

## **Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2004**

Chairman Dave Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed those members present.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

Engineering – Marc Hanger – Marc distributed a copy of the ranking of the worst intersections in the County rated by crashes versus traffic volumes. Of the top thirteen, seven are identified as needing attention. The Keene Road and East Bay Drive intersection has experienced recent fatalities. The City of Largo is studying to improve pedestrian safety at and near this intersection. The primary focus is the northern leg. 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and 28<sup>th</sup> Street North – Safety funding has been programmed to provide design of left turn lanes and signals. 49<sup>th</sup> Street North at Park Plaza and Home Depot on Park Boulevard – Safety funding has been programmed to provide median improvements. Red light photo enforcement – 18 states are now using photo enforcement and in the District of Columbia. California has the most programs with 35 communities. Maryland ranks second with 22 communities.

Dave reported at the Pinellas County Commission meeting it was stated that 20<sup>th</sup> Street at Lake Road will be paved. They are committing funding to this project which will become a public roadway.

Peter reported FDOT is still working on the Tampa Road median opening project and are waiting for an answer from the County. Pedestrian signals along the US 19 corridor are justified for funding with federal safety funds. Seven intersections need pedestrian signals. The FDOT can allocate dollars to the County for this need.

Education Subcommittee- Diane Roffey reported the “Recipes for the Road” booklet should be ready for distribution by the first of December. This booklet contains non-alcoholic recipes to be used during the holiday season. It will be distributed in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties.

Enforcement – Ron McKenzie – Ron reported the Sheriff’s Office conducted 11 saturation patrols countywide in October with 42 arrests made by the six-member DUI Squad. PSO also conducted two checkpoints, one in Palm Harbor on 10/28 and one in Oldsmar on 10/29. A total of 1,203 vehicles passed through these checkpoints and 20 arrests were made, 7 DUI and issued 41 traffic citations. Clearwater held a Click it or Ticket event on 10/7 with 147 citations, 29 for seat belts and a DUI Wolf Pack on 10/29 with 3 DUIs and 50 citations issued. Largo PD reported two additional officers – 1 for DUI and 1 for Traffic Safety. The one officer for DUI has been averaging 20-30 DUI arrests a month.

The team had a discussion regarding pedestrian enforcement. There is a problem with the way the statute is written. Most pedestrians feel they have the right of way. Most crashes happen mid-block. If the pedestrian is not actively crossing, it is hard for an enforcement officer to see an actual violation and it is difficult to determine who to cite. There is a lack of consistency. A ruling from the State Attorney General on the interpretation of the law is needed for clarification. When requesting a ruling, specific questions to ask about the statute should be defined.

For newcomers to the Team meeting, Dave explained the subcommittees meet one-half hour prior to the general meeting and provide a monthly update report to the group. The minutes of the previous October meeting were approved as submitted.

Ballots were distributed to vote on a new team Secretary. Thea Johnson and George Francey were nominated for the position. Each of them said a few words about the position.

Bruce Murakami told the Team about several events he held in Hawaii on safe teen driving. The reception he received on his program was good. He also submitted an application to be on the program for the national Lifesavers Conference in Charlotte.

Dave also submitted a proposal to present on the White Enforcement Light Study for the Lifesavers Conference. Jeanette explained this conference is held annually and is attended by safety personnel and advocates around the country. The location varies and it has been held in Florida twice in the last ten years. It's an excellent way to see what the national highway safety priorities are for 2005.

Peter Hsu reported that longtime Fire Chief of Pinellas Park, Ken Kramer, is retiring after 38 years. We gave Ron a certificate from the CTST to pass along to Chief Kramer with our congratulations. It was also reported the Largo Fire Chief is retiring soon.

Melissa Wandall, from Bradenton, spoke to the Team regarding red light running repeat offenders. He husband was killed when a repeat offender ran a red light. She was nine months pregnant at the time. He daughter is one year old now. Clarissa is working with State Representatives on a law for repeat offenders. The current fine is only a \$500. The female who ran the red light in which Mr. Wandall was killed is 29 years old and had 10 points on her license. A definition for a red light running repeat offender is lacking. The Team had a discussion on speeding, the fines assessed, and the frustrations on adjudication withheld when they go before a Magistrate. There seems to be an indifference to traffic violations and a commitment from the legislature is needed.

Denny Pedrick, Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Program Manager for FDOT, proposed that since traffic incidents were a community concern, the TIM merge with the CTST. They could give a TIM report at our monthly meetings. In between meetings, Denny hopes to visit with departments individually and to get key people involved. The Team agreed with this proposal.

Thea Johnson was elected as the new Secretary for the Pinellas CTST through June 2005, replacing Allison Weber.

Peter discussed the new Crash Management System. In 1996, Pinellas County created a Crash Management Center; however, there were some compatibility problems. Peter showed the system with today's new technology. Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office took the lead and this system is personal computer-based instead of mainframe-based. Data can be used to determine where to conduct enforcement activities. This system has been implemented for one year and the fatalities have dropped 15% in Hillsborough County. It is possible to map crash data onto aerial photos and include all the background information with up to one foot accuracy. Patterns of where crashes happen are possible to determine. Engineering personnel can work on a solution by accessing a crash report immediately for further investigation. You can click a dot and the crash report pops up for easy analysis. Peter provided handouts to look at the details.

He explained that eight crashes per year for three years equals a high crash spot. We have over 500 locations that meet these criteria within District 7; 100 in Pinellas.

Kristy Patterson had a question about how to record data and monitor traffic volumes. They are moving toward a permanent county study. Currently, it is two-day data.

George Francey reported the School Transportation Committee has a bike bus program to teach pedestrian education. They hope to be more proactive in schools. The bike bus is an old school bus that is filled with bikes. The bikes have been refurbished and with the help of local bike shops, they hope to keep the bikes in good shape.

Largo PD mentioned a problem area on Starkey Road north of Ulmerton around Great Bay Distributors.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Members Present:**

C. Skipper	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office	582-6439
Harriet Burns	RID of Tampa Bay	797-4623
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
T.C. Carter	FDOT, Pinellas Maintenance	570-5101
David M. Chase	City of Pinellas Park	541-0773
Charles Cronin	Clearwater PD	562-4162
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
George Francey	Pinellas School Board	507-4450x1024
Thomas Goldberg	Kenneth City PD	544-2564
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Jim Hartwell	City of Largo	587-6730
Sgt. Dennis Hobbs	FL Highway Patrol	647-3743
Peter Hsu	FDOT	813-975-6251
Mike Jockers	St. Pete PD	893-4813
Thea Johnson	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Kristy Patterson	Palm Harbor Fire	787-5974
Denny Pedrick	FDOT TIM	813-975-6259
Tom Reichert	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7294
Diane Roffey	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233x328
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT	813-975-6256
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen	360-9144
Lydia Wardell	State Attorney	464-6786
Sgt. Jeff Young	Tarpon Springs Police Dept	938-2840
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Cherie Skaggs	Sprinkle Consulting	813-949-7449
Bonnie Tarsitano	Pinellas Co Traffic	464-8974
Melissa Wandall	Mark Wandall Foundation	941-751-9277

