

Florida Announced as Participant in New Automated Vehicle Initiative USDOT initiative to improve safety, testing, and public engagement

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has recently announced Florida as one of its first participants in the Automated Vehicle Transparency and Engagement for Safety Testing (AV TEST) Initiative – a new USDOT-led effort to improve the safety and testing transparency for automated driving systems.

“The AV TEST Initiative is a monumental step into the future of automated vehicles, and we are proud Florida is one of the first states to participate in such an important effort led by USDOT and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,” said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E. “As Florida continues to grow, it is essential to provide a transportation system that meets the needs of our residents and visitors. Florida’s engagement in this initiative shows the continued commitment to improving safety, enhancing mobility and inspiring innovation on our state’s roadways.”

Florida joins seven other states and nine companies in this unprecedented effort which will involve nationwide public events and an online, public-facing platform to

increase public engagement and awareness, promote safety and innovation and strengthen relationships between federal, state and local government partners. The other participating states are California, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Utah. The nine companies include Beep, Cruise, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Local Motors, Navya, Nuro, Toyota, Uber, and Waymo.

In 2019, Florida signed the AV legislation into law to encourage the testing, implementation, and deployment of emerging technologies. FDOT recognizes the development and testing of automated driving systems are important for improving safety and enhancing mobility for all road users. The department is also in the process of constructing SunTrax, the first state-owned autonomous vehicle testing facility in the country, which is estimated to be completed in late 2021.

For more information about the AV Test Initiative, visit nhtsa.gov/avtest.

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About The FDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on FDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with FDOT as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program. We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise and the State Road and Tollway Authority of Georgia to Join E-ZPass Network

The E-ZPass Interagency Group announced today that Florida's Turnpike Enterprise and the State Road and Tollway Authority of Georgia (SRTA) will join the E-ZPass network, bringing interoperability to motorists traveling along the east coast in the near future.

Florida's Orlando area Central Florida Expressway Authority is currently a member of and interoperable with the E-ZPass Group; however, interoperability with the remaining Florida toll agencies and the State Road and Toll Authority in Georgia had not yet occurred. We are now pleased to announce that these agencies are undertaking steps to bring E-ZPass to their facilities.

PJ Wilkins, Executive Director of the E-ZPass Group, said "This news is very exciting, as interoperability along the east coast has long been sought after by the traveling public. Our industry will also be thrilled that we are another step closer to achieving national interoperability of electronic toll collection systems."

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, operator of the SunPass system in use throughout Florida, is currently upgrading systems and processes in order to bring E-ZPass statewide, with completion expected later this year.

"We understand how confusing and frustrating it can be for our toll customers to have to keep track of the

different tolling mechanisms across the nation. Under Governor Ron DeSantis' leadership, the Florida Department of Transportation continues to leverage technology to increase convenience and mobility for Florida's toll customers," said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E. "By enhancing Florida's SunPass system and partnering with the E-ZPass Interagency Group, our combined customer base will effortlessly travel tollways in 18 states." Nicola Liquori, CEO of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise: "Interoperability with E-ZPass has been a longstanding goal, and now it is a reality. By the end of the year, millions of E-ZPass customers will enjoy the benefits of the SunPass system on 764 miles of roadway from the Panhandle to the Keys. This effort aligns with our goals to improve mobility by promoting electronic tolling and, more importantly, to enhance customer service by increasing payment options."

Georgia's State Road and Tollway Authority also announced that it is joining the E-ZPass system, with interoperability expected next year.

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Supportive Services Offered:

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
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- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website



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CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.