

**Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team
Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2006**

Chairperson David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed all members present. Introductions were made. New members from the State Attorney's Office and the Suncoast Safety Council were introduced. The minutes from the December 1, 2005 meeting were approved as distributed. There were no January minutes as the State CTST Coalition meeting in Largo was attended in lieu of a Pinellas CTST meeting.

Dave spoke about the presentation of the 2004 CTST of the Year Award for the Pinellas Team at the State Coalition Meeting in Largo on January 9th. Pictures were taken at the award presentation and many local dignitaries were in attendance. This was the second consecutive year The Pinellas CTST has received this award and all were very proud of the team's accomplishments. Special polo shirts with CTST of the Year designation were distributed to the team members and the plaque was displayed.

Subcommittee Reports:

Enforcement –Ron McKenzie reported that the Pinellas Sheriff's Office held the following activities: a red light detail in north county on December 1 with 3 red light citations, 2 seatbelts, 1 child restraint, 13 moving, 7 non moving, 5 DWLSR and 2 arrests. On December 7, a truck checkpoint on Ulmerton Rd had 150 citations yielding \$6,588.95 in fines, with 37 load violations, 73 equipment violations, 4 DWLSR, 4 improper class DLS, 7 speeding, 14 non moving, 3 moving, 58 inspections with 8 vehicles taken out of service, 5 drivers taken out of service and 7 medical card violations. On the Bayside Bridge on December 7, there were 34 citations issued with 1 DWLSR, 20 speeding, 2 seatbelts, 1 DUI, 9 non moving, 1 moving and 2 arrests. On December 13, an aircraft detail on Walsingham Rd with Largo PD resulted in 41 citations, 29 speeding, 2 seatbelt, 1 DWLSR, 6 non moving and 3 moving with 1 arrest. In Lealman on December 12, a bike detail had 20 moving violations, 3 DUI, 2 poss. paraphernalia, 4 poss. narcotics with 7 arrests. The December 31 – January 1 DUI Wolfpack resulted in 6 DUI, 5 felony warrants, 1 misd warrant, 13 DWLSR, 21 moving, 25 non moving violations. December totals were 362 citations and 31 arrests. In January, 2006, a countywide DUI Wolfpack yielded 8 DUI, 1 fleeing and eluding, 1 leaving scene w/property damage, 2 resist arrests, 4 felony possession controlled substance 3 poss. marijuana, 4 poss. paraphernalia, 5 warrants, 8 DWLSR, 1 reckless driving, 6 criminal violations, 18 moving and 17 non moving violations. The Safety Harbor Wolfpack on January 26, had 83 speeding citations, 4 seatbelt, 1 DWLSR, 5 moving, 13 non moving, 9 warnings or 106 total citations. January had 166 total citations with 19 arrests.

Engineering – Marc Hanger announced that a countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Workshop is planned for March 14 from 5 to 7 pm at Largo Feed Store at 295 Central Park. Call Sue Dutil at the MPO for more information. He reported on concerns regarding the number of street lights not working along US 19 between Alderman and

Tarpon Ave. They are waiting on parts to repair them as a result of hurricane damage. Sarasota County has started a red light camera pilot program that will photograph and notify but not penalize drivers who run red lights. They will be monitoring this program to see the results. Pinellas Park has requested pedestrian countdown signals at 6 intersections; 66 St. N & 102 Ave. N, US 19 /80 Ave. N at the Wal-Mart Supercenter, and 4 along Park Blvd at Belcher Rd, 49 St. N, 52 St. N and 66 St. N. On February 6, Dunedin will adopt a residential Traffic Management Program that will have traffic calming codes. Also in Dunedin, at Patricia and Lexington, a 15 mph school zone was implemented.

Peter Hsu discussed the Bike/Ped Crash Report from 1998-2003. The crash data for 6 years came from the long forms and represents approximately 25% of the crashes. The local data includes the 5 county area involving state roads and shows a high fatality rate involving pedestrians. In the Tampa Bay area, 25% of all pedestrian crashes relate to DUI as compared to 16.5 % statewide. Pedestrian intersection crash analysis showed 50% occurred away from intersections (midblock) with 33% at the intersection. Intersection crashes involving bikes showed 55% were at the intersection and 25% were not. It was brought up that the data coming from the long form may still have coding issues and depends on who is filling out the forms. FDOT is studying limited crossing at Gibbs High School to reduce bike/peds crashes by installing fencing to limit the pedestrian crossing areas. The Drive 4 Life media campaign which combined enforcement and education seems to show crash numbers remained the same, but the severity and fatality rate was down 30% when comparing the first 6 months to the last 6 months of the campaign. Enforcement was key and the data has been sent to FHWA to see if more construction dollars can be spent on enforcement and education.

Education –Bruce reported that on Saturday, February 25, there will be a street racing event at the Sunshine Speedway in Pinellas from 5 pm – midnight. It will cost \$10 per racer and those under 18 will need a notarized waiver from their parents to participate. It is sponsored by Scranton Brothers Race Team and Tampa PD. They are expecting 200-300 racers participating. This is a way to curb racing on the public streets and seems to be effective. Renee noted that the young man who killed her daughter in a car crash has written a letter from prison and it is posted on the website. The letter which was passed around to the team describes his “life” in prison and his remorse for his thoughtless act behind the wheel. The car in which her daughter and friend were riding when they were killed has now been released. Renee would like to take it around to show other young people but needs a trailer. If anyone knows of a trailer that can be donated, please let Renee know. Bay News 9 interviewed Renee as well as reporting on other traffic related issues. Their coverage has been very good. Dave Fechter was on Channel 13 when they did a segment demonstrating “Recipes 4 the Road”. It included 2 of the sponsors from the restaurants making the non-alcoholic drinks. Jeanette was on Channel 10, two times making the recipes and doing an interview. The host also went on the street with the books for interviews. Currently, Pinellas County and the Jacksonville area are the only CTSTs publishing a recipe book. More are sure to follow after the great success and popularity of the books. Glenn Luben, PCSO, was interviewed regarding safety

equipment in the SO's cruisers and officer safety. It was a very detailed interview. Glen also noted that they had a 125% increase in boom box citations when the distance was changed from 100' to 25'. Largo PD will be interviewed regarding white light enforcement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS –AAA issued a press release for Super Bowl weekend which is a high crash time period. They were advertising their Tow-To-Go program available during the weekend. They had 700-750 towed last year. AAA has a poster that shows their Executive's daughter's car involved in a crash that she walked away from because she had on her seat belt. Her vehicle is available for display at events. Glen reported that on New Years the peak time was 2:00 AM for the Tow program. There was no wait at the other times.

Kim Jowell, the new Executive Director of the Suncoast Safety Council, and Jean Patton, Director of Traffic Programs, were introduced by Dave. Glen then told the team that Kim had worked in and around the Sheriff's Office for many years and had great traffic safety experience.

TIM – Terry Hensley reported that the *Move It* campaign will start soon with signs on the interstate and flyers. The SO and other involved will be notified when the campaign begins. Suggestions as to where to distribute flyers are welcomed. The tag office also includes information for moving vehicles after a crash.

Glen reported that the Epiphany activity involving 12 motorcades over 5 days went smoothly. They expect that they will have another visit from a high ranking church official next year. There were no major problems except the inconvenience for other motorists.

PSTA announced that the Bus Rapid Transit Workshop on February 16 & 17 to be held at the Epicenter, St. Pete College, ICOT, has 160 participants already. Day 2 is full, Day 1 still has openings. Registration for Day 1 is now through the MPO.

The 402 Safety Grant Concept Papers are due by March 31. Many program areas such as police traffic safety, child passenger safety, motorcycle safety, etc. will be eligible. Agencies such as fire departments, police departments, EMS, nonprofits geared toward safety should prepare a concept paper. Funding amounts should be greater with the new federal legislation.

The national Lifesavers Conference is April 9-11 taking place in Austin, Texas. There is still time to submit examples for the Best Practices booklet. Email Jeanette if you would like to include your program.

Ed Elster from IPTM reported that incentive items have been ordered for sustained enforcement and Labor Day activities. The smaller items will be shipped. There will be no banquet this year so the patrol vehicle drawing to be held in Jacksonville and will require those first place agencies to attend and try your key. The time and date for that

activity has not been determined yet. There will be a Sobriety Checkpoint Class on May 1-3 in West Palm and a symposium will also be held in West Palm Beach in July.

Pinellas SO has scheduled Sobriety Checkpoints for February 17 & 18 in Maderia Beach and one on US 19/Mainlands. Both will be from 12:30 am – 3 am and will be dedicated to a DUI fatality. RID will be involved. The court challenges have held up while the intoxilyzer case is still pending.

NEW BUSINESS - Michael Frederick from the City of St. Petersburg addressed the team regarding the ongoing problem of pedestrian safety. He is seeking CTST support for an enforcement, engineering and education approach similar to DUI, seatbelts, etc. Pedestrians, when asked, feel safer crossing away from intersections. The countdown signals do help them feel safer. Peter is working on a Pedestrian Education grant and the SO enforcing the Gulf Boulevard area has helped. A district wide uniform approach is needed, as an officer on a single detail may see only a few pedestrians. Also, an enforcement difficulty is encountered when the pedestrians themselves wait for the cars to clear rather than enter the crosswalk. In Denver, they use a plainclothes officer for the detail. Suggestions from the CTST included the difficulty for both peds and drivers to know who stops and when. The interpretation differs and then there is the issue of entrapment. The Chief Judge is receptive to the magistrates receiving a presentation on parameters used for enforcement. On the beaches, people from Europe may be struck because they are looking in the wrong direction. More signs and information in the hotels may help. The City of St. Petersburg has 180 crashes a year involving peds. It is an issue of asset assignment. The CTST can advocate for dollars to equal the percent of crashes involving pedestrians. Largo did numerous enforcement details and helped to reduce the number of fatalities involving pedestrians.

The CTST decided that the first step was to present the issues at the Pinellas Transportation Advisory Committee meeting in March, with a goal for countywide enforcement.

CTST support was also requested by the City of Orlando, for HB 259, legislation regarding red light camera enforcement. It was felt that more discussion was needed so the issue was tabled for now to let reps go to their local agencies to determine their position on this issue.

Meeting adjourned 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

The next meeting is March 2, 2006 at the Suncoast Safety Council.

Members Present:

Ron Bulen	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-3885
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
George Francey	Pinellas Co School Board	638-1070
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
George Edmiston	Largo Police Department	586-7473
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Terry Harding	AAA Auto Club South	448-2600
Terry Hensley	FDOT TIM	813-975-6259
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Kim Jowell	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233
Thea Johnson	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Glen J. Luben	Pinellas Sheriff's Office	582-5604
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758
Tom McMullian	VMS, Inc.	813-299-9379
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Renee Napier	Safe Teen Driver	850-393-7441
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT	813-975-6256
Kris Scholz	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	787-5974
Greg Schwemly	St. Petersburg PD	893-7157
Shpresaidrizi	State Attorney's Office	464-6786
Scott Vaughan	St. Pete Beach PD	363-9200
Sgt. Butch Ward	Largo Police Dept	586-7473
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Ed Elster	IPTM, Jacksonville	904-620-4782
Jean Hatton	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233
Robert Mitchell	AAA Auto Club South	448-2600
Venkat Vattikuti	Tindale Oliver	813-224-8862