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From the Orlando Business Journal:

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Central Florida gets \$12M grant to test self-driving cars, new tech

Oct 5, 2017, 1:50pm EDT

Central Florida will get to test intelligent transportation system technologies aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety and easing congestion thanks to a nearly \$12 million federal grant.

The Federal Highway Administration awarded \$11.9 million to a team of experts from the **Florida Department of Transportation**, the **University of Central Florida** and MetroPlan Orlando to test several smart city transportation technologies locally and make recommendations, according to MetroPlan's news release.

"This project puts Central Florida on the cutting edge of technology in transportation — and it's only the beginning.

Once the technology is tested, we can then take the lessons learned and expand it to all of Central Florida," MetroPlan Orlando Executive Director Harry Barley said in the news release. "MetroPlan Orlando will be the forum where local governments and transportation organizations will come together to discuss how this can be deployed regionally."

The programs will be created and deployed throughout 2018 and 2019. Operation and maintenance of the project is expected to continue through 2021.

The technology will be tested in Creative Village, where UCF Downtown will open in 2019, and also at UCF's main Orlando campus.

The grant includes four major technological systems:

PedSafe: Digitally connects vehicles, people and traffic lights to develop a pedestrian and bicycle collision avoidance system. Drivers of vehicles will be alerted when there is a pedestrian or cyclist in the area. Traffic signals will be aware of pedestrians crossing the road and ensure they have enough time to cross.

GreenWay: Uses sensors and new traffic signal technology to help the transportation system quickly adapt to real-time traffic conditions. This will make travel times more consistent and help reduce congestion. Projects in this program include: adaptive traffic signal control, which adjusts the timing



METROPLAN ORLANDO

The east Orlando deployment area that will test the new transportation technology.

of red, yellow and green lights to respond to changing traffic patterns; activating advanced traffic light timing plans to clear intersections near railroad tracks before trains arrive; and providing parking availability to drivers in a garage to reduce the amount of time it takes to find a spot.

SmartCommunity: Will combine information from many different transportation options into one place so people have a one-stop shop to plan their trips. This includes travel time information for driving, riding the bus, taking the train, and using rideshare or car share.

SunStore: Will be FDOT's central data storage for all of the transportation system management and operations information. Having a wide range of technology out on the roads means that there will be an endless stream of data to manage. SunStore will connect and integrate many data sources, so FDOT can make the information available to universities, research institutions, and businesses to encourage innovation.

UCF will use its research capabilities and existing Smart Cities initiative to advance the project, while leading data collection and analysis efforts. In addition to being a liaison with state and federal governments, FDOT will ensure the project can be scaled appropriately for other locations and applications, and will contribute software development, operations and data management expertise. MetroPlan Orlando will make sure projects meet their intended purposes and will facilitate collaboration among agencies and local governments, according to the release.

The overall project was created to address some of Central Florida's most pressing transportation challenges, including traffic-related crashes and fatalities, traffic congestion and access to transportation options.

"One of the first steps in this direction will be to take the initial research and apply it to the developing Creative Village area in downtown Orlando. After that, it is expected the research can be deployed to other Central Florida locations," according to the release.

The federal agency provided 10 Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment grants worth \$54 million. The Orlando collaboration received the biggest grant and was the only Florida recipient.

Check OrlandoBusinessJournal.com for more updates.

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