

TRANSPORTATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – TSMO FLORIDA TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE SUNTRAX™ FACILITY



The Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) has received a Transportation Achievement Award for its SunTrax™ Facility in the TSMO Category. The Transportation Achievement Awards recognize excellence in the advancement of transportation to meet human needs, by entities concerned with transportation.

SunTrax is a state-of-the-art facility being developed by FTE and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to research, develop and test tolling and other emerging transportation technologies in safe and controlled environments. Situated on 475 acres centrally located between Tampa and Orlando Florida, SunTrax is composed of a 2.25-mile-long oval test track around a 200-acre infield. The multi-lane track replicates typical Florida highway conditions, with a design speed of 70 mph.

The first phase of construction included all the infrastructure needed for FTE to perform independent testing of both current and future toll technologies. SunTrax features a multi-lane reversible oval track to test multiple technologies simultaneously. Also housed here is a LEED-Certified operations center featuring exceptional training and testing facilities with fiber-optic track connections.

Four toll sites mirror FTE's existing field sites, which can also be adapted to test equipment from different vendors in a variety of scenarios. SunTrax provides unprecedented access for simulations, relieving the need to close active lanes. Truck platooning, autonomous vehicles and toll transactions have been successfully conducted. Connected vehicles and infrastructure testing is vital to deliver holistic mobility solutions for all citizens by improving driver, cyclist, and pedestrian safety.

Phase 2 will develop the 200-acre infield inside the oval track into a center for the development of connected and automated vehicle (CAV) technologies. Roadway infrastructure simulates specific environments and features for CAV testing and automated driving systems, including testing vehicle to vehicle (V2V), vehicle to infrastructure (V2I), and vehicle to everything (V2X) communications systems in real-world environments. The goal is to challenge the responses of CAVs when faced with unpredictable behaviors and challenging real-life scenarios that effectively re-create a mixed-fleet environment.