

**Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting  
December 1, 2005 Meeting Minutes**

Chair David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed members present. Introductions were made. Refreshments were provided by Renee using the Sloppy Joe's recipe contribution for the *Recipes for the Road* booklet. The minutes from the previous meeting of November 3, 2005 were approved as distributed. A special presentation was made by Dave on behalf of the CTST to Diane Roffey, Executive Director of the Suncoast Safety Council, who is retiring at the end of the year. Diane spoke of the initial meetings of the CTST which was originally named the DUI Coalition Against Drunk Driving and how it has evolved from 11 members to the current group with broad sponsorship and agency involvement. Her support and efforts over the years were acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Engineering** – Marc Hanger reported 2 months ago about the 6 roundabouts Clearwater was planning along Cleveland St for traffic calming. More are now planned for the Wood Valley, Morningside, and Hillcrest neighborhoods in Clearwater. Major MOT's – Treasure Island Causeway will be closed for 6 months starting January 3 for bridge reconstruction. They hope to have it completed prior to the most active time of the hurricane season. Speed studies are being done for the Pinellas Bayway from US 19 to the toll booth because of safety concerns. St. Petersburg and FDOT are working on this. In Pinellas Park, a company called Stop Experts is working with the city on an experimental project for equestrian/pedestrian crossing lights. The LED lights are activated by the pedestrian/equestrian on approach and are a new product approved by FHWA. The project location is at 94<sup>th</sup> Ave between 60<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> St. They have been well received so far. The cost is about \$7500 installed. US 19 median closures at Highland Blvd. N, Tampa Rd N and S and 298<sup>th</sup> Ave N have been approved by FDOT. They are gathering citizen response and expect to start construction in 3 months.

**TIM** – Terry Hensley reported that the Road Ranger contract is at full strength with good response times. Eight trucks are on the road. He is printing a new *Move It* brochure which should be out the first of the year.

**Enforcement** –Glen Luben reported that the Clearwater PD November activities included a November 11 School Zone Enforcement with 106 citations issued, a November 12 DUI Wolf-Pack with 38 citations and 3 arrests, a November 23 ZORRO Red Light detail with 90 citations and 3 arrests and a November 25th Aggressive Driving Detail with 136 citations and 3 arrests. The Sheriff's Office November Traffic Activities included a DUI Checkpoint on Nov. 4 at CR1 & Michigan Bridge with 29 deputies. There were 14 citations, 1 DWLSR, 2 NVDL, 2 warrants, 1 violation probation, 1 poss paraphernalia, 1 poss marijuana, 1 violation probation & 7 arrests. On Nov. 5, a DUI Checkpoint on Gulf to Bay involved 30 deputies and 6 Clearwater officers. A total of 26 citations were issued, 8 DUI, 1 warrant, 1 NVDL, 3 possession of controlled substance

misdemeanor and 1 possession of a controlled substance felony, 1 violation of probation, 3 possession alcohol minor and 14 arrests. In Dunedin on Nov 16, a wolf-pack involved 13 deputies who issued 57 citations, 31 speeding, 10 moving, 8 non-moving, 4 seatbelt, 2 redlight, 1 DWLSR and 1 misdemeanor criminal tag. For November, totals were 97 citations and 23 arrests. As an update, there has not been a decision on road block cases yet. A commercial vehicle checkpoint will be held at Ulmerton Rd at FDOT Maintenance on December 7. On December 16, there will be a hearing on the validity challenge of intoxolizers. The ticket printers are in the SO cars. Other interested agencies can contact the SO as the Clerk's Office would like all to be uniform and the grant may cover costs.

**Education** –Bruce Murakimi reported that the high school cars program held on October 26 was very successful. They had 35 cars in the show with 250 attendees. It is held every 6 weeks with the next one scheduled for December 10 at Jefferson High, Tampa. It rotates to schools with car clubs and could be replicated in Pinellas next year, which is their goal. Bruce was on Oprah discussing teen driving and the program. The video can be seen on the Safe Teen Driver website. The Recipe books are expected any day from the printers. Let Jeanette know if you would be able to help distribute. They have 20,000 copies and the time before the holidays would be the best distribution time. The CTST Best Practices form has been emailed to members. Please fill out and return to Jeanette so that Pinellas innovative projects can be included in the booklet being prepared to distribute at the National Lifesavers Conference in April in Texas.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – On December 3 at 6:30 p.m., RID will hold their annual candlelight memorial service at Faith United Methodist Church in Largo. On May 6, the 2006 Battle of the Badges Chili & Rib Cookoff will be held at Largo Central Park. Proceeds go to MADD and RID. For information you can email badges2006@yahoo.com.

**NEW BUSINESS-** Tom Washburn, P.E. from the Pinellas County Transportation Dept. gave a presentation on the new Safety and Special Projects Dept. The new department assists the other departments, Traffic Control, Consultants/Construction, Planning and Traffic Engineering with safety/operational reviews. Their purpose is to ID high crash areas and develop plans for corrective and preventative measures using prioritized lists. They also will become proactive in addressing safety concerns by studying high crash areas to determine what can be done in the interim when construction is in the outer years. With Mr. Washburn's extensive experience with local safety and engineering consulting projects while employed with TEI and HNTB Corp, this area will be well addressed by the county for the future.

The City of St. Petersburg will have a consultant look at the crossings on the Pinellas Trail to see what needs to be done to make them safer. There was discussion on the local bike clubs' desire to have the trail open at night. Currently, there are no SO patrols on the trail, although bike incidents on the trail involving fatalities are being investigated by the SO. They are working on the issue to determine how/when the SO is notified with

crashes on the trail at night. The trail is closed at dark. The Pinellas MPO Bicycle Advisory Committee has been told that the roads are always open, but the trail is closed at night.

The MOSI Bike Ride for Science was held and much was learned for future planning. Many thanks from the Largo PD for FDOT (Jeanette) action in getting the lines painted for aircraft speed enforcement on Ulmerton Rd.

On Belcher Rd, the speed limit signs at NE Coachman show 35-45 mph yet on the opposite side the speed limit sign shows 35 mph to Sunset Point Rd. It would be less confusing if they agreed.

The tag readers are installed in 1 traffic car as pilot project. They are capable of reading 6,000 tags in an 8 hour shift. They cost \$22,000 per system to install.

Much discussion was held among the members regarding the traffic court magistrate system in Pinellas. There were issues with the high rate of adjudications withheld/dismissals which were frustrating for officers. This creates problems for enforcement and goes against CTST goals. Those magistrates who are newly appointed go on ride alongs to see what the SO is faced with. It seems that their rulings have been more even. Melissa Wandall requested help with getting habitual offenders off the road by writing legislation that will have a classification called, "Habitual Offenders". She has legislative attention, but needs help with the verbiage. A subcommittee of Glenn Luben, Terry Hensley and Melissa were appointed to work on this project. A draft letter will be brought to the next CTST meeting on the traffic court issue for further discussion.

**Please make note that the next meeting will be the presentation of the CTST award at the statewide CTST Coalition meeting on Monday, January 9. It will be held at the Largo Library, Room B, from 10 am –2 pm.** All CTST members are invited and encouraged to attend. The presentation will be at the beginning of the meeting which will have discussions on train safety awareness, Bike Ride for Science, and a brief discussion of the ticket printers/tag readers.

PSTA announced that due to heavy demand they will have another Bus Rapid Transit Workshop on February 16 & 17. It will be held at the Epicenter, St. Pete College, ICOT. FDOT and 8 counties are involved. Up to 150 people can attend and registration information was distributed at the CTST and through Dave Fechter.

There will be a new judicial representative starting in January. John Thasher will be attending. Many thanks go to Dawn Henrichon for her interest and dedication. She will be moving to another area of the judicial system and we wish her well.

The February Pinellas CTST meeting will be on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Suncoast Safety Council.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thea Johnson, Secretary

**Members Present:**

Mike Bingnear	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
David M. Chase	City of Pinellas Park	541-0773
V. Michaud-Chase	Kenneth City PD	544-2564
K. Dodge	Gulfport Police Department	893-1030
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas County Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Dawn Henrichon	6 <sup>th</sup> Circuit SAO	464-6221
Terry Hensley	FDOT Traffic Incident Mgmt	813-975-6259
Sgt. Dennis Hobbs	FL Highway Patrol	647-3743
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Thea Johnson	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Glen J. Luben	Pinellas Sheriff's Office	582-5604
Tom McMullian	VMS, Inc.	813-299-9379
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Renee Napier	Safe Teen Driver	850-393-7441
Eileen Pearson	Pinellas Co Health Dept	547-7780 x 153
Diane Roffey	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233 x 328
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Kris Scholz	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	787-5974
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Bonnie Tarsitano	Pinellas Co Traffic	464-8926
Scott Vaughan	St. Pete Beach PD	363-9200
Melissa Wandall	Mark Wandall Foundation	941-751-9277
Tom Washburn	Pinellas County	
Sgt. Robert Wierzba	Clearwater Police Department	562-4338
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas County MPO	464-8200
Ofc. Quentin Collamore	Largo Police Department	587-6730