



**For Immediate Release**

February 4, 2019

Contact: Sue Chrzan

Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority

[sue@tampa-xway.com](mailto:sue@tampa-xway.com)

813-272-6740 ext.130

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Connected Vehicles Are a Reality in Tampa**

#### *Cars Successfully Communicate with Each Other in Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority's Connected Vehicle Tests*

**February 4, 2019 (Tampa, Fla.)** – On a closed circuit of the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway, the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) successfully demonstrated two key elements of the connected vehicle technology they are deploying in Tampa as part of the THEA Connected Vehicle (CV) Pilot.

During the live testing, eight vehicles fitted with connected vehicle technology all received potentially life-saving alerts that in real life instances could lead to collision avoidance. THEA was also able to effectively use a roadside unit to upload connected vehicle information via wireless communication.

The THEA CV Pilot relies on wireless communication between onboard units which are installed in vehicles and roadside units that have been mounted on poles along the Selmon Expressway and throughout downtown Tampa. A special rearview mirror in each vehicle displays safety alerts to the driver.

The success of the tests provides a watershed moment for the project and offers critical insight into how this innovative technology can improve safety conditions for Tampa drivers.

“These tests provided crucial data that we can use to make further improvements to the system, which translates into improved safety and mobility for Tampa drivers,” said Bob Frey, the director of planning and innovations for THEA.

During the first test, eight vehicles equipped with onboard units traveled in a line behind a lead vehicle in rush hour conditions. The driver of the lead vehicle slammed on the brakes. In real-life conditions, such a sudden stop could cause a costly, dangerous and time-consuming pileup on the Selmon Expressway. However, every test driver behind the hard-braking lead vehicle received an alert in time to take action to avoid a collision, thanks to a CV application called Emergency Electronic Brake Light.

The second CV test THEA conducted showed that a single roadside unit could upload data from multiple cars traveling at a high rate of speed, in this case, 40 mph. THEA and its partners were excited to learn that the system can reliably collect data that will help improve safety, enhance traffic flow and help evaluate the effectiveness of CV technology.

The THEA CV Pilot Program installed more than 1,000 onboard units in the cars of area residents who volunteered to participate in the program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation

(USDOT). Tampa is one of only three cities in the country to receive a grant from the USDOT to test CV technology and is the only site in the entire country to be testing this technology on private vehicles.

For more information on the THEA Connected Vehicle Pilot, visit [www.TampaCVpilot.com](http://www.TampaCVpilot.com).

**About the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority**

The Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) is a user-financed public agency led by a board of local citizens. Operating with no tax dollars, THEA develops and owns toll highways, including Lee Roy Selmon Expressway. THEA also owns and maintains non-tolled roads, including Brandon Parkway and Meridian Avenue, and the Selmon Greenway, a bicycle and pedestrian path through downtown Tampa. All tolls collected by THEA are reinvested into projects in Hillsborough County. For more information, visit [www.tampa-xway.com](http://www.tampa-xway.com).

#####