



## 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 and to develop and approve a strategic plan to maximize the state's ability to reduce crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities involving unrestrained or improperly restrained occupants. The vast network of partners whose goals are to reduce the occurrence of crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries involving unrestrained or improperly restrained occupants will work collaboratively to review strategies which have been proven effective in reducing fatalities, and serious injuries.

### **Purpose**

The FOPC was formed to identify and prioritize the state's most pressing occupant protection issues, review proven strategies, develop and approve a strategic plan that maximizes the state's ability to reduce crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities involving unrestrained or improperly restrained occupants, and oversee implementation of the strategic plan. National, state, and local agencies and organizations working to influence the nonuse or improper use of occupant protection devices participate in the FOPC. The FOPC pursues the recommendations of assessments done by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, as well as the objectives established by the Florida Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

### **Governance of the FOPC**

- The FOPC will meet at least three times a year. The Florida Department of Transportation State Safety Office (FDOT) oversees the coalition and grant activities. FDOT will appoint a chair and vice chair from its membership based on representatives' ability and time commitments needed to drive down unrestrained or improperly restrained fatalities in Florida. The vice chair will serve as chair in the chair's absence. FDOT will appoint another chair or vice chair from its membership if/when the current chair or vice chair are unable to continue serving, or can no longer fulfill their duties.
- A majority vote of the members present at a meeting will be sufficient to conduct FOPC business.
- Continued membership on the coalition will be based on:
  - attendance and active participation by the member or a designee at a majority of the meetings each year (at least two) unless the absence is excused by the chair; and
  - active participation by the coalition member in at least one FOPC subgroup.

## **Membership of the FOPC**

- The membership of the FOPC should include representatives from relevant Florida state departments and agencies, law enforcement, judiciary, advocacy groups, traffic safety data and research, and Federal agencies. Members will be asked to provide a summary of their background information in the form of a resume or CV. This information will not be used to approve membership but to evaluate the experience of the coalition and identify gaps that could be filled by future membership.
- The member(s) of the FOPC from FDOT will work with the FOPC to determine representation from governmental agencies based on the needs of the FOPC. Current members will recommend representation from non-governmental organizations to be approved by FDOT.
- The FOPC can create technical committees and subcommittees as needed to perform the work of the coalition which can include representatives from any relevant entity that has an interest in or knowledge of occupant protection issues. The chair of the technical committee or subcommittee must be a member of the FOPC. Technical committees and subcommittees can meet as often as needed to perform the work assigned.