



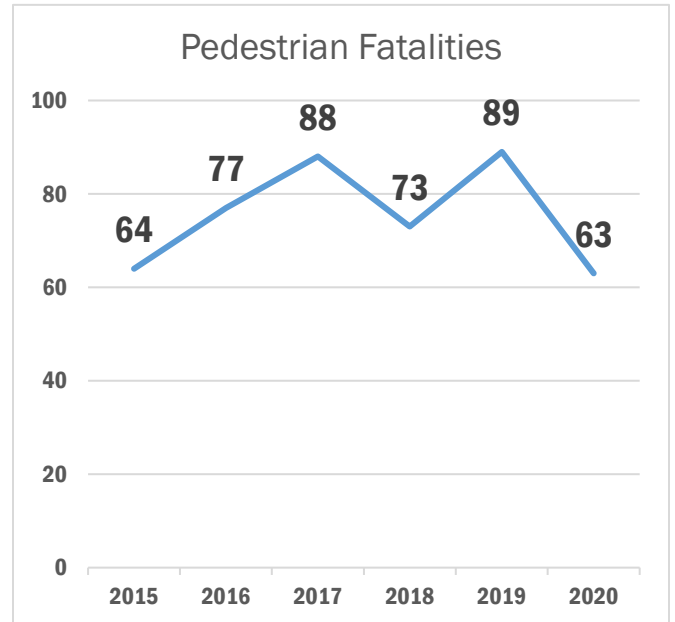
## Fact Sheet: Central Florida Pedestrian Safety

### PEDESTRIAN CRASH STATISTICS

An analysis of Central Florida crash data shows these pedestrian crash trends:

- From 2018 to 2019, pedestrian fatalities increased from 73 to 89 (22% increase). This dropped to 63 fatalities in 2020 due to changing travel patterns during COVID-19.
- The year 2019 had the highest number of pedestrian deaths ever for Central Florida (89).
- Four out of five pedestrian deaths occur at night.
- Most pedestrian fatalities occur among working-age adults on high-speed roads with posted speeds at 40 mph+.
- Pedestrian safety is a priority for the region. No one should die while crossing a street.

**MetroPlan Orlando continues working along with government and transportation partners to reach a goal of ZERO pedestrian fatalities.**



Some things that can be done from a transportation perspective to improve pedestrian safety include:

- **Lowering speeds on corridors with high pedestrian activity.** Crashes occurring at low speeds are less likely to be fatal to a pedestrian. Lowering speeds would require engineering changes so the road design reflects the posted speed limit.
- **Pedestrian protection at mid-block locations.** Installing medians, refuge islands or pedestrian hybrid beacons reduces mid-block pedestrian crashes.
- **Lighting.** Installing lighting in key corridors or upgrading to brighter LED lighting reduces pedestrian crashes and especially fatalities.
- **Improved infrastructure, markings and signage.** Installing additional enhanced crosswalks at unsignalized locations improves safety where pedestrians are already crossing. Filling sidewalk gaps provides a safer and more comfortable space for people on foot.

### WHAT METROPLAN ORLANDO IS DOING

**Seeking funding for Best Foot Forward pedestrian safety program.** One of MetroPlan Orlando's top legislative priorities for the 2021 Florida Legislative session is seeking funding for further expansion of the Best Foot Forward pedestrian safety program. This request has taken a positive first step with the support of Representative Kristen Arrington and Senator Linda Stewart, who are sponsoring the appropriation request. It passed the first step in the budget process, being approved by the House Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Committee on March 4, 2021.

**Ensuring safety is a top goal for long-term plans and analyzing pedestrian crash statistics.** Our year 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan has many safety performance measures, including a target of **ZERO**

**fatalities or serious injuries on all roads.** MetroPlan Orlando tracks the region's transportation safety and works to prioritize projects meeting safety needs. We regularly examine pedestrian crash data to identify trends and see how infrastructure and education can address underlying causes.

**Leading Complete Streets efforts.** MetroPlan Orlando has been leading regional Complete Streets efforts for the past few years. This approach considers the needs of all users, rather than building streets just for car use. We adopted a [regional Complete Streets policy](#) in March 2020 and have assisted our partners in adapting policies for their use. Several Complete Streets projects have already been completed, and more are on the way.

**Using technology to count pedestrians and cyclists.** We use up-to-date cameras to monitor pedestrian and cyclist movements near various intersections, helping to give our crash statistics context in terms of how many people are walking or biking there.

**Evaluating transportation plans for public health.** Since 2016, MetroPlan Orlando has been looking at transportation plans in terms of how they meet health and safety needs. This helps us emphasize our organization's approach to plan holistically.

## **WHAT BEST FOOT FORWARD IS DOING**

**Best Foot Forward (BFF) is the largest grassroots coalition for pedestrian safety in the nation,** with 3 counties, 11 municipalities, 12 law enforcement agencies and 36 total community partners.

Here are some recent accomplishments:

- Best Foot Forward has monitored and/or enforced 186 crosswalks since 2013. Each year, the coalition has graduated crosswalks off the list of highly dangerous (low-driver compliance) crosswalks through low-cost engineering, high-visibility enforcement and consistent education to change driver behavior.
- In 2020, BFF held 4 enforcement operations that resulted in 1,015 warnings and citations. Since the program began in 2012, more than 10,000 warnings and citations have been issued to enforce pedestrian safety laws and encourage drivers to yield to pedestrians.
- More than 8,700 people were reached and more than 5,000 pieces of educational material were distributed in 2020.

**About Best Foot Forward:** The [Best Foot Forward](#) for pedestrian safety coalition includes local government transportation planners, engineers, law enforcement, medical staff, school staff, crossing guards, and nonprofits actively working together. They coordinate Central Florida's pedestrian safety efforts with a Triple E approach – Education, Engineering, and Enforcement. Best Foot Forward's mission is to lower pedestrian fatalities by getting more drivers to yield and stop for pedestrians in crosswalks, as Florida law requires. The Best Foot Forward coalition was formed in Orange County in 2012 later expanded into Osceola County (2017) and Seminole County (2019).

## **BACKGROUND**

Dangerous by Design reports were released by Smart Growth America in 2009, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2019 and 2021. The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford Metro Area has been repeatedly named among the most dangerous metro areas for pedestrians in the nation in this report. The report's Pedestrian Danger Index only takes people who walk to work into account, excluding transit riders (who are pedestrians), recreational walkers, and the more than 70 million tourists who visit Central Florida annually and also walk to get around.