



Walk. Ride. Drive. Smarter.

THEA CV Pilot FAQs

What is a connected vehicle?

A connected vehicle is a car, truck, bus or other vehicle that can wirelessly exchange safety and traffic information with other vehicles and with traffic signals, crosswalks and other elements of the roadway infrastructure. This connectivity enables a wide range of software applications designed to improve safety, mobility and the environment.

How do connected vehicles communicate?

In Tampa, connected vehicles communicate using a two-way, short-to-medium-range wireless capability called dedicated short-range communications (DSRC), which is similar to Wi-Fi. Some vehicles may be equipped with DSRC devices by the manufacturer, while others require the installation of an aftermarket device.

What are the goals of the THEA CV Pilot?

The goals of the pilot are to improve safety, enhance mobility and reduce the environmental impact of surface transportation in downtown Tampa.

Why is the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority doing this?

Connected vehicles have the potential to significantly improve safety, mobility, and the environment in downtown Tampa and elsewhere. With the Connected Vehicle Pilot, Tampa will be among the first cities in the nation to benefit from this exciting new technology.

How does the pilot protect drivers' privacy?

Connected vehicles send and receive messages containing safety-related information such as vehicle location, heading, and speed, but these messages do not identify the vehicle or the driver. The THEA Connected Vehicle Pilot team is committed to protecting personal privacy.

How does the pilot handle cybersecurity?

The connected vehicle environment relies mainly on dedicated short-range communication (DSRC) technology, which has more security and privacy protections than Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Additional safeguards have also been developed to prevent unauthorized access to the system.

Do drivers need special equipment to experience THEA CV Pilot?

Cars must be equipped with a DSRC-enabled device in order to participate in the downtown Tampa connected vehicle environment. However, drivers of unequipped vehicles may also notice some improvements. For example, the City of Tampa's Transportation Management Center uses data from connected vehicles to improve traffic signal timing at certain intersections. As a result, all drivers on the affected streets may experience a smoother trip.

How can I participate in the THEA CV Pilot?

Currently registration is open for select drivers to participate. Please email info@theacvpilot.com for more information.