FDOT testing new pavement markings that may make RR crossings safer

FORT LAUDERDALE – This week the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) completed installing enhanced pavement markings at the Commercial Boulevard CSX railroad crossing just west of I-95 in Fort Lauderdale.

A bright yellow ‘dynamic envelope’ outlined by white “X” hash marks has been painted with a high friction surface on the pavement at the crossing. The ‘dynamic envelope’ identifies the clearance area required for a train and its cargo to avoid collisions at a rail crossing.

At this crossing, the envelope covers the entire 150 ft. width of the roadway and 34 ft. depth from the east side of the double tracks to the west side. New “Do Not Stop On Tracks’ signs, that feature a bright yellow border with white ‘X’ marks, were also installed. The project cost $37,000 and took two nights to install.

The goal of the project is to reduce crashes by preventing drivers from stopping in the painted clear zone. Pre-test/post-test data collection will measure driver behavior at the crossing.

FDOT is considering similar test sites at other high vehicle-train crash locations around the state.