



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **11 Law Enforcement Agencies Team Up to Protect Trail Users**

*As summer approaches, largest 'crosswalk crackdown' to date focuses on trail crossings*

**ORLANDO, Fla. (May 6, 2022)** – Trail use soared during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and [recent counts indicate](#) that the trend in trail popularity continues. As the school year winds down and summer vacations commence, drivers need to be extra cautious and should expect more people biking and walking as residents and visitors lace up their sneakers to enjoy the more than 450 miles of local trails in Central Florida.

Starting May 10<sup>th</sup>, 11 law enforcement agencies across Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties will team up to enforce Florida's driver yield laws during the largest crosswalk enforcement in Central Florida history. Drivers who fail to yield or stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks will receive warnings or citations to spotlight the importance of staying alert at all trail crossings.

Popular trail crossing locations to be enforced include:

- [Kissimmee Loop Trail Crossing at 898 N. Hoagland Blvd.](#) (Kissimmee)
- [West Orange Trail Crossing at Votaw Rd.](#) (Apopka)
- [Seminole Wekiva Trail Crossing at E.E. Williamson Rd.](#) (Seminole County)
- [West Orange Trail Crossing over Oakland Ave./SR-438](#) (Oakland)

**A complete list of crosswalks is included below and features all enforcement details.**

Dubbed **Operation Best Foot Forward**, these crosswalk enforcement actions are part of a greater, comprehensive effort to educate drivers about [Florida's driver yield laws](#) and curb the pattern of aggressive behavior towards pedestrians. Plainclothes deputies and officers cross the street at marked crosswalks during the operation, giving drivers ample time to yield as [Florida law requires](#). Drivers who fail to comply may be issued a warning or a citation starting at \$164 and three points on their license.

Participating agencies include the Sheriff's Offices from Orange County, Osceola County, and Seminole County, as well as the Apopka, Casselberry, Kissimmee, Longwood, Oakland, Orlando, St. Cloud, and Winter Park Police Departments. By increasing awareness of other road users, these law enforcement agencies and the rest of the Best Foot Forward coalition work to improve Central Florida streets for all through enforcement, ongoing evaluations, and the implementation of engineering solutions.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS AND PRODUCERS:** Media is invited to *Operation Best Foot Forward* and will have the opportunity to speak to drivers, police officers and pedestrians. Contact Eric Trull, 407.569.8993 (mobile).

## About the [Best Foot Forward](#) for Pedestrian Safety Program

The Best Foot Forward for pedestrian safety program is administered by the local non-profit Bike/Walk Central Florida (BWCF). Best Foot Forward was created to reverse the conflict between pedestrians and drivers by focusing on one specific behavior change - getting more drivers to yield for pedestrians at marked crosswalks as [Florida law](#) requires. More than a campaign, Best Foot Forward is a behavior change-based program designed to improve road safety through consistent and persistent education, high-visibility crosswalk enforcement, and low-cost engineering at marked crosswalks near elementary schools and LYNX bus stops, in urban areas and cross-sections of low and high-speed roads.

Best Foot Forward operates in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties and is the largest pedestrian-focused grassroots coalition in the nation, working with more than 35 local and regional partners. Since launching in 2012, the percentage of drivers yielding to people in marked crosswalks has increased from 17% to more than 52% on roads with a speed limit of 35 mph and lower and 2% to 43% on roads 40 mph and higher.

### **Best Foot Forward Program Progress: 2012-2022**

- More than 250 crosswalks evaluated in the program since 2012
- More than 10,900 citations and warnings issued since 2012

## About [Bike/Walk Central Florida](#)

BWCF is a 501(c)(3) that promotes walkable and bikeable communities through raising public awareness and advocating for safe, active transportation and recreation.

BWCF coordinates the Bike5Cities annual bike ride to promote safe bicycling routes and enhanced multi-use trails throughout Central Florida. The organization supports building, expanding, and linking regional trails and completing the Coast-to-Coast Connector trail. In addition, BWCF encourages transportation corridor planning and design by using Complete Streets principles to benefit all transportation users. To learn more, go to [bikewalkcentralflorida.org](http://bikewalkcentralflorida.org).

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## Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Time	Location	Drivers' Compliance with Law (Average*)	Crosswalk Details and/or Adjacent Points of Interest
<b>Seminole County Sheriff's Office</b>			
8:00 – 10:00 am	Snow Hill Rd. & Jacobs Trail	31%	Near the Flagler Trail head and Walker Elementary School.
12:00 – 2:00 pm	E.E. Williamson Rd. at Seminole Wekiva Trail	78%	Trail crossing for the popular 14-mile Seminole Wekiva Trail; Links to the newly constructed multi-use path on E.E. Williamson Rd. (over Interstate 4), connecting residents to the trail; Near Woodlands Elementary School.  <b>MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:</b> BFF Outreach & Marketing Manager, Eric Trull
<b>Kissimmee Police Department</b>			
8:15 – 10:00 am	898 N. Hoagland Blvd.	36%	KISSIMMEE LOOP TRAIL CROSSING: High-traffic trail crossing; RRFB recently installed at this location, improving driver yield rates from 15% (Dec. 21) to 56% (Mar. 22).  <b>MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:</b> Newly installed RRFB and BFF Program Manager, Shelby Villatoro
10:15 am – 12:00 pm	2172 N. Hoagland Blvd.	N/A	KISSIMMEE LOOP TRAIL CROSSING: High-traffic trail crossing; Large number of condos and apartments near this crosswalk.
<b>Orlando Police Department</b>			
7:30 – 10:30 am	N. Bumby Ave. & Illinois St.	59%	ORLANDO DOWNTOWN LOOP: When finished, will create an 8.5-mile loop through the greater downtown Orlando area, providing a car-free option to access shopping, dining, entertainment, parks, offices and services.
<b>Longwood Police Department</b>			
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	SR 434 & Ronald Reagan Blvd.	41%	Busy, signalized intersection near Historic Downtown Longwood, SunRail, Reiter Park, and Orlando Health.
<b>Orange County Sheriff's Office</b>			
8:00 – 10:00 am	Pine Hills Rd. & Figwood Ln.	12%	Part of the Pine Hills Road Pedestrian Safety project to address pedestrian and bicycle safety; Near LYNX bus stops.
<b>Osceola County Sheriff's Office</b>			
8:00 – 10:00 am	Buenaventura Blvd. & Briarwood Dr.	7%	This crosswalk is located on the main stretch of the Buena Ventura Lakes community, a high-speed, four-lane road.
10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Florida Pkwy. & Buttonwood Dr.	23%	This neighborhood crosswalk rests between Boggy Creek Elementary School and Parkway Middle School. Residents can use this crossing to access the schools, nearby Friendship Park, or LYNX bus stops.
<b>St. Cloud Police Department</b>			
1:00 – 3:00 pm	10th St. & Michigan Ave.	39%	Located near downtown and LYNX bus stops; Part of MetroPlan Orlando's 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Study.

### Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Time	Location	Drivers' Compliance with Law (Average*)	Crosswalk Details and/or Adjacent Points of Interest
<b>Winter Park Police Department</b>			
8:00 – 9:00 am	Orlando Ave. & Morse Blvd.	86%	Due to the lack of parking in the area, many employees, shoppers, and restaurant patrons park in nearby lots and cross the street at this busy signalized intersection.  <i>*WPPD will be enforcing existing pedestrian crossings. No decoys will be present.</i>
12:00 – 1:30 pm			
5:00 – 7:00 pm <i>(Tentative)</i>			
<b>Apopka Police Department</b>			
7:30 – 9:30 am	Votaw Rd. at West Orange Trail	36%	This crosswalk on the West Orange Trail is located within a school zone (adjacent to Dream Lake Elementary and Apopka Memorial Middle School) where many students cross. Drivers in this area are consistently noted for aggressive behaviors and speeding.  <b>MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:</b> Bike/Walk Central Florida Executive Director; City of Apopka Elected Officials
<b>Orlando Police Department</b>			
7:30 – 10:30 am	Nemours Pkwy. & Suttner Ave.	59%	LAKE NONA TRAIL NETWORK: Connection to the Laureate Park Trailhead, providing residents who bike and walk with access to the Laureate Park Community Garden, parks, dining, entertainment, shopping, and more; This crosswalk connects to Lake Nona High School.
<b>Oakland Police Department</b>			
8:30 – 10:30 am	SR 438 & West Orange Trail	65%	Part of the West Orange Trail, this crosswalk is often challenged by visibility resulting in turning drivers stopping within the crossing at the T-intersection. This is the location of a future roundabout.
<b>Casselberry Police Department</b>			
9:30 am – 12:30 pm	W. Melody Ln. & S. Cypress Way	35%	This crossing is located adjacent to a Target shopping center and speeding is often a noted issue.

*\*Average of any driver yield rates collected during FY 21-22 (October 2021 – September 2022).*

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