

**Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting
November 3, 2005 Minutes**

Chair David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the previous meeting of October 6, 2005 were approved as distributed.

Subcommittee Reports:

Education – Jeanette Rouse brought a draft of the *Recipes for the Road* booklet that is now at the printers. Over 50 recipes were included. Many restaurants from Pinellas did send in recipes. They expect a large distribution. Regarding the December meeting, Jeanette was hopeful that a restaurant would provide the ingredients for the recipe they submitted in the booklet and serve the team members. Renee agreed to contact a restaurant and see if they would be willing to do that.

Dave reminded the team that the Florida CTST Coalition meeting would rotate to Pinellas on January 9 from 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM. All CTST members are encouraged to attend as the Pinellas Team of the Year Award will be presented. The location has been narrowed down to two and when it is decided, the team members will be notified. The award presentation will take place at the beginning of the meeting (10:00 AM) in case you can not stay for the entire meeting.

Lee Halvas announced that Diane Roffey, Executive Director for the Suncoast Safety Council, is retiring at the end of the year. She has been very supportive of the Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team and we thank her and wish her well.

Engineering – Marc Hanger reported that the 54th Av S and 31st St. S was ranked high on crashes vs. volumes chart. Currently, the 54th S corridor is being studied for both safety and traffic congestion improvements. Safety concerns reported at Curlew Rd and Lake Shore Lane last month involved sight distance problems. The crash reports show that since Curlew Rd was improved to 6 divided in year 2000, eleven out-of-control crashes have been reported. The CTST web site has been updated and the location has been improved at www.pinellascounty.org/mpo/ctst/index.htm. Easy access to the CTST site is on the MPO main page in the planning topics drop down window. Other member agencies can link to the site and are welcome to do so. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is a possible link. A handout showing contributing causes queried in the crash database for US 19 and Tampa Rd to McMullen Booth Rd was discussed. The major violator ranging from 46% to 58% was careless driving. The MPO staff is trying to determine what percentage of careless driving is due to drivers speeding. There was discussion that rear-end crashes account for many of the overall crashes on these roads. Getting good information from the crash reports affect the contributing causes report. The narrative from the crash report is being reviewed now for the stats but more information could be helpful. Also discussed was the problem that officers may not always provide a worksheet or narrative to describe what is meant by reckless driving,

which affects the judge's ability to determine what actually happened and this can help with the case.

TIM – Terry Hensley reported that the new Road Ranger contract started the first day of November. The hurricane affected some of the new vendor's supplies as they were warehoused in the Miami area. A greatly improved service is expected as the area covered will be expanding. The Move It campaign is starting in Hillsborough and Pinellas. Over 5,000 brochures will be distributed to help educate people that the vehicle should be moved from the roadway after a crash if able and there are no fatalities. They will be available at drivers licensing agencies, AAA and tag offices.

Enforcement –Ron McKenzie reported that the Clearwater PD held 3 details which yielded 27 red light, 11 speed violations, 9 seat belts and 3 DUI. The PCSO will have a commercial vehicle checkpoint at the DOT office on Ulmerton Rd and a DUI checkpoint in the Dunedin/Clearwater area Friday night, Nov. 4, into Saturday morning, Nov. 5. Other enforcement activities for October were a wolfpack detail on the Bayside Bridge, October 11 which netted 27 total citations, 1 DWLSR, 12 speed, 5 seatbelt and 5 moving. A Safety Harbor wolf pack was held on October 13 and a total of 170 citations were issued, 105 speed, 12 seatbelt, 48 non moving, 13 moving, 4 DWLSR and 3 arrests. The DUI wolf pack on October 22 -23 yielded 8 DUI, 13 DWLSR, 56 speeding with 3 over 100 mph, 15 moving, 25 non moving, 5 misd arrests, 1 .02 violation, 4 misd poss marijuana, 1 misd poss paraphernalia, 1 felony poss controlled substance, 1 warrant and 1 Marchman Act. The total for October was 304 citations and 37 arrests. PCSO will be hosting a 4 hour class for law enforcement on universal driver licenses to assist with understanding foreign licenses. Clearwater PD announced that the Ft. Harrison "Do Not Block Intersection" signs will be enforced. Construction is a problem. Law Enforcement was asked to take a brief survey for the Suncoast Safety Council and return by the meeting end.

OLD BUSINESS – Dave reported the 7th annual RID (Remove Intoxicated Drivers) Banquet was held on Oct 12 and law enforcement was recognized for their efforts to halt DUI. The speakers were excellent and very moving. There was an excellent turnout. The CTST received a recognition award for their efforts also. The officers involved in the details appreciate very much the wonderful food and support provided by RID for their checkpoints.

OPEN FORUM- Marc suggested an idea for a federal fund safety campaign called, "No Need To Speed", to target the length of US 19 and Tampa Road to McMullen Booth/Eastlake Road. This campaign would include a media blitz followed with heavy enforcement. FDOT says the money must be tied into safety construction but the campaign must be prior to construction start. This road way may not fit, although the Tampa Road/McMullen Booth Road segment has not started construction and may fit the criteria. FDOT will check on that.

Bruce Murakami was not present but he had sent a report to Dave regarding the teen car show at a Hillsborough high school. It was well attended with 50 cars. They may try to shorten the day as it was long, when they do the December event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS –Kevin Fannon distributed a draft job description for a potential school board bike/ped safety coordinator position discussed at the last meeting. The school system is still looking at the FDOT Safe Routes to School money that has not been distributed yet. FDOT said the federal funding is being discussed among the districts and that Tallahassee wants their key positions filled before decisions are made. Any ideas or comments regarding the job description or position, please contact Kevin.

FDOT has a “Ride for Science” research project that will be one week from Saturday at the Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) in Tampa. There will be a 20 mile ride on sections of arterial roads. They are interested in how bikers feel on these road types and the segments will be graded. There is a limit of 100 and they need to pre register.

The City of Pembroke Pines has passed a local ordinance with civil penalty for the vehicle’s registered owner when it is involved with red light running. A camera is being used and it is a pilot project. Sarasota also has a pilot project on red light running camera enforcement, but warnings are being issued. Studies have shown that crashes may initially increase when cameras are first used as drivers see the cameras and hit the brakes. Those crash rates, usually rear end collisions, typically level off.

There is funding available for updating the Best Practices Manual. The original one is from 2002. Jeanette will get the format sheet for the next meeting and they can be turned in to her prior to January 9th CTST Coalition meeting.

RID is having their annual Candlelight Vigil on December 3 at the United Methodist on 4th Ave S/West Bay, in Largo at 6:30 pm.

November 16 is the Great American Teach In day. Many will volunteer to work with students in area schools.

The issue with golf carts in the Crystal Beach/Ozona area west of Alt. 19 was approved at the last Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Ulmerton/Ridge Rd construction area needs white lines painted so that aircraft can be used for enforcement. It is about 528 ft and will help the PCSO and Largo enforce that area. FDOT will be contacted to get that done quickly.

There will be a tag reader demo this week or next at the JDC on 49th St. N by the Sheriff’s Office. Contact them for details. It reads the tag in real time and gives vehicle description and information.

There is a legal challenge to DUI checkpoints being used. The basis is that it is not a productive use of officers’ time as they don’t get the numbers. There were offers to help

with stats. Driver's License checkpoints are conducted in surrounding counties, but there are questions about conducting them in Pinellas. There is interest in doing them, but issues need to be resolved.

Traffic will be a major issue on December 4th for the annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Ride in the mid and south area. It is getting bigger every year. On January 4-8 the Innisbrook area will have heavy traffic due to a high Greek Orthodox official in the area.

Our next CTST meeting will be on December 1.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

Members Present:

Ron Bulen	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
T.C. Carter	FDOT Maintenance	570-5101
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-3885
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas County Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
Ofc. V. Michaud-Chase	Kenneth City Police Dept	544-2564
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Dawn Henrichon	6 th Circuit SAO	464-6221
Terry Hensley	FDOT Traffic Incident Mgmt	813-975-6259
Thea Johnson	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Glen J. Luben	Pinellas Sheriff's Office	582-5604
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park Police Dept	541-0758
Renee Napier	Safe Teen Driver	850-393-7441
Tom Paul	Congressman Bilirakis	773-2871
Eileen Pearson	Pinellas Co Health Dept	547-7780x153
Lee Halvas	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety Office	813-975-6256
Greg Schwemly	St. Petersburg Police Dept	893-7157
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Bonnie Tarsitano	Pinellas Co Traffic	464-8926
Scott Vaughan	St. Pete Beach Police Dept	363-9200
Tom Washburn	Pinellas County	
Sgt. Robert Wierzba	Clearwater Police Dept	562-4338
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Theo Petritsch	Sprinkle Consulting	813-949-7449
Mike Burke	Pinellas Co School Board	549-7100 x 4780
Pam Reitz	PSTA	533-430