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FDOT Promotes Back to School Safety

School Starts Wednesday in Monroe County

Miami, FL — The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is promoting driver safety and awareness as the start of the new school year approaches.

Monroe County Public Schools will be back in session on Wednesday, August 16, signaling the opening of the 2017-2018 school year. The beginning of school also means an abrupt change in traffic patterns and kids walking and bicycling to school.

The beginning of the school year is a time when children are at an increased risk of transportation-related injuries from pedestrian, bicycle, school bus, and motor vehicle crashes. FDOT offers the following tips for making the back to school commute safer for both motorists and students:

- Reduce your speed and obey the posted school zone speed limits (15 MPH)
- Always stop for the school bus that has stopped to load/unload children
- Be alert and ready to stop. Watch for children, especially where there are no sidewalks
- Give children on bicycles lots of room
- Expect more traffic on the roads and factor this into your daily commute

With more cars expected to be on the roads, FDOT encourages drivers and families to check in to 511 before leaving home. Being aware of current road conditions and accidents allows drivers to plan ahead, save time and stay safe.

Drivers are encouraged to call 511 before they travel or log on to www.fl511.com to get real-time traffic and lane closure information. FDOT would like to remind 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 construction zones.