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State Road (SR) 968/West Flagler Street Safety Enhancement Project is Underway

Miami — Work is underway in Miami-Dade County as the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) moves to improve pedestrian and driver safety on SR 968/West Flagler Street.

Over the next six months, West Flagler Street between 67 Avenue and 27 Avenue will undergo improvements for safety enhancements. This section of West Flagler Street traverses one of the most vibrant pedestrian areas in Miami-Dade County. High demand for public transportation coupled with many stores, large residential buildings, libraries, and houses of worship along the roadway contribute to a bustling activity and the need for pedestrian safety improvements.

Development of the project started with a study of crash records from 2001 to 2005 that showed 107 crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists, nine of which were fatalities. Prior to the project, pedestrians had to run to cross the street or wait in the center turn lane to complete the crossing.

The project will cost about $1.8 million, and includes repaving and restriping sections of the roadway, constructing new grass medians along certain areas of the corridor to serve as pedestrian refuges, replacing existing pedestrian signal heads with pedestrian count-down signal heads at all signalized intersections and mid-block crossings, constructing new pedestrian crossings with flashing beacons, and constructing pedestrian access ramps at new crossings. The project is expected to be completed early 2014.

For more information, please call FDOT's Public Information Office at (305) 470-5349 or Construction Public Information Specialist Cari Mesa at (305) 640-7441 or go to the website at www.fdotmiamidade.com.

Drivers are encouraged to call 511 before they drive or log on to www.fl511.com to get real-time traffic and lane closure information. FDOT reminds drivers that wearing a safety belt is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. Please drive cautiously in work zones.