

Comment from John Banta

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on May 31, 2022

NHTSA Survey of Driver Awareness of Motorcycles in Florida

Consider adding this topic to your survey:

The Survey should ask the source of any information drivers obtained about motorcycle safety and awareness. There are a few sources in Florida.

Public Service Announcements by Radio Stations. Radio stations issue PSAs as part of their license.

Personal Injury Attorney Advertising.

Florida Department of Transportation. FDOT uses federal funding. They administer the Ridesmart program, grants to CUTR and electronic sign messages.

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Every motorcycle registration has an added \$2.50 fee that originally was for subsidies under the Florida Riders Training Program (FRTP). Legislation has dismantled FRTP, and those funds are used at the discretion of DHSMV, with unused funds going to DHSMV general fund. With 638883 registered motorcycle (Aug 8, 2021), it would be interesting to find out what DHSMV is currently doing. Legislators and bureaucrats think this is free money.

ABATE of Florida Safety & Education, Inc. While motorcyclists have their favorite stories about the elderly and tourists, it is the local 20 to 30 year old drivers that are more likely involved in car/motorcycle accidents. ABATE of Florida developed a program that explains how to share the road with motorcyclists. This program has been presented in schools and libraries. In past years ABATE has obtained DHSMV funding for this program and billboards by legislation but lately it has been stricken from the final state budgets.