

Pinellas County Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2005

Chairperson David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed the members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the previous meeting of December 2, 2004 were approved as distributed.

Subcommittee Reports:

Enforcement – Ron McKenzie reported that the City of St. Petersburg is sponsoring a workshop at the Police Department, 1/20 & 1/21 for police agencies to assist with the enforcement of pedestrian and bicycle safety regulations. The Sheriff's Office is hosting a Standardized Field Sobriety Test course at the Medical Examiner's office through IPTM on 2/28, 3/1 & 3/2. It is grant funded and applicants can contact Sgt. Tim Pelella at 582-5604 for information. Clearwater PD held a DUI wolfpack on 12/31/04 and issued 39 citations, 6 DUI and 6 other arrests. On 12/8/04, they had a Click it or Ticket detail with 132 total citations, 17 were for seatbelts. At year end, Clearwater PD issued 12,400 citations and made 857 arrests, (329 were DUI). They installed 394 child seats, held 11 child seat checkpoints including 1 at the Hispanic outreach center. Pinellas Park PD Special Ops conducted a city wide Truck Route Detail on 12/22/04. A total of 33 trucks were stopped for operating outside of a designated truck route. Of those stopped, 20 were in compliance having just made a delivery or were making a delivery, with 13 in violation of operating outside of the designated truck route. Pinellas Park PD Special Ops also held a Community Policing Detail 12/16 & 12/17, that resulted in 53 traffic citations, 4 bike citations, 11 field interrogation reports and 3 criminal traffic citations. A Commercial Vehicle checkpoint at the Recycle Plant on Starkey Road will be held on 2/9/05 with Largo PD & FDOT Motor Carrier Compliance starting at 0700.

Education—The Suncoast Safety Council needs information from Law enforcement on legislation dealing with aggressive drivers. They need to know the issues from the enforcement community to know if it is worthwhile to try and get legislation passed and if the agencies will support their efforts. Please contact them if interested. The Pinellas CTST will again support the Florin & Roebig Law Office (Palm Harbor) Boat and Bicycle Safety Day on 2/5/05 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. This will be the 4th year the team has participated. There will be a planning meeting at the Florin & Roebig offices on 1/26/05 at 1:00 PM. The Clearwater Traffic team has been deployed into patrol until further notice. Therefore, Clearwater PD will not be able to support the safety day child passenger safety activity at this time.

Engineering – Marc Hanger reported on US 19 regarding the recent evaluation of the continuous right turn lanes. The report showed a high number of left-turn crashes at 298 Ave N, north of Tampa Rd, Highlands Blvd, N & S. Median opening modifications are being considered. A streetscape project including the Pinellas Trail and a refuge island will be undertaken. Also, on Tampa Road, FDOT has awarded Pinellas County funds for median improvements. **Major MOT's**—McMullen Booth Road between Drew & SR

590 will be closed for pedestrian overpass construction on 1/16 & 17 from 4:00AM – 4:00 PM. The Treasure Island Causeway will have one lane in each direction open instead of two during construction for the next three years. Myrtle Avenue will be closed at the railroad crossing north of Drew for construction till 1/24/05.

The City of Dunedin wanted information on the Walk Safe Program funding as they are interested in applying for these federal funds. FDOT is unsure if the dollars are available as there seems to be a hold on federal funding. **Crash Reports**—the latest edition of the Mean Streets report shows Tampa Bay area ranked 10th in greatest decline in pedestrian safety nationally, from 94/95 – 02/03. Also Tampa Bay ranked 2nd by a pedestrian danger index. Another local report shows St. Pete having the lowest fatality rate for large local jurisdictions for pedestrians. **New Innovations**—Salt Lake City had high pedestrian fatalities and started a campaign to make the city more walkable. Actions taken were 1) red flags at intersections for pedestrians to wave at drivers, 2) overhead lights that flash for pedestrians, and 3) undercover police to ticket drivers who fail to yield to pedestrians. As a result, pedestrian crashes fell 36%.

Updates—Pinellas fatalities are up 20 from last year. It is difficult to identify why. The way numbers are identified as a result of a traffic incident was discussed. A revised Road Rage Act will be proposed by FDOT again. They need feedback from law enforcement. Last year, the act died in committee due to sentencing problems. DUI—money for enforcement helps locals. Largo will be targeting DUI with a goal of 250 per officer per year. This will have an impact.

Denny Pedrick, Traffic Incident Management (TIM), said that they will do a subcommittee report to the CTST. There are separate bi-monthly meetings for now. The goal is to improve communication. They requested we add their report to the CTST agenda. They will attempt to continue to gain support for Traffic Management Centers for each county and tie into state 911. It does help in notifying the correct personnel. They want to develop a site management team made up of police, fire, EMS, all thinking traffic to help resolve problems. The Medical Examiner's Office and the Environmental Team allow quicker clean-up to open lanes. There are issues of shared jurisdictions, such as the bridges to consider. The Road Rangers with their 24 hour monitoring and 511 helps with management and safety of drivers.

New Business--Channel 10 Director of Business Development, Becky Kip and Barbara Zant presented their station's Safer Tampa Bay Project/Campaign. They are working with Hillsborough Sheriff's Office and want to encourage other law enforcement alliances. The major emphasis is traffic safety and they believe education is the key to making changes in behavior. They are a CBS affiliate and will use a variety of media, TV ads, web, etc. for information. Their goal is to educate the community to make smart decisions. The web site has been extremely popular with 3.5 million hits monthly. They serve a 10 county area from Citrus to Sarasota. All commercials will be available on the website. They would ask the CTST for leads in locating dollars (\$35,000 per quarter) to promote the traffic safety campaign. Businesses will get their logos and advertising for

participating. Please contact them for any leads or suggestions so that they can continue their efforts.

Pinellas STEPs Committee (School Site Committee) – FDOT is evaluating the area of Alt 19 & Delaware near the Palm Harbor University. There is already an MPO recommendation for a traffic signal @ Florida Avenue & Alt 19. Median work and approaches can be amended to include pedestrian signals. Based on a 45 minute field study by Pinellas County Public Works and Schools staff, there were only 3 times the road could be safely crossed due to steady traffic. An FDOT traffic signal warrant study says a traffic signal is not warranted yet; however, there is a possibility to add pedestrian refuge in the medians which may help.

Announcements—Pete Yauch announced a Bike & Pedestrian Safety Conference, April 6-8, 2005 in Tampa. It will focus on the 3 E's dedicated to Pedestrians and Bicyclists. It will be held at the Holiday Inn on Fowler Ave and they expect 350 will attend with a Saturday ride planned. More information will be distributed later.

St. Pete City PD—On January 20 & 21, there will be a workshop for police focusing on enforcement of Bike and Pedestrian laws.

Terry Hensley announced that new traffic law guides will be printed soon. IPTM has moved and there is a delay in getting the new ones out.

Sue Samson reported working with the Largo PD and Time magazine on older drivers. Please get in touch with her if you know of an older person for an interview regarding this issue.

A Hillsborough Transportation Incident Management meeting is scheduled for 1/11 at the FHP Troop C Headquarters on McKinley Drive in Tampa.

The CTST statewide Coalition meeting will be at the FDOT District 1 office in Bartow on Monday, 1/10 beginning at 10:00 AM.

Peter Hsu has a small amount of funding to use with 19 different law enforcement agencies in Pinellas County to promote traffic safety. It can be used for safety education material. In the past it was used to print the Traffic Safety Tip Cards. He is open to new ideas.

In March, a pedestrian bridge at Sunset Point Road will be installed. The City of Clearwater donated two golf course bridges to the county. Another one will go west of Betty Lane.

The meeting adjourned 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

Members Present:

David Tobiassen	State Attorney's Office	464-6786
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
Charles Cronin	Clearwater Police Dept.	562-4162
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-3885
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas County Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
George Francey	Pinellas County Schools	507-4450 x1024
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
Thomas Goldberg	Kenneth City Police Dept.	544-2564
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Larry Hagen	Center for Urban Transportation	813-974-9815
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Terry Hensley	Law Enforcement Liaison	367-9633
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Thea Johnson	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas County MPO	464-8200
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park Police Dept	541-0758
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Denny Pedrick	Traffic Incident Management	813-975-6259
Diane Roffey	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233x328
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Susan Samson	Area Agency on Aging	570-9696 x234
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen, South Pasadena	360-9144
Scott Vaughn	St. Pete Beach Police Dept	363-9200
Sgt. Butch Ward	Largo Police Department	586-7473
Pete Yauch	Pinellas County Dept Public Works	464-3364
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas County MPO	464-8200
Barbara Zant	WTSP- Tampa Bay's 10	577-8405
Lt. Mike Waters	Clearwater Police Department	562-4161
Becky Kip	WTSP - Tampa Bay's 10	577-8407