

**Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team
Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2005**

Chair David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed all members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the July 7, 2005 meeting were corrected as follows: The Sunstar Opticon request has not been **denied** and is still pending. Pinellas Coordinator for the Labor Day SALE (Sea, Air, Land Enforcement) is Pinellas County Sheriff's Officer Rich Nalben. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Subcommittee Reports:

Enforcement – Glen Luben, PCSO, reported that the Pinellas SO conducted an aircraft detail on the Bayside Bride with 10 Deputies on 7/01/05 resulting in 99 speeding violations, 11 seatbelts, 5 DWLSR (4 misdemeanor, 1 felony), 4 insurance violations, 1 traffic control device violation, 1 careless driving, 1 child restraint, 2 arrests, and 3 other non moving violations. On 7/04/05 a county wide saturation patrol with 8 Deputies was held. There were 75 traffic citations which included 45 speeding, 4 DWLSR, 1 no DRL, 5 seat belt, 2 expired tags, 3 no registration, 8 non moving, 1 open container, 2 fleeing and eluding and 4 non moving. Also there were 3 misdemeanor possession of marijuana, 1 misdemeanor possession of paraphernalia, 1 felony warrant with 6 DUI arrests over 4 days. In Dunedin, 8 PCSO Deputies held a Saturation Patrol on 7/28/05 and issued 28 speeding violations, 2 DWLSR, 6 traffic control, 2 load violations, 8 no insurance, 1 tag not assigned, 7 non moving, 11 moving for a total of 65 citations, 1 VOP warrant and 2 arrests. There were also two Sobriety Checkpoints on 7/15/05 in Palm Harbor and one on 7/16/05 in Clearwater. Combined totals included 27 PCSO members with equipment and 3 DOC Parole/Probation Officers and 3 PCSO Explorers. RID members were present to assist/support officers with refreshments. Of the 1093 vehicles that passed through the checkpoints, 255 were diverted for assessment. All drivers D/L and warrant status were checked with an average intrusion time of 1 min. 23 sec – 1 min 17 sec. There were 19 arrests. The 28 charges were 10 DUI, 1 possession of cocaine, 3 possession of controlled substance (felony) 5 possession of marijuana, 1 fail to obey a lawful command, 1 no valid DL, 2 probation violations, and 1 carrying a concealed weapon, 2 VOP, 1 resist arrest without violence and 1 warrant arrest. Traffic citations were 28 with 8 vehicles impounded. On 7/27/05 a ZORRO traffic detail (red lights) was held at various locations by the traffic enforcement team. There were 11 red light citations, 19 moving, 12 non-moving, 4 criminal citations and 2 warrant arrests. The *Click It or Ticket* detail on 7/26/05 resulted in 31 moving and 17 non moving citations, 4 criminal and 15 seat belts. On 7/29/05, a *Booze It & Loose It* detail was held at roving locations. The detail issued the following citations and arrest: 3 DUI, 24 moving and 18 non moving citations and 1 criminal citation. The City of St. Pete held details throughout the city enforcing yielding to pedestrians. Their stats will be included in next month's report.

Education – Diane Roffey was not in attendance due to an accident, so Jeanette reported that the Education Committee was interested in the CTST team participating in the

October 5 Walk Your Child to School annual event. Safe Kids will also be involved and further details will be given at the next meeting. FDOT can have hand outs and goodies for the students and 1 school, yet to be named, will be the focus. USAA Insurance Company called regarding the recipe booklet, so they may be interested in becoming a sponsor. Other sponsors are still needed.

Engineering – Marc reported that Ms. Shelli Neuhoff submitted an idea for public service messages using a skit format to heighten awareness for traffic safety. She suggested the campaign could be called, “Drive Smart Florida”. The CTST will review and it seems like a good concept. There may be an issue with the name of the campaign as it may be a trademark by USAA, but that can be checked out further. FDOT did receive FHWA money for traffic safety education and enforcement activities. They have used it for US 19 Safety improvements in the City of New Port Richey, and \$200,000 for I-4 message boards for the FHP, Hillsborough SO, etc. and PSA campaign, “Drive 4 Life”. In Pinellas, there have been safety projects on Tampa Road. Other innovative approaches using education, enforcement and engineering will be considered for funding. Accident Reports: The annual top (worst) 100 intersection crash locations during year 2004, has been completed. The chart handed out shows eleven of the top 20 are along US 19. Next month, we hope to have a chart depicting vehicle crashes verses volumes. Stop Signs—Pinellas Park is installing solar-powered stop signs at 82 Ave N & 60th St. N. This location is a four-way stop and has had some severe accidents. Each sign has six LED’s flashing day and night. Pedestrian Signals—Due to sight distance problems on the Pinellas Trail at Tarpon Ave and Safford Ave, the MPO has requested FDOT to evaluate the use of a pedestrian activated signal. US 19 Wayfinding Signs and Gulf Boulevard Mile Markers – Maps are shown in the new phone book edition for driver navigation. Also, they have been distributed to 911 & Fire Districts.

Pete Yauch of County Traffic Engineering discussed the Speed Limit Study and handed out a chart showing speed data. The last few years, data has been collected. Speed limits are usually based on 85% of actual speed. Using that as a basis, Pinellas limits would go up. In other words, Pinellas has a speeding problem. On the Bayside Bridge there are problems at the merge/access areas and high crash rates. Projects designed to help are far out because of the high cost (\$200 million approximately).

Peter Hsu, FDOT, discussed the new SAFE TEA LU which passed the House and Senate and is waiting for the President’s signature. There will be more money in the 402 grants (+50%) so applications are encouraged. Rural Highway Improvement Projects will be funded as well as Bike/Peds programs. Also, Safeway to Schools will be included. A request was made to FDOT for 590/Old Coachman Rd near the railroad tracks. There is no left turn lanes and improvements are needed. At the recent Traffic Safety Records Conference, Peter reported that Florida’s crash management system is moving slowly but there will be a better system in the next years. The TraCS crash data expands on the existing data collection for even better reporting. The technology is there and FDOT is currently funding updates to current reporting system for improvements. Money may be

coming for smaller enforcement agencies to get new tracking system. In Pinellas, Tarpon PD has a pilot project using the new system. It uses GPS, E traffic report and E ticketing.

TIM- Terry Hensley reported that the next meeting is the first Tuesday of next month and a speaker will be present to talk about the combined communication center issues (radios that can talk to each other).

Updates – none

New Business – Mr. Angelo Telesca from the Safe Teen Driver Program presented the program and explained its objectives. The PCSO has been involved and the main focus has been East Lake High School. Other agency participation is encouraged as it is hoped that the program can expand to other high schools in Pinellas. The program receives grants from Allstate and State Farm to award scholarships and rewards for safe driving. They cooperate with the SADD groups and the Pinellas Health Department representative who is working in the schools can all work together and put on teen safe driving events. Any other appropriate partnerships will be welcomed for this very worthwhile program.

Announcements - The Board of County Commissioners will be issuing a Proclamation in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the Pinellas CTST at the board meeting on August 16, 2005 at 3:00 pm in the board room. Members planning to attend need to let Kathryn Burbridge know by tomorrow. The State Buckle Up Awards luncheon is scheduled for September 9 in Orlando. The CTST is up for the team award. The Labor Day SALE event is Sept 3 & 4 and there will be good law enforcement presence. Details will be emailed. The PCSO won first place in category 7 (SO's with 501 – 1000 Deputies) for the International Association of Chiefs of Police 2004 Law Enforcement Challenge. Also, Tarpon Spring PD and Pinellas Park PD were winners in the 2005 Click It or Ticket Program for reporting results in time.

You Drink & Drive, You Lose Program has prizes for those enforcement agencies that participate in checkpoints. There is a certain number that must be conducted to be eligible.

The International Signal Conference is being held at the Tradewinds on 8/29 & 30. Passes are available. There will be good displays and updated technology to see.

The Largo PD wanted to know if any studies were planned on the effects that the Opticon system has on traffic and does it help emergency vehicles arrive on the scene faster. Pete noted that current signal system takes up to 3 signal cycles to get back on cycle. Multiple vehicle responses can extend the red lights to the point that other vehicles are running the light. There is discussion pending on these issues. The Largo PD reported that they had a 2.5 rollover today that the driver walked away from because of the seat belt being used.

There were 2 school bus crashes on the first day of school. No serious injuries in either. One was alcohol related by the other driver.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

Members Present:

Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
T.C. Carter	FDOT – Pinellas Maintenance	570-5101
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
Cpl Thomas Goldberg	Kenneth City Police Department	544-2564
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Jim Hartwell	City of Largo	587-6730
Terry Hensley	FDOT Traffic Incident Mgmt	813-975-6259
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Thea Johnson	Neighborhood Care Network	571-4384
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas County MPO	464-8200
Glen J. Luben	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office	582-5604
Tom McMullian	VMS, Inc.	813-299-9379
Renee Napier	Safe Teen Driver	850-393-7441
Eileen Pearson	Pinellas Co Health Dept	547-7780x153
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen	360-9144
Sgt. Robert Wierzba	Clearwater Police Dept	562-4338
Pete Yauch	Pinellas County Dept Public Works	464-3364
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas County MPO	464-8200
Dean LoBianco	Pinellas Park Police Department	541-0758
Kristina Quenneville	Florida Highway Patrol	813-632-6859
Rohom Khosari	SAD	
Anthony Telesca	Anthony Telesca Foundation	813-814-9025