Florida is known for having one of the best highway networks in the country. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the agency responsible for most of it. Here is a brief look at the CENTURY OF MILESTONES achieved by the Florida Department of Transportation. Happy birthday, FDOT!

Metro Jacksonville via metrojacksonville.com
The 41 milestones that make up the timeline were collected not only to represent the most historically significant moments in Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) history, but they also span a wide breadth of the department’s overarching infrastructure, innovations, and initiatives.

These momentous events span 100 years from the initiation of the State Road Department in 1915 to its successor, the Florida Department of Transportation, as it thrives today.

Projects include those from each of the department’s seven districts, reaching from the panhandle to the keys and the gulf coast to the Atlantic. They also include state-wide programs such as Road Ranger service, Welcome Centers, and economic partnerships that benefit travelers and businesses throughout Florida.
The timeline design features a roadway that serves as both a symbol of transportation and a metaphor for the long road the department has traveled in 100 years. Along the way are decade markers that help the viewer pinpoint a particular era along the winding path.

A the key for designing the winding road was to utilize as much space as possible while keeping the graphic from growing too large. At the popular 600-pixel width for infographics, the timeline can still be viewed legibly online. At a 4:1 width to height ratio, it can be printed on a 36-inch tall poster at 9 inches across, just wider than a sheet of letter paper.

The golden color palette was selected to emphasize the department’s centennial anniversary, a celebration of 100 years of excellence in innovation, mobility, and economic development.

http://www.dot.state.fl.us/agencyresources/anniversary/
Florida Department of Transportation
Research was the first step in developing the centennial timeline. Each of the seven districts, the Central Office, and the Florida Turnpike were asked to submit four projects that they thought were notable in their area, particularly if they were decades apart from each other. The projects were also requested to represent different forms of transportation in each part of the state such as aviation, seaports, or roadways. These projects were carefully selected, researched, paired with relevant photos from the same year, and fact checked for accuracy. A title and description were paired with each, and all events were compiled into a reference document sorted by date and location.

**UF Hosts First FDOT Laboratory**
1916 - The State Road Department's Laboratory was initially housed on the first floor of the Engineering building at the University of Florida.

**FDOT Launches Free Road Ranger Service**
2000 - Road Rangers provide free highway assistance services during incidents to reduce delay and improve safety for the motoring public and responders. Since 2000, the program has made over 4.3 million service assists.

**FDOT Motor Carrier Moves to DHSMV**
2011 - The Office of Motor Carrier Compliance transitioned from FDOT to the Florida Highway Patrol division of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles on July 1, 2011.

**Autonomous Vehicle Technology First Introduced**
2012 - Autonomous vehicle technology was first authorized for use on public roads in the State of Florida in 2012.
By posting to Facebook, the timeline became widely popular, receiving a total of 128 shares and likes among all parties and 63 shares and likes locally. Engagement included 512 interactions with a reach of nearly 4.2 thousand viewers. Many comments were congratulatory in nature, applauding the department for 100 years of service. Other comments focused on a particular date or project of interest to the viewers.
Twitter also encouraged great engagement as the timeline experienced 235 interactions, having been posted just a week after New Year’s day. The unpaid tweet also saw 9,513 impressions on the microblogging site. As with Facebook, the department received congratulatory anniversary comments as well as mentions of particular items in relation to the historical timeline.

The timeline tweet was also the first to use the #FDOT100 hashtag as part of a year-long campaign that would highlight the department’s 100-year history, particularly on popular “Throwback Thursdays” or “#TBT,” a Twitter tradition of tweeting about the past.

According to @MyFDOT Southwest FL Int’l Airport opened the year I was born. What was going on in FL your birth year?

- Ashley Prince @AviationPRgroup via Twitter
FDOT Employees seemed to be some of the most eager individuals to see the historical timeline, particularly as many have had a hand in various projects listed over the past several decades. A centennial guest book has since collected various excited comments on the 100-year anniversary and the timeline infographic alike.

Excellent display. The timeline shows just how far you have come! Congratulations DOT on making 100 years. Well done!

– Ray Porter via guest book

Love the display! The timeline really sets it off.

– H.K. Johnson via guest book
Florida is known for having one of the best highway networks in the country. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the agency responsible for most of it. Here is a brief look at a century of milestones achieved by the Florida Department of Transportation. Happy birthday, FDOT!

**FDOT Centennial: Major Milestones**

**1915**


State Road Department First Authorized - The State Road Department, the predecessor of today’s Florida Department of Transportation, was authorized in 1915 by the Florida Legislature. For the first two years, the department acted as an advisory body to 52 counties in the state.

**1915 to Present**

Former FDOT Secretaries - Between the chairman of the State Road Department and the secretaries of the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida has had a total of 38 leaders driving the state’s transportation infrastructure over the last 100 years.

**1916**

UF Hosts First FDOT Laboratory - The State Road Department’s central laboratory was initially housed on the first floor of the Engineering building at the University of Florida.