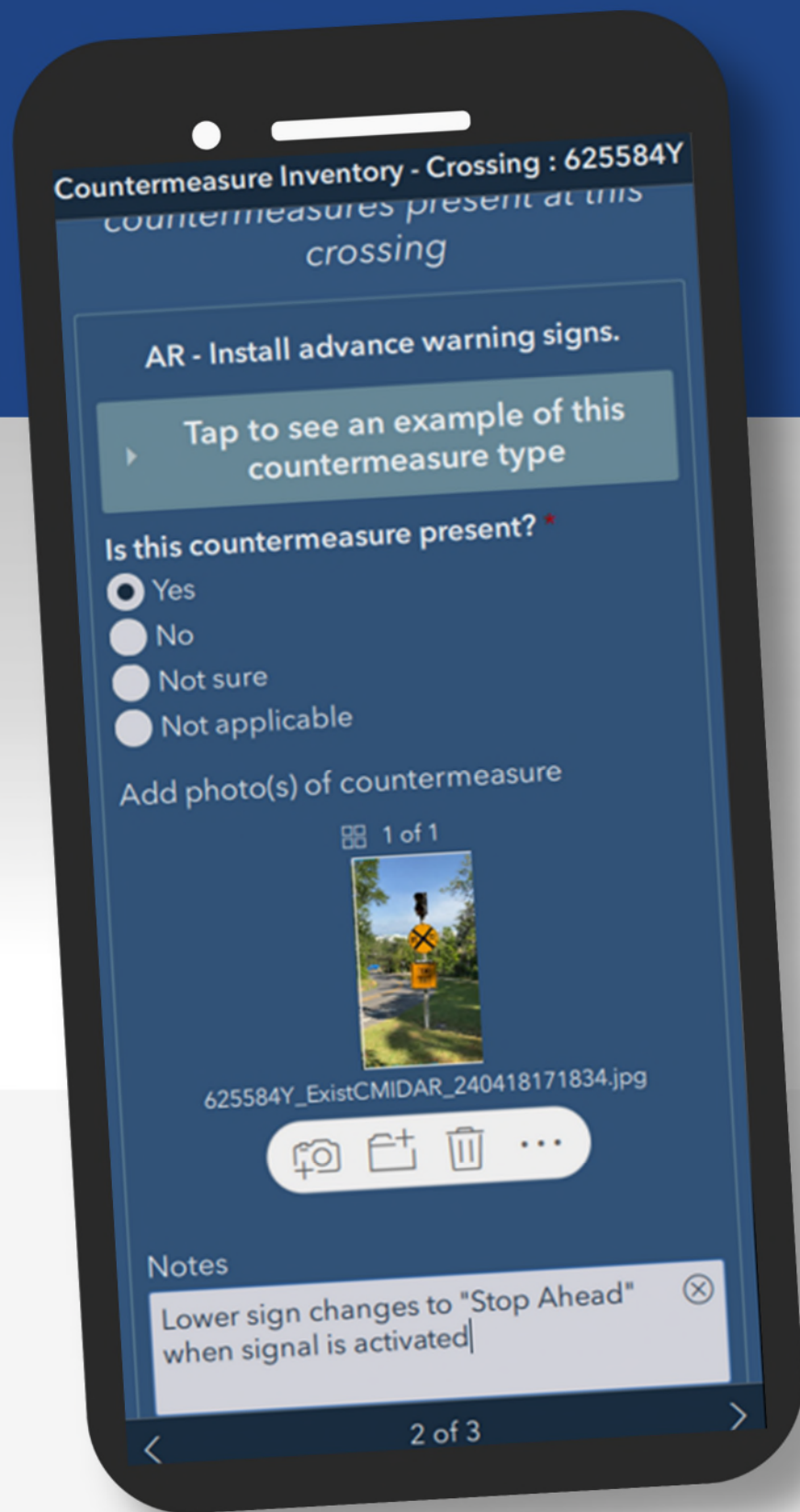


JANUARY 2025

- › Working Group kickoff held on January 24, 2025
- › Coordinating with districts & railroads for feedback, will address comments before roll out
- › Targeting November 1st roll out of the manual



# GIS Application



- › Street view Incorporated
- › Reporting function underway in conjunction with FDOT OIT
- › Will include Benefit Cost Analysis ratios for each countermeasure
- › Will also include hyperlinks to variations/exceptions for countermeasures not deployed
- › Mobile application for feature inventory also underway

# Rail Crossing Countermeasure Application

## Rail Crossings (3,461)

CrossingID: 0 Selected | Crash History: 0 Selected | SHS: 0 Selected | District: 0 Selected | County: 0 Selected

- Crossing #621597L**  
 Crossing Status: OPEN--TRACK ACTIVE  
 Crash History: No  
 Number of Tracks: 1  
 Number of Road Lanes: 2  
 View Dashboard  
 Street View
- Crossing #938320U**  
 Crossing Status: OPEN--TRACK ACTIVE  
 Crash History: No  
 Number of Tracks: 0  
 Number of Road Lanes: 2  
 View Dashboard  
 Street View
- Crossing #938278X**  
 Crossing Status: OPEN--TRACK ACTIVE  
 Crash History: No  
 Number of Tracks: 1  
 Number of Road Lanes: 2  
 View Dashboard  
 Street View
- Crossing #973640L**  
 Crossing Status: OPEN--TRACK ACTIVE  
 Crash History: No  
 Number of Tracks: 0  
 Number of Road Lanes: 3  
 View Dashboard  
 Street View
- Crossing #713550W**  
 Crossing Status: OPEN--TRACK ACTIVE  
 Crash History: No  
 Number of Tracks: 1  
 Number of Road Lanes: 2  
 View Dashboard  
 Street View
- Crossing #968623K**  
 Crossing Status: OPEN--TRACK ACTIVE

The map displays the Orlando, Florida area with a red pin indicating a selected rail crossing. The Street View inset shows a perspective view of the crossing, featuring tracks, a signal post, and a road. The map includes various geographical features like Lake Apopka and Lake Butler, and major roads like I-4 and I-17.

**Layers**

Layer Legend

**Rail Crossing Conditions V2\_0**

- Other
- Injured
- Fatal

**Rail Safety Data Package Exp - Rail Safety Data Table**

Number of features

- > 15
- 12
- 8
- 5
- < 2

Selected features: 1

# Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)



- › We've used predictive modeling to determine forecasted crashes for each on-system at-grade crossing in Florida
- › We've also developed a way to score effectiveness of implemented countermeasures
- › We've developed annualized construction and life cycle costs for all 64 countermeasures
- › All three items above culminate in being able to prioritize improvements based on need and quantify forecasted effectiveness

# Training



## Training Format:

In-person District Training with future CBT curriculum on Learning Curve for refresher courses and missed sessions.

## Timeline:

Create a detailed schedule for the development and deployment phases.



**Introduction** – Purpose & Target Audience



**Learning Objectives** – Defined Outcomes



**Course Structure** – Modules & Lessons



**Multimedia Integration** – Images, Audio, Video



**Accessibility** – Multi-Device Compatibility



**Assessments** – Quizzes & Progress Monitoring





# Next Steps

## District & Railroad Review and Comment

- › FDOT Rail Crossing Manual
- › Rail Countermeasure Application

## Training Schedule Discussion with Districts

# Subgroups

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# Five Subgroups

Policy

Outreach

Standards,  
Innovation, &  
Engineering

Law  
Enforcement

Mental Health



# Breakout Group Goals

**Review Strategies and determine if they meet the following criteria:**

- Complete?
- Clear?
- Current/relevant?

**Based on the review, brainstorm to refine the Action Plan:**

- Which subgroup should be assigned to the task?
- Narrow down the task list to what can be achieved in the first 5 yrs of the plan.
- Consider what is and isn't possible for the FRSC to do.



# Breakout Groups- Subgroups

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# Policy Participants

Scott Ogle

Jason Watts

Craig Camuso

Cary Hiles

Hannah Fay

Rusty Roberts

Cody McCloud

Ana Quero

Joe Arbona

Holly Cohen

Dave Dech

Eugene Jules

Bob O'Malley

Chris Craig

Joe Bitar

John Baker

# Outreach Participants

Karen Kuivinen

Peggy Smith

Wendy Sands

Michael Lefevre

Brian Owens

Loreen Bobo

Kelli Phillips

Marcus Thomas

Robert Bullock

Ray Corbitt

Daniel Fetahovic

Kenny Madden



# Standards, Innovation, & Engineering Participants

Kim Holland

Derwood Sheppard

Mike Philpot

Scott Willis

Cristina Morales-Quiles

John Dewey

Chris Guenther

Jordan Eady

Javier Hurtado

Brenda Young

Kurt Brandt

Brian Austin

Matt Schwerin

Michael Carman

Mariano Amicarelli

# Law Enforcement Participants

Darren Major  
Patrick Clark  
Dave Mixon  
Robert Fay



# Mental Health Participants

Gabe Matthews





# Break

# Subgroups

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# Lunch

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# Subgroups Report Out

# Member Comments

# Public Comments

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# Closing Remarks

Where Do We Go From Here?



# FHWA FRA JOINT WEBINAR

## FHWA/FRA JOINT WEBINAR SERIES: STATE COALITIONS

Join the Florida Rail Safety Coalition as we present on rail safety initiatives and solutions!

Please register no later than Friday, February 28th using QR code at the bottom right.

### WHY ATTEND?

- ✓ **Rail Safety is a National Issue** – A person or vehicle is hit by a train every three hours.
- ✓ **Learn About the Florida Rail Safety Coalition (FRSC)** – A new initiative dedicated to eliminating rail-related fatalities and injuries.
- ✓ **Understand Key Safety Challenges** – Including driver behavior, trespassing, blocked crossings, and infrastructure concerns.
- ✓ **Discover New Safety Innovations & Policies** – From engineering solutions to enforcement and mental health strategies.
- ✓ **Be Part of the Solution** – Learn how you can engage with FDOT's efforts to improve rail safety in Florida.



# Save the Date!

## Next FRSC In-Person Meeting

- June 24, 2025– Turnpike Enterprise HQ

## 2025 Future Meetings:

- August (Virtual)
- November



# Thank you!

*Kim Holland, PE  
Assistant Secretary of Strategic  
Development  
Florida Department of  
Transportation*



**FLORIDA RAIL SAFETY  
COALITION**



**FREIGHT  
& RAIL**

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