

Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2004

Vice Chair Ron McKenzie called the general meeting to order and welcomed members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the November 4, 2004 meeting were approved as distributed.

Subcommittee Reports:

Enforcement – Ron McKenzie reported that the Pinellas Park Special Ops Unit had a city-wide truck route detail on November 24 that resulted in 26 trucks stopped for operating outside of a designated truck route with 11 cited. The PPPD had a DUI detail on November 27 that yielded 5 DUI arrests, 2 felony cocaine arrests and 2 misdemeanor arrests.

Clearwater PD held a Click It or Ticket on November 3 with 132 citations (16 were seat belts), 1 misdemeanor warrant and 1 possible marijuana. On November 19, the DUI Wolf Pack issued 85 citations, 2 were DUI, 6 driving without license, 1 misdemeanor, 1 cocaine and 1 marijuana possible. An Aggressive Driving detail on November 26 worked the mall areas and issued 171 citations, 44 warnings, no aggressive drivers.

Largo PD conducted a stop sign detail on Lake/Nursery with 52 citations and a speed detail on US 19 had 48 citations issued. They are working on setting up a commercial vehicle detail in February 2005.

St. Petersburg PD had 4 DUI Saturations with 3 officers that yielded 12 DUI arrests. A school zone enforcement yielded 421 speeding citations. The traffic detail on the day after Thanksgiving gave out 124 citations for red light running and 2 speed operations resulted in 197 citations issued.

Engineering – Marc Hanger reported on the Ulmerton Rd/Lake Ave –Wal Mart was pursuing a traffic signal. Concerns were raised about the close proximity to the railroad crossing. Currently, Wal Mart is no longer pursuing a store at this location. It was reported that Pinellas County is still looking at the location for a signal. Courtney Campbell Pkwy/Damascus Rd-where there is both beach access and Clearwater Christian College entrance - due to a high number of crashes, 2 traffic signals are planned for installation this month. Also, an additional lane is planned to provide eastbound access to the beach. Construction will begin this spring. MOTs - FDOT has re-opened the southbound I-275 to the southbound Dr. M.L.King St. ramp. Also open is the ramp from eastbound Ulmerton Rd. to southbound Dr. M.L. King St. This is a new ramp, 3 years in the making. Crash report-DMV is still reporting a high fatality rate for crashes this year. There were 10 more fatalities in Pinellas than at this time last year. Also, the statewide pedestrian and bicycle casualty totals for Year 2003 is completed. Comparing Florida's 67 counties, Pinellas ranks 29th for pedestrians killed, 12th for pedestrians injured, 23rd for bicyclists killed and 2nd for bicyclists injured.

Education-Jeanette Rouse reported that the “Recipes For the Road” booklet, distributed to the team members, was the subject of a press conference and press release with TV coverage on December 1 at the Hillsborough County CTST meeting. Copies of the booklet were sent to the mayors of St. Petersburg and Clearwater with our thanks for their endorsement. It is expected that these booklets will be an annual tradition and will get bigger and better each year. Samples of one of the recipes were offered to the team with positive comments. The booklets were also well received by the team. The law offices of Florin and Roebig on Alderman Rd in Palm Harbor are seeking the CTST’s support for its Safety Day Event on Feb 5th. A bike rodeo with helmets and SO involvement has occurred in the past. Car seat safety checks were provided, but it is hard to find certified techs anymore since the certification requirement changes. Greg Bickel from Clearwater PD offered to help do car seat checks so the activity can continue. Jeanette can provide handout materials if there is staff to support the handouts. On December 4 at 6:30 PM a RID Christmas Remembrance will be held at First United Methodist Church in Largo.

Denny Pedrick, Traffic Incident Management (TIM) presented. It is expected that TIM will continue to work with the CTST’s throughout the state and there will be statewide meetings that will break into subcommittees to work out issues of traffic incident management. One important function was to define TIM, which is a planned and strategic action taken by several responding agencies when a traffic incident occurs, and through detection and verification responds to the incident and directs the movement of traffic in a timely and safe manner while aggressively clearing the traffic lanes giving consideration to the safety of the victims, the emergency responders and the highway users. An overview of the Tampa Bay area’s TIM planned approaches, Road Rangers, 511 and ITS was shown on a map. The interstate system will be implemented first since multiple problems result from problems on the interstate. A priority is to clear road as soon as possible, but also to allow proper time for investigation and emergency work. Also it is necessary to develop alternative routes for highway users while the roadway is blocked.

Larry Hagan with CUTR presented the Motorcycle Safety Study conducted by CUTR/USF, that studied helmet usage before and then after the repeal of the helmet law. Some of the findings showed a correlation to helmet use and bike type. Overall crash and injury rates declined, maybe because more bikes were being ridden and the number of fatalities and injuries increased. Law enforcement felt that laws were hard to enforce involving insurance required and that injury costs were greater for non-helmeted riders. In summary: helmet use declined; type of bike correlates to helmet use; decline use in Florida was similar to declines in other states; exposure increased; law is difficult to enforce; and, the insurance amount was not enough. Further information on the study may be found on the web site of www.dot.state.fl.us/research-center/completed. Another study to look at demographics of riders may happen if funding is available.

Announcements—Peter announced that the Mean Streets Study is in and the Tampa –St. Pete-Clearwater area is number 2 in the nation as the most dangerous area for pedestrians and bicyclists. Orlando ranked number 1.

Pinellas School Superintendent is interested in having a bike and ped safety program developed within the school district to use in the classrooms.

St. Petersburg College will be the location for a Bike & Pedestrian Enforcement class on Jan 20 & 21. It is open to law enforcement and will be a class and a practical to update officers. A total of 40 officers may attend. It would be a great idea to have the magistrates and traffic court personnel also attend.

511 Traveler Information Service-they have received over 150,000 calls and a high number of hits on their web site (www.511tampabay.com), where you may receive up to the minute traffic conditions with e-mail updates. Their tip line number is 813-207-0800 if you see a traffic incident that needs to be reported. Alerts can also be inserted into the system. The regular line is 813-637-0170, and it is operational 24 hours a day.

The City of Clearwater received a NHTSA Share the Road grant of \$50,000, one of four awarded in the US. Money from this grant can be used for PSAs with Channel 8, for instance. The McMullen-Booth Road/Drew Street pedestrian bridge construction placement will occur on Dec. 11 & 12. The roadway will be closed and it would be best to avoid it altogether.

City of Clearwater and Pinellas County are working to put a pedestrian bridge at Sunset Road west of Betty Lane. Another pedestrian bridge will go in when the location is determined.

FDOT/Pinellas County/Clearwater are working on ped signals on US 19 at 6 locations, Beckett Way, Enterprise, 118th, Seville, MLK (Tarpon Springs) and another location. Four are in the county and 2 are within city limits.

The meeting adjourned 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

Members Present:

Chuck Skipper	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office	582-6439
G.J. Bickel	Clearwater Police Department	562-4242x8000
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
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
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-3885
Robert Daugherty	City of South Pasadena	347-4171
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7536

George Francey	Pinellas Co School Board	507-4450x1024
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
Vicki Gilbert	RID of Tampa Bay	545-1260
Thomas Goldberg	Kenneth City PD	544-2564
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Jim Hartwell	City of Largo	587-6730
Terry Hensley	Law Enforcement Liaison	367-9633
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Mike Jockers	St. Pete Police Department	893-4813
Thea Johnson	Neighborhood Care Network	571-4384
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Felicia Leonard	Clearwater Bike/Ped	562-4852
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758
Mike Meehan	Traffic Pulse Network	813-637-0170
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Kristy Patterson	Palm Harbor Fire	787-5974
Denny Pedrick	FDOT – TIM	813-975-6259
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT – Safety	813-975-6256
Frank Ruggiero	Tarpon Springs Police Dept	
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Pat Siracasa	State Attorney's Office	464-6786
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen, South Pasadena	360-9144
Scott Vaughan	St. Pete Beach PD	363-9200
Melissa Wandall	Mark Wandall Foundation	941-751-9277
Pete Yauch	Pinellas Co Dept of Public Works	464-3364
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Richard Roserry	Pinellas Schools Police Dept	547-7221
David Elmore	Arrow Towing – D7 Road Rangers	
Bennie Tarsitano	Pinellas Co Traffic	464-8926
Susan Viola	Grey Calhoun Associates	813-831-8870
Robert Liddle	FDOT Construction	725-7950
Eric Reale	NTSI	888-349-6874
Larry Hagen	CUTR at USF	813-974-9815
Richard Ranck	DRMP	813-261-9800