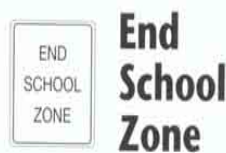
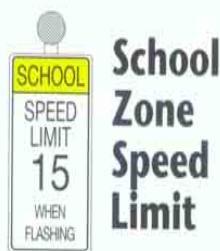




Florida Department of Transportation
District 7
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

SLOW DOWN
Make School Zones Safe Zones



CTST MEETING SCHEDULE

- Hillsborough County CTST - 4th Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- Pasco County CTST - 4th Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.
- Pinellas County CTST - 1st Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
- West Central Florida CTST - 2nd Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

TRAFFIC SAFETY EVENTS:

- DUI Enforcement Wave—August 27th-September 12th**
- Commuter Choices Week—October 4th-9th**
- Walk Your Child to School Day—October 6th**
- Put the Brakes on Fatalities—October 10th**
- CTST Coalition Meeting in St. Augustine—October 11th**

For information on location of meetings /events contact
Jeanette Rouse at 813-975-6256 or jeanette.rouse@dot.state.fl.us

Awards Continued.....The Davis Productivity Award, which is presented by Prudential Financial, and supported by other corporate and philanthropic contributions, chaired by Lt. Governor Toni Jennings and administered by Florida TaxWatch in partnership with the State of Florida and the Florida Council of 100, recognizes and rewards Florida state government employees whose work measurably increases public service productivity and promotes wise innovations that serve the people of Florida.

The CTST program was presented with a Davis Productivity Commemorative Plaque for the *Red Light Running White Light Enforcement*. The cost of enforcement lights per intersection is \$250 versus an estimated annual savings of \$100,000 plus. The Department of Transportation's goal is to install enforcement lights at 300 intersections statewide by June 2008.

**The Votes Have Been Counted!
District Community Traffic Safety Teams Elect Officers**

In accordance with the team by-laws, each of the CTSTs elected officers for the upcoming 2004-05 year. Hillsborough, Pinellas, and the West Central Florida CTST all elected to retain their current officers for another term. The Pasco team elected a new slate of officers. The officers of each team are listed below.

Hillsborough CTST

Chair: Susan Viola, Gray Calhoun Associates
Vice Chair: Gary Tait, Hillsborough County Public Works
Secretary: Bevin Maynard, Safe Kids

Pinellas CTST

Chair: Dave Fechter, HNTB
Vice Chair: Ron McKenzie, Pinellas Park Police Department
Secretary: Alison Weber, Danka

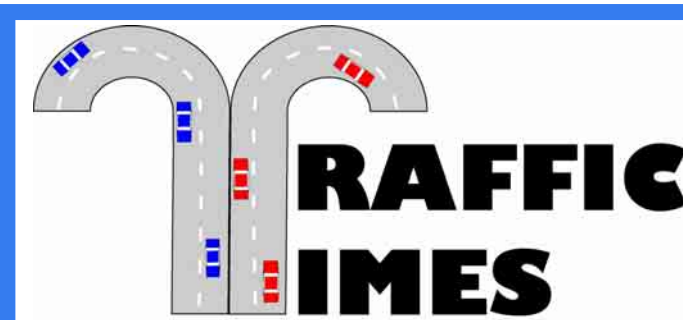
Pasco CTST

Chair: Randy Belasic, Zephyrhills PD
Vice Chair: F.J. Collura, Pasco Sheriff's Office
Secretary: Deanna Krautner, Pasco County Health Department

West Central Florida CTST

Chair: Steven Diez, Hernando Co. Planning
Vice Chair: Kristen Reinhard, Citrus County Health Department
Secretary: Susan Littnan, Citrus County Health Department

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August 2004

Newsletter published by the Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTST), Sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation, District 7.



Local People Solving Local Problems

Inside this issue:

- Saluting the Buckle Up Florida winners

District Winners in the NATIONAL Chiefs Challenge. The categories and point structures are different from the Florida Chiefs Challenge.

Our District Winners were:

1st Place in the Nation—Municipal Category 3:
Tarpon Springs Police Department

2nd Place in the Nation—Sheriff's Office Category 7:
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

1st Place in the Nation—Sheriff's Office Category 8:
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

3rd Place in the Nation—State Police Category:
Florida Highway Patrol



Congratulations to all Hillsborough County CTST members for winning the FACERS award (Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents) for enforcement lights.

Hillsborough County Schools To Get a Makeover

Traffic Control Devices for all schools located on County maintained roads in Hillsborough County are getting a makeover. The Hillsborough County Public Works Department has established a School Safety Program that will upgrade traffic control devices for schools located on County maintained roads. The Program is expected to last three years. During this period, the County has hired the services of HNTB (formerly TEI) to perform interviews at each school to learn about their traffic safety needs, and will prepare aerial drawings of each school identifying existing and needed signs, markings, and school flashers. This program includes public elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as private schools. When this project is completed each school will have:

- **Fluorescent yellow green-traffic signs that are brighter and larger.**
- **Crosswalks with a ladder-type of markings instead of just two parallel lines.**
- **A reduced School Speed Limit with a Flashing Beacon that will operate during the hours of student arrival and departure times.**

To date Hillsborough County has installed new signs and markings at most public elementary schools and most private schools. Last February, 60 new school flashers were installed which is about a third of the total number of flashers needed.

If anyone wants more information or has questions about the Hillsborough County School Safety Program, give Gary Tait a call at (813) 307-1871 or email him at taitg@hillsboroughcounty.org.

Congratulations to all 2004 Buckle Up Florida Winners.....Awards Banquet was held in Jacksonville



Jay Cridlin, St. Petersburg Times, receives award from Jeanette Rouse, District 7, FDOT CTST Coordinator.

Media Professionals- Jay Cridlin St. Petersburg Times

During 2003, Jay Cridlin kept traffic safety in the spotlight through his "Lane Ranger" column in the St. Petersburg Times. Mr. Cridlin, an active member of the Hillsborough Community Traffic Safety Team, intertwined humor and insightfulness in his columns as he discussed occupant protection and focused enforcement campaigns. By forming a close association with enforcement personnel, Mr. Cridlin has been able to write innovative columns promoting safe driving to his audience.



Police Category III (21 to 40 Officers)- Tarpon Springs Police Department 1st Place

A new traffic unit and some unique enforcement strategies were all part of an active year at the Tarpon Springs Police Department. Coupled with strong participation in the Pinellas County Community Traffic Safety Team and several multi-agency operations, the Department significantly increased its traffic enforcement activity during 2003. Tarpon Springs was even featured on Good Morning America for their creative use of a uniformed mannequin to encourage motorists to comply with traffic laws. These innovative programs helped the Department reduce almost every category of traffic crashes last year.



Tarpon Springs Police Department Receives the 1st Place Award in Police Category III.

Law Enforcement- Occupant Protection Officer of the Year- Officer Greg Bickel Clearwater Police Department Third Place Recipient

Officer Greg Bickel's unending commitment to traffic safety is evident. During 2003, he personally inspected 436 child safety seats for correct installation, coordinated weekly child safety seat check-up events and promoted traffic safety at various neighborhood events. He routinely displays a variable message board with enforcement messages throughout the city. Officer Bickel is always available to help others.



Clearwater Police Officer Greg Bickel receives Occupant Protection Officer of the Year.

Sheriff Category III (251 or more Deputies)- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office 1st Place

The traffic safety commitment of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office included participation in a variety of programs and organizations on the local, state and national levels. As traffic signal confirmation lights are increasing, deputies conducted training for all Pinellas and Pasco county court judges on the value of the lights to the enforcement. The Sheriff's Office developed an educational brochure for distribution at sobriety checkpoints and conducted over 180 DUI enforcement operations last year. Not only has the Agency been recognized for its efforts, but five members of the Pinellas County DUI squad were honored with the MADD 100 Award for their efforts in 2003.



Officers from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office are proud of their win!



Pinellas County CTST celebrates 1st place award.....hats off to the entire team!



Officers of the Pinellas CTST Team (left to right) Ron McKenzie, Dave Fechter, Marc Hanger, and Alison Weber.

Community Traffic Safety Team of the Year- Pinellas County Community Traffic Safety Team

Serving the most densely populated county in Florida, the Pinellas County Community Traffic Safety Team garnered some impressive results during 2003. This motivated and driven Team implemented a variety of initiatives including 19 separate enforcement operations. They posted 20 billboards promoting the Buckle Up Florida and You Drink & Drive, You Lose combined enforcement wave and conducted a thorough analysis of high-crash intersections in order to better direct their activities. These efforts were well rewarded with double digit reductions in traffic fatalities, alcohol-related crashes and alcohol-related injuries last year.