



State of Florida Occupant Protection Coalition (FOPC) Charter

Mission

The mission of the Florida Occupant Protection Coalition (FOPC) is to identify and prioritize the state's most pressing occupant protection issues; to review proven occupant protection-related countermeasures and to develop and approve a statewide strategic plan to reduce crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities involving unrestrained or improperly restrained occupants.

Purpose

The FOPC was established in March 2017 to address key recommendations made based on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Occupant Protection Program Assessment Team. The FOPC serves in an advisory capacity and provides subject matter expertise to FDOT in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the Florida Occupant Protection Strategic Plan.

Membership

The coalition is comprised of individuals who have expertise and familiarity with Florida-specific occupant protection programs, infrastructure, and needs. Coalition members represent agencies and organizations at the national, state, and local level, law enforcement, highway safety advocacy groups, educators, and public health officials.

FOPC membership is on a voluntary basis, and members receive no compensation for services. All coalition members must be approved by the Florida Department of Transportation, State Safety Office (FDOT) and the agency supporting the coalition subgrant.

All potential coalition members must complete a coalition application prior to membership status being considered. An application submission does not guarantee coalition membership. FDOT will review membership applications and may approve membership based on individual qualifications, benefit, and to fill gaps in overall coalition representation.

Coalition members serve at the pleasure of FDOT and the agency supporting the coalition subgrant. Members may be dismissed and have their membership status revoked at any time with or without cause by either FDOT or the agency supporting the coalition subgrant.

Continued membership on the coalition will be based on:

- Attendance and active participation at a majority of the coalition meetings each year unless a designee has been identified or the absence is excused by FDOT.
- Active participation in any assigned FOPC subgroup(s).

Governance of the FOPC

FDOT oversees the coalition and subgrant activities.

The FOPC will meet at least three times a year. The year shall be the same as the federal fiscal year beginning October 1 and ending September 30.

Subgroups

The FOPC can create subgroups or technical task teams to perform the work of the coalition and can include representatives from any relevant entity that has an interest in or knowledge of occupant protection-related issues. The chair of the technical task team must be a member of the FOPC. Technical task teams can meet as often as needed to perform the work assigned.