

Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2005

Chairperson David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the previous meeting of June 2, 2005 were approved as distributed.

Subcommittee Reports:

Engineering –Sandy Knoebel presented the Engineering report for Marc. She reported that a University of Utah study about cell phone usage while driving a vehicle showed young drivers drove more like elderly drivers. They moved and reacted more slowly, increasing their risk of a crash. Also, the study found cell phone usage left the driver more impaired than a drunk driver with blood alcohol levels of 0.08. A new seat belt law took effect July 1. Law enforcement can pull over unbuckled drivers and passengers under 18. Due to the high number of traffic accidents, the intersections of: 5th Ave. N & 34th St. N, 38th Ave. N & 34th St. N, 38th Ave. N & 66th St. N and 22nd Ave. N & 34th St. S are being studied for safety improvements. A final map on the Cleveland/Myrtle closure from 7/11 through 8/22 will be on the web site. It will show re-routing for beach traffic using Drew Street. Alt 19/Ft.Harrison to Myrtle-April 06 and Keene /East Bay intersection the sign was replaced by FDOT saying turning vehicles must yield to peds.

Jim Byers with PSTA said their new facility is due to open by the end of August. The traffic on Shearer and 118th Ave & 28th St. N will greatly increase. PSTA is consolidating their St. Pete and 4th Street operation into one.

Education – Diane Roffey reported that the Recipes for the Road sponsorship letters have gone out and there has been no response to date. Any member who might be able to direct letters to someone who may be interested in assisting would be appreciated. The sponsor will get their name and logo in the book. Sue Samson announced about the NHTSA & ASA Drive Well Class. It is a free 3 hour class and will encourage discussion about senior driving issues. Jeanette said FDOT has a new White Light enforcement CD that contains 2 power point presentations and a Background & Training booklet is available. It is geared towards enforcement personnel. If interested, contact Jeanette and she will get copies to you.

Enforcement – Glen Luben, PCSO, reported that the Pinellas SO will be conducting a Laser class on July 11 & 12 in Oldsmar at the Ulmerton Rd office. A new program, “It Pays To Drive Safe” was presented. This program was started in New Jersey as a non-profit organization by a gentleman, Mr. Angelo Telesca, who lost his 16 year old son in a traffic crash. Mr. Telesca is starting a chapter in Pinellas and is working with the Pinellas SO. He goes to the local high schools and gives awards to teen drivers who have submitted the winning essay. This year, Mr. Telesca was at East Lake High School and gave out two \$500 cash scholarships. They also identified “good” teen drivers by following the driver and handing out a \$50 gift certificate to Blockbuster or local

restaurants. The idea is to encourage good safe driving. He is anxious to have other high schools participate and expand to other law enforcement agencies.

On 6/17/05, a Wolf Pack Operation was conducted by PCSO which resulted in the following, 19 DWLS/R, 4 uninsured motorist, 38 speeding, 10 seat belt, 1 child restraint, 1 D/L restriction violation, 2 expired tag, 27 other moving, 24 other non-moving, 8 DUI, 8 felony arrest, 8 misdemeanor arrests, 4 drug arrests, 3 warrant arrests, and 3 other arrests. They will be doing these every other month now. On 6/21/05, PCSO conducted a Saturation Patrol in Safety Harbor with 12 PCSO Deputies resulting in 119 traffic citations & 1 misdemeanor warrant (64 speeding, 6 equipment, 1 moving, 4 DWLS/R, 1 open container, 10 seatbelts, 1 careless, 4 load violations, 4 expired tags, 7 traffic control device, 17 non-moving & 3 warnings. They are doing more truck enforcement because of the dropping of loads on the road. On 6/13/05, a Z.O.R.R.O. (Zero Opportunities for Red Light Running Offenders) Detail was conducted by Clearwater PD at US 19/Gulf To Bay, Belcher/Gulf To Bay and Gulf To Bay/Keene –areas having the highest accident locations in Clearwater. Results were 36 red light violations, 5 moving other than red lights, 17 non-moving, 1 criminal and 1 misdemeanor warrant. Also a Click It or Ticket Detail was held on 6/14/05 and 26 seat belt, 48 moving, 18 non-moving, 24 warning and 1 criminal citation were issued. Largo PD had a DUI manslaughter at Belcher/Fairway.

Announcements– The Buckle Up website has enforcement stats by county now. Pinellas had very high numbers. Hillsborough County Sheriff’s office will work with Jim Bordner with PCSO for the multi-county Sea Air Land Enforcement (SALE) Labor Day weekend event. The FDOT sponsored a 60 second PSA developed by Tampa Bay’s Channel 10 that is airing now during their live noon news webcast. It features FHP giving safety tips on ped, biking, child safety seats, and seat belts.

Old Business – Dave discussed the Pinellas CTST 10th Anniversary plans for August. Katherine submitted a resolution to the Board of County Commissioners acknowledging the Team’s efforts. It should be presented at the August 16th Commission meeting. If anyone has any other ideas as to how to celebrate the day, please get in touch with Dave or Jeanette.

TIM – Terry Hensley, FDOT Traffic Incident Manager, reported there was good attendance at the Pinellas meeting with good agency representation. Efforts are being focused on 1) get the car off the road after a crash and 2) a Road Rangers awareness campaign. TIM is encouraging other agencies to attend the meetings even if they are not responsible for interstates. Some have major arteries crossing the interstate that can be affected with detours. There was discussion on investigative techniques used by FHP which may make the cases difficult to prosecute. The PCSO has a process that clears the road quicker and still allows for evidence gathering.

Updates—Bruce Murakami summer activities have slowed down with schools closed. Activities will be gearing up in the fall.

Announcements—October 10th is “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day”. A retired Brooksville engineer brought this matter to the attention of the Hernando SO and they now conduct a detail around the 10th of each month.

Sue discussed a survey of law enforcement for DHSMV about what is done when there is an encounter with a suspected Alzheimer driver. They want to develop a protocol to assist law enforcement with these situations.

New Business - Pete Yauch, Pinellas County, discussed the issue with Crystal Beach and Ozona’s request to make the area a golf course community. This would give them the okay to operate golf carts on the public roadways; and with the consent, it implies that it is safe to do so. The county position is that it is not being recommended and data from studies is needed to research the potential dangers. The PCSO has said in the past that it is not safe. The issue is going to the Board of County Commissioners in August for vote. By statute, this consent can be approved in a contained community, but new statutes actually restrict usage. There was discussion about seniors and the use of the carts as alternative transportation. Some of the vehicles are modified to make them legal, but the regular carts have no lights, turn signals, seat belts, etc. Communities can be made safe for their use, but they usually separate the carts from vehicles.

Sunstar requested Opticon use for their ambulances, but has been denied by the MPO. It’s difficult to close the door once it is opened.

The CTST State Coalition Meeting is scheduled for July 11th in Titusville. Their next quarterly meeting will be in Orlando on October 10th. CTST members are encouraged to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

Members Present:

Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Jim Hartwell	City of Largo	587-6730
Terry Hensley	FDOT, Traffic Incident Mgmt	813-975-6259
Mike Jockers	St. Pete Police Dept	893-4813
Thea Johnson	Neighborhood Care Network	571-4384
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas County MPO	464-8200
Glen Luben	Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office	582-5604
Tom McMullian	VMS, Inc.	813-299-9379
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Eileen Pearson	Pinellas Co Health Dept	442-8129
Diane Roffey	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233x328

Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Susan Samson	Area Agency on Aging	570-9696x234
Kris Scholz	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	787-5974
Marian Scorza	FDOT Public Information	813-975-6038
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen, South Pasadena	360-9144
Bonnie Tarsitano	Pinellas County Traffic	464-8926
Sgt. Robert Wierzba	Clearwater Police Dept	562-4338
Pete Yauch	Pinellas Co Dept Public Works	464-3364
Rohom Khonsar	State Attorney's Office	

News from the Buckle Up Florida website:

Florida Law Enforcement Challenge Banquet

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, September 9, 2005

Orlando, Florida

Exact location and time will be announced soon!