

Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2003

Pete Yauch called the meeting to order and introductions were given around the room. Minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Subcommittee Reports:

Enforcement Committee - Ron McKenzie reported the newly formed Incident Management Committee was meeting once a month. Their goal is to clear crashes within 90 minutes and streamline incidents with a DOT response team to help clear the roadway and prevent secondary incidents. Larry Hagan with CUTR (USF) has been invited to our next meeting to discuss Incident Management. Ron said the CTST hopes to work with Motor Carrier Compliance on a commercial vehicle inspection in Largo during the last week of April or first week of May. Terry stated that IPTM has a grant-funded school on Commercial Vehicle Inspection and they need fourteen people to hold the class in Pinellas County.

Engineering/Pedestrian Committee – Marc Hanger reported that next month the entire countywide data would be available for the first time. There was some discussion regarding 20th Ave. S.E. The road was not paved and created environmental concerns with the dust. It is currently paved but is shut off from through traffic. Currently the County does not own the road and has not taken over the maintenance of the road. Commissioner Seel could not make it to the meeting, but sent a memo regarding US 19 regarding the following issues.

- Way finding signs will be installed soon with large numbers.
- FDOT will host an open house on the Drew Street overpass at Coachman Fundamental School at 5:00 pm on 3/20/03
- Commissioner Seel met with the Consultant of the US 19 Task Force for Pasco County
- Publicity is needed regarding the way finding signs
- Complaints about the continuous right turn lanes are being addressed by FDOT.

The top 25 crash locations for the City of St. Petersburg were discussed. These will be investigated by the City:

54th Ave S. & 31st Street = 42 crashes in 2002 (LAP agreement to close median)

22nd N. & 68th Street = 34 crashes (entrance to mall)

94th N. & MLK Street = 34 crashes

22nd N & 28th Street = 31 crashes

22nd N & MLK Street = 30 crashes

6th Ave S & 4th Street = 27 crashes (where 4th Street becomes one way)

This area was changed from a double left to double right and may be confusing.

Mike Frederick said they have \$200,000 year to do modifications.

Education – Kristy Patterson reported a correction to the minutes stating the Safety Day is scheduled for April 12 at the East Lake YMCA from 11-2. A checkpoint is scheduled in Palm Harbor for Saturday, May 3, from 1-3 pm at the Community Development Department, County Connection Center, 2431 Tampa Road. This is following a 32-hour Child Passenger Safety training class. The class will be held on April 24 and 25, and concluded on May 2 and 3 at Station 69 in Tarpon Springs. The new technicians will get hands-on experience at the checkpoint on May 3rd. Kristy asked the enforcement personnel present if they had child safety seats. She had an idea for a grant to fund a van to travel to the hospitals to install child safety seats. The tip card for teens at prom previously discussed by the subcommittee is being developed by Great Bay Distributors.

Team Problem Issues:

*In Pinellas Park, on Brian Dairy around 66th Street there is still confusion with the striping.

*Haines Road in the 54th and 28th triangle area, Marc said the County will do a study on Haines Road; nothing new to report.

Keith Crawford sent a letter two months ago stating DOT would furnish the enforcement lights. He has not received any response. He stated he is proposing to buy lights for 50 intersections and police and engineering need to decide where to place them. FDOT needs a list of where they are placed to account for them.

Keith also asked about pedestrian signs (the signage placed at ped signals). He said FDOT will provide the signs, but he needs to hear from the local agencies as to where they need them. These may be placed on non-state roads.

A discussion followed regarding mutual aid agreements. Largo and Clearwater signed a mutual aid agreement to work crashes in the limited areas between the two jurisdictions. This could work countywide. It was explained that enforcement can document the crash but no enforcement action can be taken unless it is within their line of sight. Their jurisdictional boundaries are not adjacent and sometimes the County owns area in between. This is a complicated agreement now and they are hoping to get everyone involved. Some areas are in the City and some are in the County. This agreement will clean up the boundaries so people are not waiting for service.

We had a presentation on a new safety vest product that is produced by CA-RE Trade in St. Pete. The safety vest has yellow/green reflective tape stripes and 14 flashing lights. This vest greatly promotes visibility. It was reported the Sheriff's Office is purchasing some and there would be a reduced price if buying in bulk.

Terry Hensley reported Pinellas had 100% participation in the BUF enforcement wave. FHP wrote almost 600 citations. He reminded us that challenge applications are due by March 15th and 402 grant concept papers are due by March 31st. Pinellas County is one of ten counties recognized for a sustained impaired driving effort. Terry will set up a meeting with enforcement personnel to talk about the approach for this specific impaired driving effort.

The Memorial Day S.A.L.E. event is being planned. It was announced that if you are going into malls or have exhibits, RID would like to be included.

Largo Police Department reported on a controversial issue regarding motorized scooters. They are excluded from the state statutes. There is no opinion from the State Attorney and it may go to the City Attorney. Right now they are enforcing them as bikes under that Statute 316.

Members Present:

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| T.C. Carter | FDOT, Pinellas | 570-5101 |
| Keith Crawford | FDOT, Safety | 813-975-6255 |
| Charles Cronin | Clearwater PD | 562-4162 |
| David Fechter | TEI Engineers | 813-884-7339 |
| Michael Frederick | City of St. Petersburg | 893-7843 |
| Sgt. Paul Fruik | Florida Highway Patrol | 570-5010 |
| Vicki Gilbert | R.I.D. of Tampa Bay | 545-1260 |
| Marc Hanger | Pinellas MPO | 464-8200 |
| Jim Hartwell | City of Largo | 587-6730 |
| Terry Hensley | Law Enforcement Liaison | 367-9633 |
| Erv Hill | Belleair PD | 588-3769 |
| Sandra Johns | Pinellas Co MPO | 464-8200 |
| Nancy Kelly | Tarpon Springs PD | 938-2849 |
| Shelia Martin | Bay Area Commuter Srv. | 813-282-8200 |
| Lynda Meyer | Pinellas Traffic Eng. | 464-8907 |
| Chuck Mura | City of Largo- Eng. | 587-6713 |
| Kristy Patterson | Palm Harbor Fire | 787-5974 |
| Dep. J. Piper | Pinellas Co Sheriff's Ofc. | 582-6434 |
| Joseph Pratt | St. Pete PD | 893-4883 |
| Jeanette Rouse | FDOT, Safety | 813-975-6256 |
| Kris Scholz | Palm Harbor Fire Rescue | 787-5974 |
| Bill Sparrowhawk | Citizen | 360-9144 |
| Michael Stephens | Belleair Beach PD | 595-4646 |
| Bill Walker | East Lake Fire Rescue | 784-8668 |
| Alison Weber | Pinellas Co Schools | 588-6151 |
| Pete Yauch | TEI | 813-884-7339 |
| Katie Scott | State Attorney | 464-8730 |
| David M. Chase | City of Pinellas Park-Traffic | 541-0773 |

