

Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2007

Dave Fechter welcomed all members present to the June meeting. Introductions were made around the room. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as submitted.

Subcommittee Reports:

Education

- Bruce Murakami reported he is starting the “Behind the Wheels” driving school in August. He has secured a location at Anderson and Sligh Avenues in Tampa. The curriculum will be similar to the Toyota Driving Experience and geared toward 16-20 year olds.
- Additionally, the Angela Telesco Foundation is sponsoring a vintage Oldsmobile car show on June 16th from 9:00 AM -2:00 PM. Proceeds from that show will benefit his foundation.

Engineering

- Marc Hanger reported the City of St. Petersburg has applied to the State and FHWA to experiment with a new pedestrian safety device on the new Pinellas trail extension. “The Hawk” is a three signal head that looks like Mickey Mouse’s face with ears and it minimizes stoppage of traffic.
- Golf carts are being considered to be allowed on some public roads in Highland Lake Subdivision. They are to be driven only from sunrise to sunset with reflective red warning devices, and orange warning flag and a sign saying “slow moving vehicle”. The carts are to be driven by licensed drivers.
- Next year, 46th Ave N from 80th Str N to 62 St N will have installation of bike lanes, new sidewalks and curbs in addition to drainage improvements.
- The Belcher Road extension from Alderman Rd to Klosterman Rd is expected to open on September 1st.
- McMullen Booth road is supposed to reopen today.
- The subject of a traffic signal on 54th Ave N at Lealman Fire Station was discussed at last month’s meeting. The county has been actively involved in solving the problem at this location.
- The proposed pedestrian crossing safety bill that would change “Yield” to “Stop” for pedestrians did not pass but is expected to be reintroduced for the 2008 session.
- Nationally, the preliminary reports from USDOT show fatalities were down slightly from 2005 to 2006. Also, alcohol related fatalities increased and pedestrian deaths dropped slightly.

Enforcement

- Jim Piper reported St. Petersburg Police Department held 4 crosswalk operations with 102 citations, 5 school zone operations with 272 citations, and 4 traffic enforcement (primarily speed enforcement) details with 278 citations for the month of May.
- The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office hosted a Bayside Bridge detail with aircraft on 5/28 with 32 citations, 28 for speeding. The average speed was 90 mph. The Memorial Day Enforcement for 5/25 – 5/28 netted 210 total citations, 157 for speeding, 19 for seatbelt. They hosted a saturation patrol in Dunedin on 5/31 with 72 speeding, 21 seatbelt and 114 citations. For the month of May the Sheriff's Office reported 356 citations and 1 arrest. The 7th Annual SALE Press Conference was impressive and had a good show of support.

Updates

- The team received a note from Bonnie Tarsitano thanking us for our expression of sympathy in the loss of Bryan.
- George Francey, Pinellas County Schools, reported he is going to try to make it to our meeting next month, but wanted to ask enforcement personnel to let him know if they have any concerns over a school bus driver.
- Kevin Fannon reported they submitted several projects to be considered for Safe Routes to School funding at FDOT.
- General elections will be held next month. Dave and Marc enjoy their leadership roles as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the team and are willing to continue in those roles. Thea Johnson will not be able to continue as team Secretary, however. Please consider making a nomination or self-nominating for the team Secretary at our June meeting if interested. We will also vote for subcommittee chairpersons.

Presentations

- **Melissa Wandall** gave the team an update on her program. She was accompanied by **Stacy** from Sarasota. She said this was her third year in dealing with the legislature in Tallahassee and she feels she got a little further. She was hoping for photo enforcement at the most dangerous intersections, which made her legislation extremely passable. She wanted 5% of the money collected to go back to CTSTs for education. The main problem is the legislators do not want to look at the bill. At the very end of the session she was given one minute to talk. She said she got to speak for 10 minutes and passed 16-0 in the Infrastructure and Economic Expansion Committee. She also felt she got more co-sponsors. Melissa stressed it was not a privacy issue but a safety issue. Senator Baker refused to hear it. She felt she made great strides and will continue to get more sponsors for the bill. August 4-11 is National Stop on Red Week. There will be a press conference in Orlando. "I Stop on Red" bumper stickers can be ordered from 202-828-9100 or at info@stopredlightrunning.com. These bumper stickers

are free. Melissa said she met Stacy about a year and a half ago. She went to the cemetery and a service was being held for Stacy's husband, who was killed by a driver running a stop sign. Stacy has been going to health fairs with Melissa. Stacy said her husband was on a motorcycle and was hit by a 20-year old with a baby in the back seat. The lady was a habitual traffic offender. She wants to make sure she stays off the road and Stacy will continue to educate and raise awareness.

- Our next speaker was **Jessica Rasdall**. She has spoken to over 4000 students about her story. She shared her story with us that she typically presents to teens who consider her a peer. Jessica starts out by asking if they have a best friend and then goes on to describe her best friend Laura. She says she did not know that she would end up killing her best friend. Jessica and Laura were dancing and drinking at a club in Ybor and on the drive back to Pinellas County she lost control of the vehicle, ran off the road and hit a tree. Laura died on impact. Jessica will be sentenced in August. Jessica also displayed a banner she is using to help visualize the 1200 killed each year in a DUI crash. Jessica's message is "it could happen to you".

There is a new website that tracks traffic fatalities by ITE at www.ite.org/crashes.

Our next CTST statewide Coalition meeting will be held on July 9th in Fort Lauderdale at the FDOT District 4 Headquarters.

Our next Pinellas CTST meeting will be on July 12th due to the July 4th holiday week.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Rouse, CTST
Program Manager

Members Present:

Mike Bingnear	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	453-3457
Mike Burke	Pinellas County Schools	547-7100 x 4780
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Terry Harding	AAA Auto Club South	448-2600
Jim Hartwell	City of Largo	587-6730
Kim Jowell	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233 x 328
Elizabeth Monforti	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	784-0454
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Renee Napier	Safe Teen Driver	453-2216
Diane Pearson	Mother on a Mission	797-0176
Cpl Jim Piper	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office	582-6434

Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Melissa Wandall	Mark Wandall Foundation	941-751-9277
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Jack Pisecco	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7100 x 4778
Stacey Kanwischor	Survivor (friend of Melissa's)	
Lt. Lori Borrelli	St. Pete Police Dept	893-4996
Lt. Howard Coombs	Gulfport Police Dept	893-1055
Jessica Rasdall	Speaker	
Donald Rasdall	Jessica's Father	