



MEDIA ADVISORY

November 8, 2021

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End of Daylight Saving Time Triggers Deadly Risk for Pedestrians

Seven local law enforcement agencies to conduct three-day crosswalk enforcement operation in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties

ORLANDO, Fla. (Nov. 5, 2021) – Law enforcement agencies across Central Florida are stepping up patrols at local crosswalks for a three-day crackdown on drivers who fail to yield and stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks. Deputies from Orange County Sheriff’s Office, Osceola County, and Seminole County Sheriff’s Office, as well as officers from the Orlando, Kissimmee, Oakland, and Casselberry Police Departments will enforce crosswalks beginning Tuesday, November 9 at 7:30 a.m. through Thursday, November 11.

This week was chosen because the number of fatal traffic crashes spike the weeks following the end of daylight saving time, according to several [national reports](#). Losing the extra hour of sunlight in the evening puts pedestrians most at risk, at a time when the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration reports more than three-fourths of all pedestrian fatalities happen after dark. That’s a trend the Best Foot Forward Pedestrian Safety Program and local law enforcement agencies are working to reverse.

Dubbed **Operation Best Foot Forward**, 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. During the operation, plainclothes deputies and officers cross the street at marked crosswalks, 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.

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 April Owens, 509.475.8976 (mobile).

[Interactive Google Map of All BFF Crosswalk Locations](#)

Tuesday, November 9

Orange County Sheriff’s Office	Tuesday, November 9	Drivers’ compliance with law (avg)	Schools & Neighborhoods
University Blvd. & Alafaya Trail	8:15 - 8:45 AM	71%	Riverdale ES, University HS, University of Central Florida
Orlando Police Department	Tuesday, November 9	Drivers’ compliance with law (avg)	Schools & Neighborhoods

East Michigan St. & Cayman Way	7:30 - 9:00 AM	43%	Dover Shores ES, Acceleration East HS, Conway ES, Conway MS, Lake George ES
Kissimmee Police Department	Tuesday, November 9	Drivers' compliance with law (avg)	Schools & Neighborhoods
Broadway & West Dakin Ave.	8:30 - 10:00 AM	51%	Beaumont MS, Thacker ES, Osceola HS, Central ES
898 N. Hoagland Blvd.	10:30 - 12:00 PM	24%	Kissimmee ES, Thacker Ave. ES, Flora Ridge ES, Central Ave. ES, Kissimmee MS
Osceola County Sheriff's Office	Tuesday, November 9	Drivers' compliance with law (avg)	Schools & Neighborhoods
Buenaventura and Briarwood	8:00 - 10:00 AM	11%	Boggy Creek ES, Ventura ES, Catalyst Christian Academy, Piece of Heaven Christian Academy
3200 Rolling Oaks	10:00 - 12:00 PM	60%	Rolling Oaks Commons Plaza

Wednesday, November 10

Seminole County Sheriff's Office	Wednesday, Nov. 10	Drivers' compliance with law (avg)	Schools & Neighborhoods
Sand Lake Rd. & Forest Park Cir.	7:30 - 9:30 AM	New to Program	Pace Brantley School, Wekiva Elementary
International Parkway at Westin Hotel	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	77%	Wilson ES, Bentley ES
Oakland Police Department	Wednesday, Nov. 10	Drivers' compliance with law (avg)	Schools & Neighborhoods
W. Oakland Ave. & Sansparilla Rd.	7:30 - 8:30 AM	68%	Longleaf Neighborhood
N. Tubbs St. & West Orange Trail	8:45 - 9:45 AM	New to Program	Tildenville ES

Thursday, November 11

Casselberry Police Department	Thursday, Nov. 11	Drivers' compliance with law (avg)	Schools & Neighborhoods
Lake Dr. & Park Dr.	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	New to Program	Casselberry ES

Background on several crosswalk enforcement locations

Michigan Ave. & Cayman Way, City of Orlando

- Five-lane road, 35 mph, known for drivers speeding
- City of Orlando installed pavement markings and signage recently, and driver yielding has increased from less than 1 out of every 100 drivers yielding to 43 out of 100.

University Blvd. and Alafaya Trail, Orange County

- High-speed road, 45mph
- Ongoing complaints from UCF and the surrounding community regarding difficulties in crossing

898 Hoagland Blvd., City of Kissimmee

- Drivers speeding
- Only 24% of drivers yield to people crossing
- Four-lane expansion

Buenaventura Blvd. & Briarwood Dr., Osceola County

- The blind curves in both directions of Buenaventura Blvd. make it difficult to judge when it's safe to cross.
- Westbound drivers seem to be speeding and trying to beat the traffic light at Florida Pkwy.
- Part of Buenaventura Complete Streets project - pushing to get study expedited.

W. Oakland Ave. & Sansparilla Rd., City of Oakland

- New development and growth in the area

Lake Dr. & Park Dr., City of Casselberry

- Curvature of the road gives drivers less time to react to crossing pedestrians
- High number of community complaints related to close calls between drivers and pedestrians

About [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 and first launched in Orange County and the City of Orlando in 2012. It expanded to Osceola County, Kissimmee and St. Cloud in 2017 and Seminole County in October 2019. Apopka, Oakland, and Winter Park recently joined the program in the fall of 2021. Best Foot Forward is now made up of some 38 coalition partners across Central Florida.

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 in close proximity to elementary schools and LYNX bus stops, in urban areas and cross-sections of low and high-speed roads.

Best Foot Forward program progress: 2012-2020

- Operating in three counties, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties
- More than 10,500 citations and warnings issued since 2012
- More than 200 crosswalks evaluated in the program since 2012
- 44 percent increase – average yielding behavior change at those crosswalks being tracked by Best Foot Forward

Covering Orange, Osceola and now Seminole Counties, Best Foot Forward is the largest grassroots coalition focused on pedestrian safety in the nation. Since 2012, when Best Foot Forward was launched, the percentage of drivers yielding to people in marked crosswalks has increased from 17% to more than 60% on roads with a speed limit of 35 mph and lower and 2% to 43% on roads 40 mph and higher.

About Bike/Walk Central Florida, Administers the Best Foot Forward Program

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 manages the [Best Foot Forward](#) for pedestrian safety program for its partners in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. Best Foot Forward is a behavior change-based program designed to

improve road safety through consistent and persistent education, high-visibility enforcement and low-cost engineering at marked crosswalks. Best Foot Forward was launched in Orange County in June 2012. It more recently expanded into Osceola County in 2017 and Seminole County in 2019. Best Foot Forward is one of the largest grassroots programs of its kind in the nation.

BWCF coordinates the Bike5Cities program and its 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 Coast-to-Coast Connector trail. BWCF encourages transportation corridor planning and design by using Complete Streets principles for the benefit of all transportation users. To learn more, go to <http://bikewalkcentralflorida.org/>.

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