



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROAD RANGER COMMENDED FOR SAVING LIFE

(Fort Lauderdale – July 11, 2007) - The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is proud to commend Byron Escoto, a Road Ranger in Broward County, for his honorable and life saving actions. In June, while on duty with the Road Ranger Service Patrol, Mr. Escoto witnessed a male pedestrian walking on I-95 in the Fort Lauderdale area. He immediately stopped to see if he could provide assistance.

Upon speaking with him, Mr. Escoto quickly learned that this man was severely depressed and was planning to commit suicide on the highway. Mr. Escoto then informed the dispatcher about the situation and requested assistance from the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP). He calmly talked to the man and gave him water, settling him down until FHP arrived. The man was subsequently taken to a hospital where he was admitted to receive help. Mr. Escoto's actions on the road that day saved another person's life. "He is a great example of the difference a Road Ranger could make in a single person's life and is commended for a job well done," commented Guy Francese, FDOT District 4 Freeway Operations Manager, while presenting Mr. Escoto with a certificate at the Broward County Traffic Incident Management meeting.

The Road Ranger Service Patrol is a free motorist assistance program offered by the FDOT, helping an average of 50,000 motorists a year. Road Rangers are dispatched from the SMART SunGuide Transportation Management Center (TMC), a 24-hour facility run by the FDOT District 4 and the Broward County Traffic Engineering Division. The TMC monitors freeways and major arterial routes with closed circuit TV cameras, speed sensors, traffic signal control devices and a fleet of Road Ranger Service Patrol vehicles. In coordination with local law enforcement and fire rescue, TMC operators identify and respond aggressively to quickly clear incidents, disabled vehicles and other interruptions to traffic with the intelligent transportation systems (ITS) equipment. Information from the TMC is displayed on Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) and on the region's 5-1-1 Advanced Traveler Information Service. For real-time traffic conditions or information about the SMART SunGuide TMC, please visit www.SMARTSunGuide.com.

For more information, please call Sarah Stanley at 954-847-2697 or email sarah.stanley@smartsunguide.com.

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Caption: Byron Escoto of the Broward County Road Ranger Service Patrol is presented a certificate of recognition by Guy Francese, Florida Department of Transportation District 4 Freeway Operations Manager, for his honorable and life saving actions.