



Polk Transportation
Planning Organization

Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA)

Polk TPO Safety Briefing

October 9, 2026



Polk County, FL



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Planning Organization

Growth



Since 2020, Polk County's Population has increased by 149,744 and is now 874,790 (2025)

Average annual increase of nearly 30,000 since 2020. (82 people a day)



I-4 Megapolitan Area: Nearly 5.8M people reside in Polk & the adjacent Urban Areas



874,790

POPULATION AS OF 2025



20.7%

population growth since 2020

FLORIDA'S **9TH** MOST POPULATED COUNTY



17 Incorporated municipalities

2,011

Square Miles

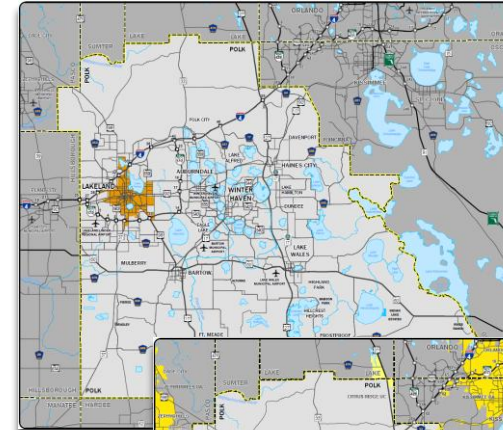
Polk County Urban Areas



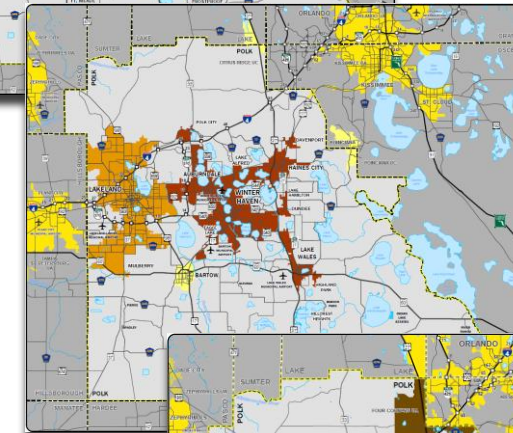
Four Urbanized Areas Two TMAs (Lakeland & Winter Haven)

1970 – 29% live in an Urban Area

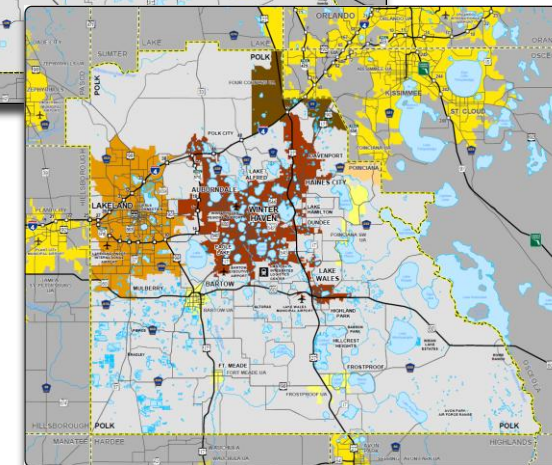
2020 – 89% live in an Urban Area



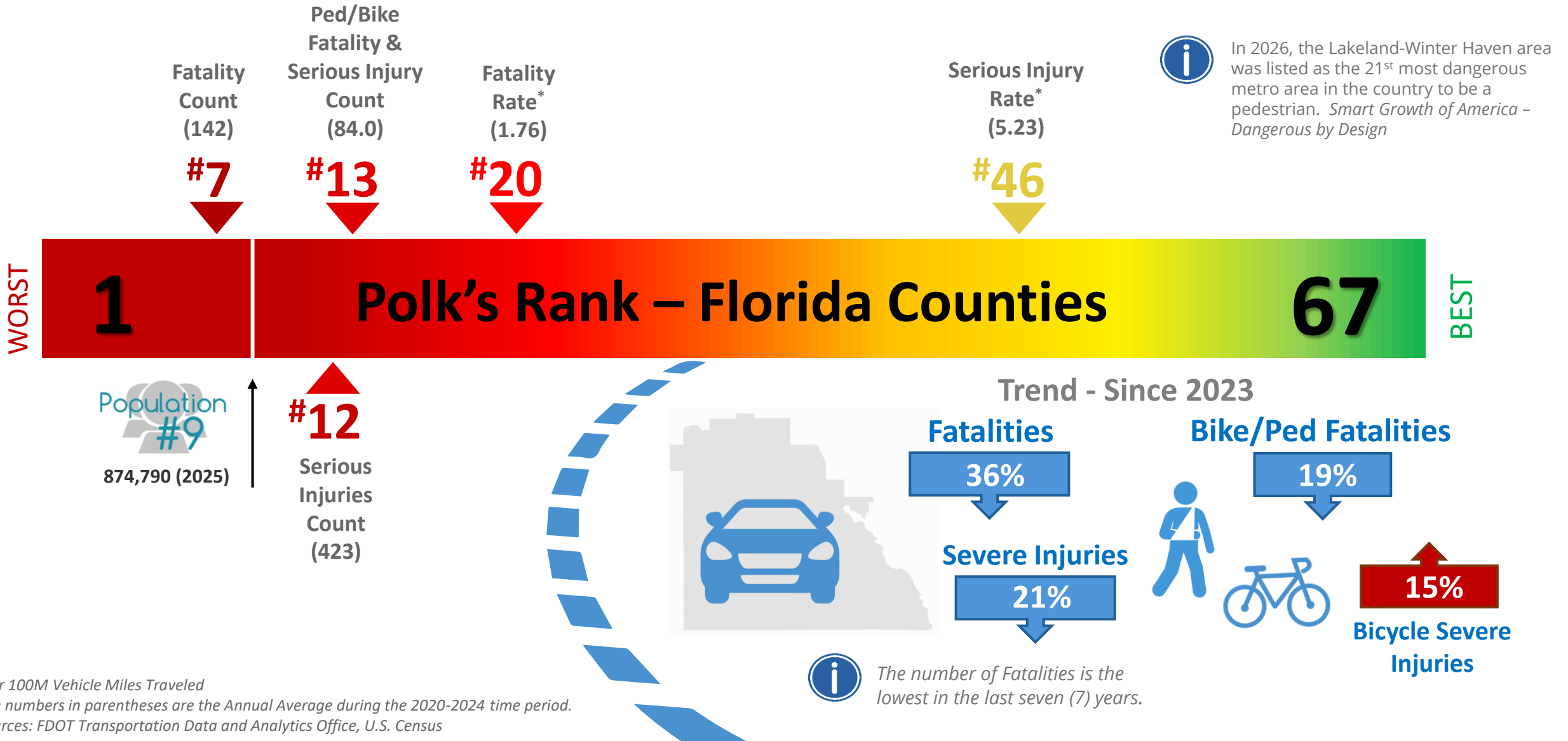
1970



2000



2020

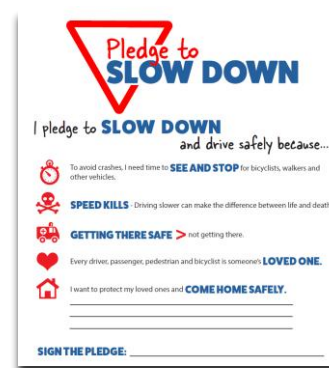




Complete Streets Policy & Corridor Evaluations



Neighborhood Mobility Audits



Pledge to Slow Down



Bike/Ped Safety Education



Best Foot Forward

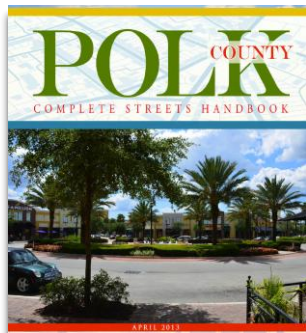
2012

2015

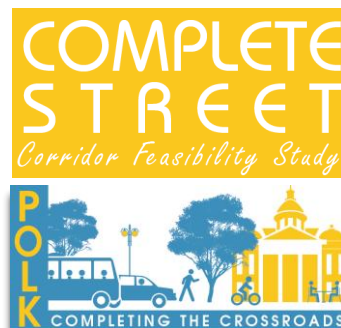
2020

2025

Complete Streets Handbook



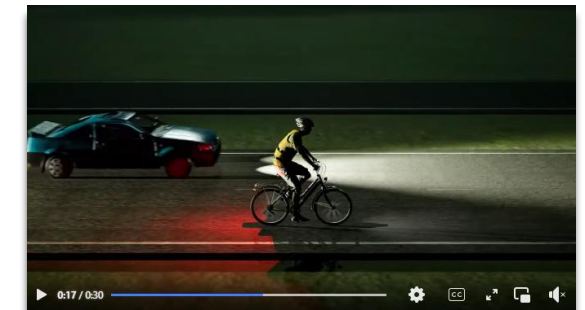
TPO Funding Policy



Complete Street Action Plans



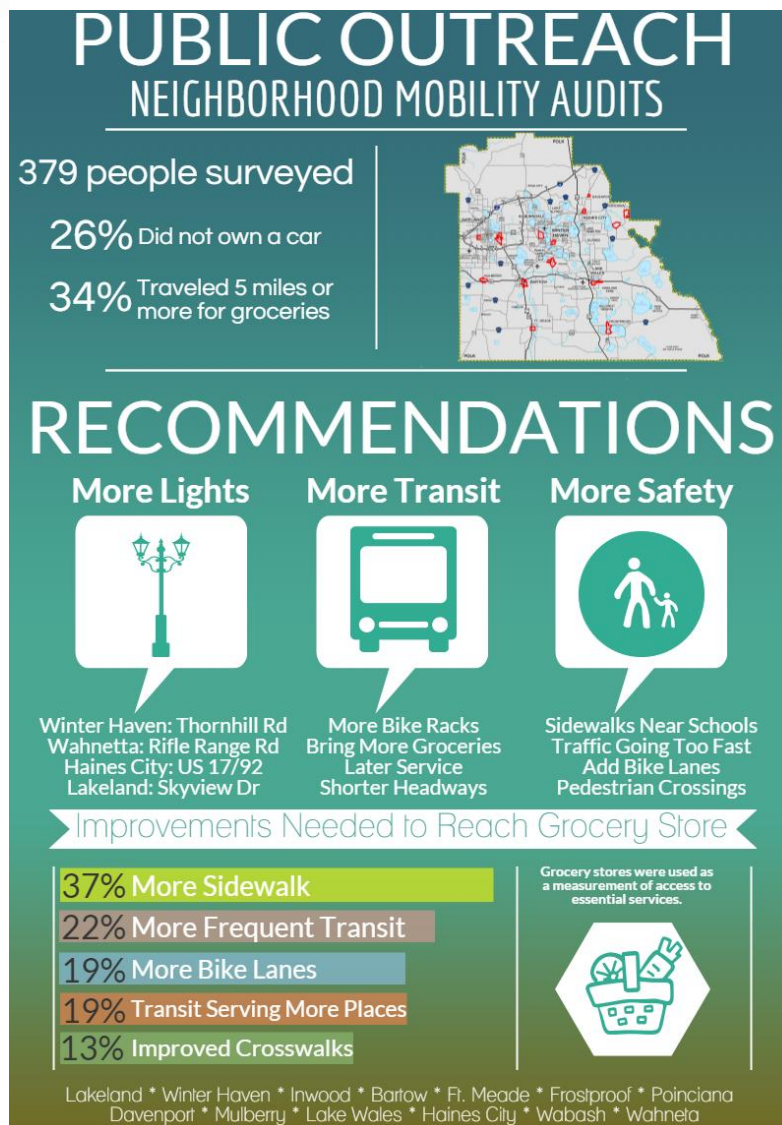
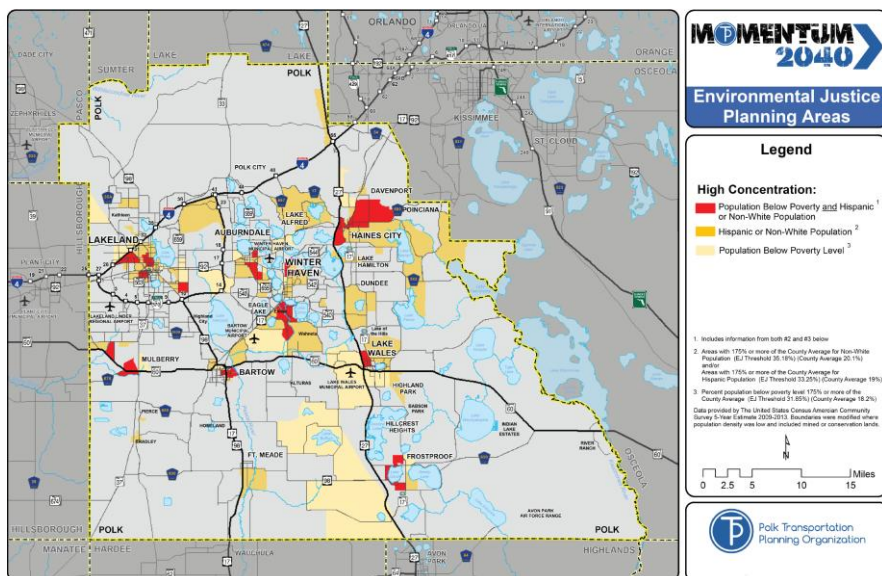
Bike/Ped Safety Action Plans



Vision Zero Action Plan

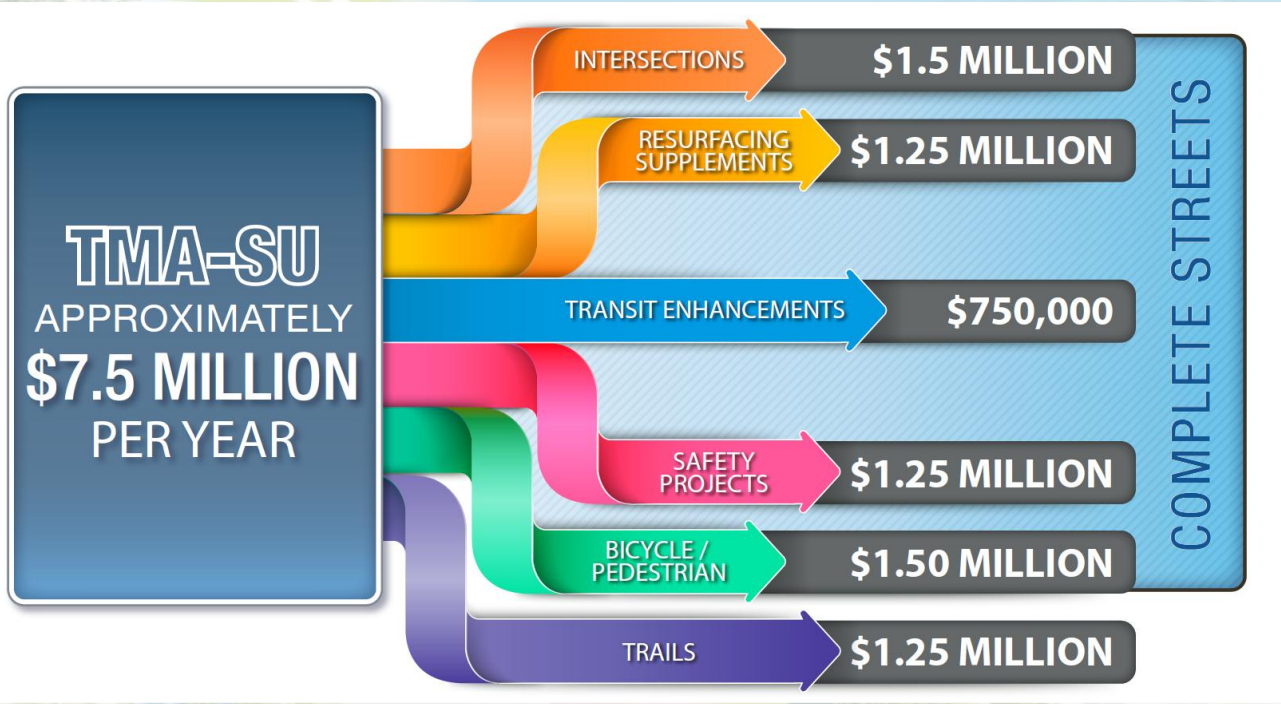
MOMENTUM 2040

- Evaluated resident access to jobs and essential services.



Purpose: To identify transportation projects that will improve pedestrian, bicycle and transit access.

Implementing the Plans



Lake Silver Drive





[Getting There Safe – Open Video](#)



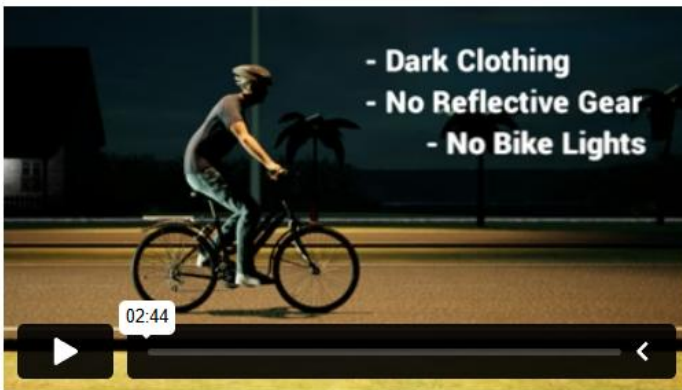
[Speed Kills – Open Video](#)



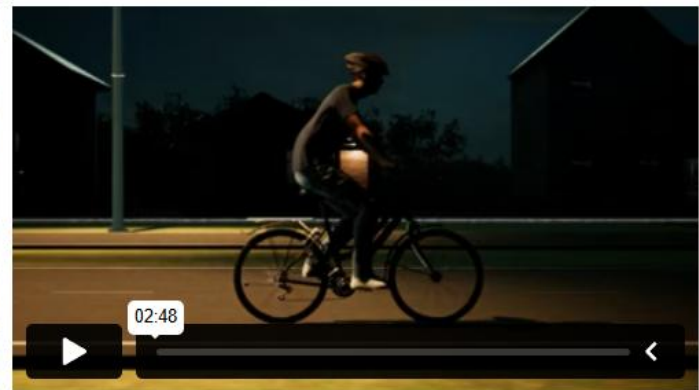
[Time To See and Stop – Open Video](#)



[Someone's Loved One – Open Video](#)



[Open Video](#)

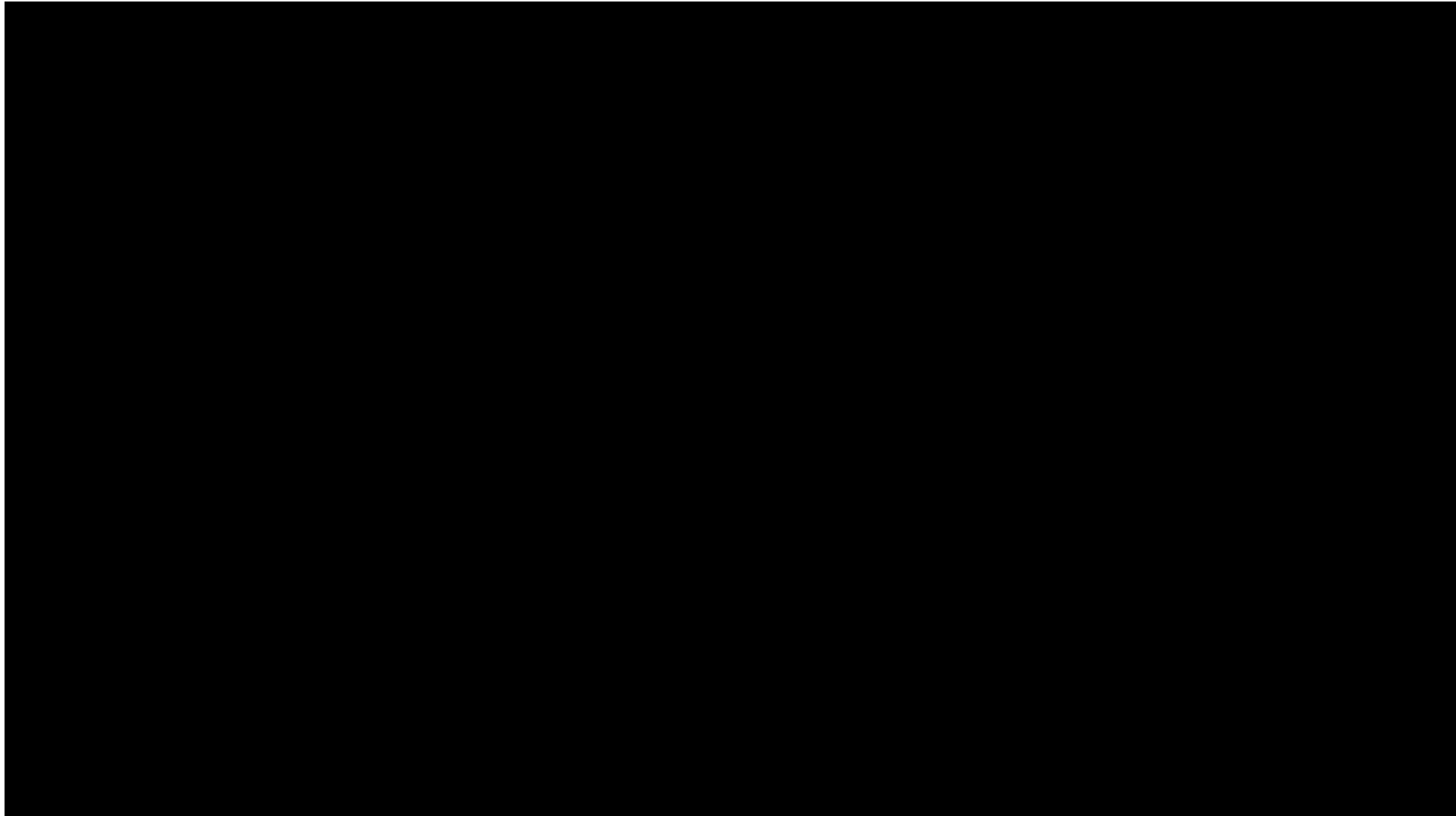


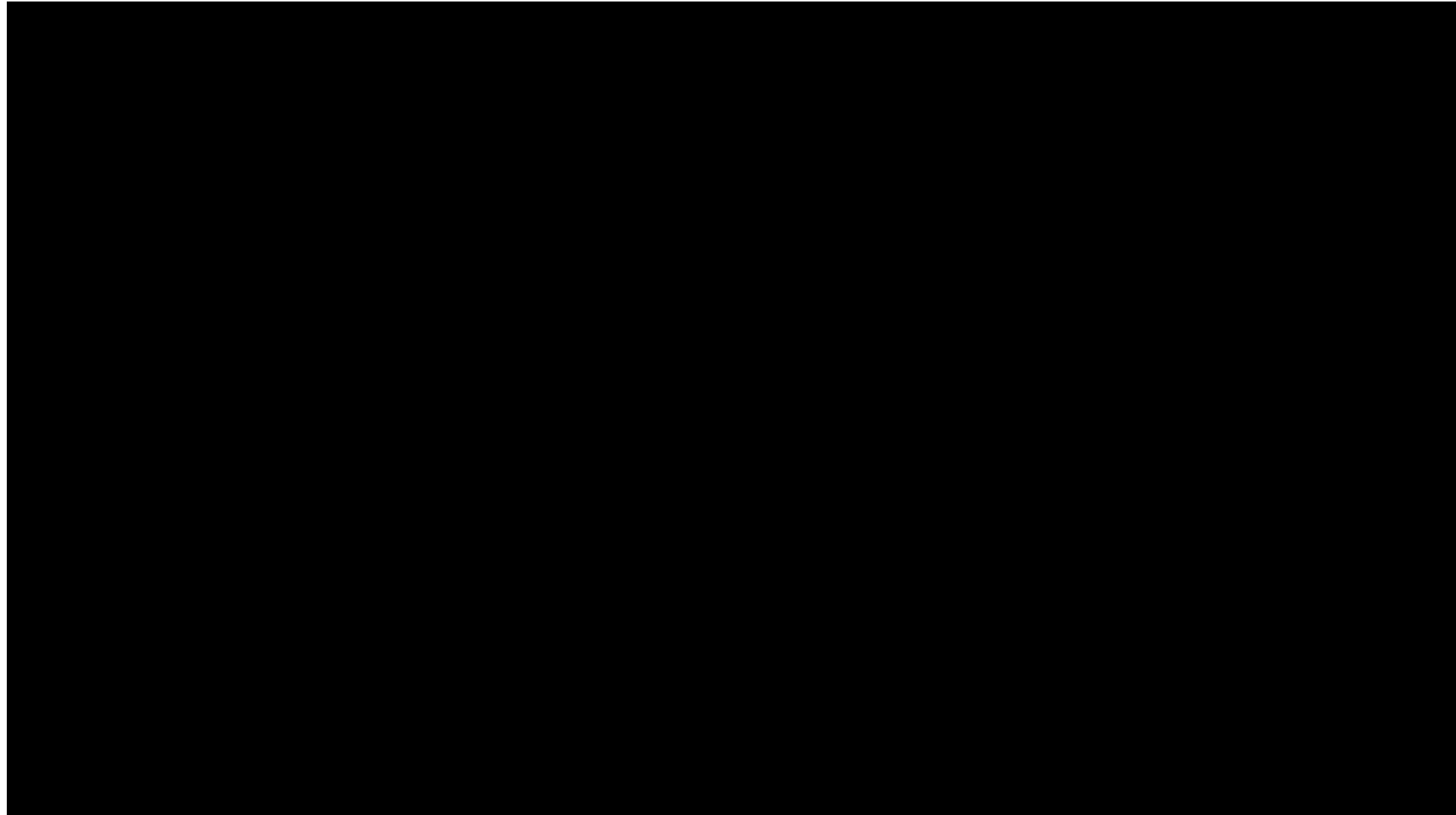
[Open Video](#)



*1st Place Award - National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisers (NATOA)
Government Programming Awards.*

Getting There Safe





Bicycle Safety PSA



Polk Transportation
Planning Organization





 The Ledger

ACCIDENT

13-year-old dies in Lake Wales after being struck by a vehicle while waiting for school bus

Ledger staff
Published 12:17 p.m. ET Feb. 3, 2023

A 13-year-old McLaughlin Middle-High School student died Friday after being struck by a pickup truck while waiting for the school bus in Lake Wales.

Lake Wales police said the accident happened about 6:15 a.m. near Dr. J.A. Wiltshire Avenue and Miami Street.

Police said Jadin Galindo was waiting for the bus, sitting near the center of a paved alleyway about 30 feet to the north of Wiltshire Avenue near a Florida's Natural Growers plant. A 2013 GMC Sierra truck driven by Sherry Kinney, 47, of Bartow was driving east on Wiltshire Avenue and turned north into the alleyway where Galindo was sitting.

New Tampa Highway in Lakeland 25-year-old Lakeland man charged with DUI manslaughter in crash that killed 51-year-old

On side of US 27 43-year-old Frostproof woman fatally struck by car before sunrise

Police said it was dark and foggy and there were no street lights in the area, only ambient light from the Florida's Natural plant. Galindo was taken to Lake Wales Advent Health by Polk County Emergency Medical Services, where he died.

Police said neither speed nor impairment appear to be factors in the accident, but the investigation is ongoing.

Neither Kinney nor her passenger were injured.

If you have any information regarding this case, please contact Traffic Homicide Investigator Meyers at the Lake Wales Police Department at 863-678-4223. You can also remain anonymous by calling Heartland Crime Stoppers at 1-800-226-TIPS (8477).

 The Ledger

ACCIDENT

15-year-old girl critical after being struck by truck on the way to school in Davenport

Ledger staff
Published 10:32 a.m. ET Feb. 14, 2023

A 15-year-old girl is in critical condition after being struck by a box truck as she crossed the street in front of Davenport School for the Arts early Tuesday morning.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office said in a news release that the accident happened just before 6:45 a.m. at County Road 547 and Sophie Lane, near the entrance to the Legacy Landings subdivision, directly across the street from the school. County Road 547 is also known as Lee Jackson Highway.

The Sheriff's Office said the girls was walking with other teenagers, who crossed CR 547 in a marked crosswalk from the east side of the road, where the subdivision is, to the west side, where the school is. The Sheriff's Office said there are no traffic lights at the intersection, but northbound traffic on CR 547 was stopped and there was no traffic in the southbound lane when the students crossed.

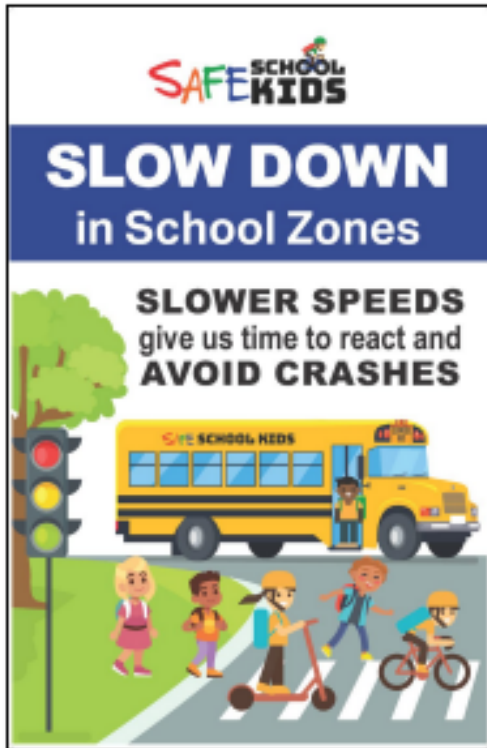
Waiting for bus 13-year-old dies in Lake Wales after being struck by a vehicle

Dixieland South Florida Avenue crash turns fatal

The 15-year-old was the last person in the group, the Sheriff's Office said, citing witness statements. When she was in the crosswalk, a box truck traveling south struck the teen. The driver stopped and is cooperating with deputies, the news release said.

The teen was airlifted to a hospital and is in critical condition, according to the Sheriff's Office. The investigation is ongoing.

The Sheriff's Office said it will release more information later today as it becomes available.



The Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education Program is a Collaboration Between PCPS and its Community Partners



Online Resource for School Programs and Classroom Instruction

- Instructor Kits with Links to Lesson Plans
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Videos
- Print Materials Including Posters and Bookmarks
- Best Practice and Teacher Resource Library
- Directional Signs
- Safety Campaign Materials

The Plan for Safety Education in PCPS

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety is a priority for Polk County Public Schools
- All schools will provide Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety lessons on 3 Early Release Days
- PE Teachers will have access to Bicycle/Pedestrian lessons



www.polksafety.org

SAFE SCHOOL KIDS

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education Program




Polk Safety

Learn about PolkSafety.org, which provides the tools to educate on the importance of bicycle and pedestrian safety.

[VISIT SITE →](#)



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[RESOURCES](#)

[SAFETY CAMPAIGN](#)

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