

**Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting  
Minutes of March 3, 2005**

Chair David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the previous meeting of February 3, 2005 were approved as distributed.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Enforcement** – Ron McKenzie reported that the City of Pinellas Park conducted a Red Light Enforcement detail at US 19 and Park Boulevard on 2/22/05. During a 4 hour period, 51 citations were issued. The Pinellas SO conducted a detail on 2/15/05 in the City of Safety Harbor with 8 traffic deputies. A total of 84 traffic citations were issued, 61 of which were speeding, 3 equipment violations, 1 moving violation, 3 suspended/revoked licenses, 1 failure to obtain a Florida DL, 11 seatbelt violations and 4 other non-moving violations. Also issued were: 1 Misd possession of Marijuana, 1 possession of Paraphernalia and 1 Misd warrant. Largo held a Commercial Vehicle Checkpoint on 2/9/05 which resulted in 114 citations, 90 equipment violations. There were a total of 31 out-of-service violations from a total of 171 vehicles checked. The FDOT had a total of \$5,878.55 in fines imposed from the checkpoint.

**Education** - Diane Roffey reported that the Safety Day 2/5/05 activity had a good turn out and the CTST was well represented. There were helmet giveaways with fittings, a bike rodeo and nice informative displays. The hours were from 9 am – 1 pm. It was successful. Diane and Jeanette Rouse are looking for sponsorships for the *Recipes for the Road* booklet to help with the printing expected to be prior to December, 2005. The booklet was well received this past holiday season and it is hoped that the letter they are working on now will be sent to companies who will be interested in helping with the cost of printing. There will be a Palm Harbor Community Safety Day on 3/19/05 at the St. Pete College, Tarpon Springs. Kristy Patterson is out on medical leave, so contact Palm Harbor Fire Rescue for more information. Melissa Wandall reported on sending the distributed “Letter to the Editor” regarding the proposed Repeat Offender for Red Lights (now tacked on to the existing Habitual Offender legislation) to your legislators. This habitual offender bill is 3 convictions in 3 years and it revokes your license for a minimum of 5 years. It has been named, “the Mark & Madison Wandall Safety Act” and is sponsored by Representative Reagan of Bradenton. Also, the red light camera law was proposed, but no word as to its status. Barb Zant, Channel 10, spoke about the status of the “Safer Tampa Bay” campaign. They started the campaign in February 2005 with the Hillsborough Sheriff’s Office. They anticipate on April 1 beginning the Teen Driving Clinics as Florida is #2 in the U.S. for teen driving fatalities. The clinics will have 40 parents and kids per weekend for one year. They will have education on Friday night and 8 hours of driving on Saturday. In June, the bike/pedestrian safety campaign will begin. Bruce Murakami noted that they have banners for teen driving and will be putting them on the Pinellas Trail for spring break. The banners are available for others.

**Engineering** – Marc Hanger reported that the US 19 engineering report resulted in the MPO taking action to approve the closing of four medians on the north section of US 19 in the Palm Harbor area due to unsafe conditions. The locations are: 298<sup>th</sup> Ave, the median N of Tampa Rd, the median S of Tampa Rd, and at Highlands Blvd. **Traffic Study**-The School District has hired a consultant to help find solutions to traffic problems near Countryside High School, due to incidents at SR 580/McMullen Booth Rd. There is a similar study ongoing at the Seminole School Complex including Boudier Elementary, Seminole Middle School and the high school. The City of Pinellas Park plans on petitioning FDOT for a traffic signal between 52<sup>nd</sup> St. & 66<sup>th</sup> St. on Park Blvd. This is a high volume crash area for peds and bikes because there are few gaps in traffic volumes for pedestrians to cross. **Accident Data** – About 35% of all fatalities in Pinellas during 2004 were on local roads, the remainder of the fatalities was on state roads. There are some good low cost improvements recommended by the Road Improvement Program and funding is available from FDOT. Recommendations include the use of rumble strips, street lighting and guard rails. Also, approximately 40 deer have been killed on north Pinellas roads in 2003 & 2004. The N. Pinellas Human Society received a high number of deer injuries for both years, but not all are reported. Due to the high number of incidents, the Public Works Dept installed “Deer Area” signs in East Lake neighborhoods. **MOTs** – Cleveland Street in Clearwater will add an extra eastbound lane from Osceola to Myrtle Avenue during spring break.

**Updates**—Bruce Shaw, CSX Railroad, showed an Operation Lifesaver video that addressed train safety geared towards law enforcement and fire services. The 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April is Train Awareness Week which will be sponsored the Coalition of Florida CTSTs for the 8<sup>th</sup> year. Florida is the only state to do this and each year it gets bigger and better. Updated booklets on Railroad Law Enforcement will be distributed by CSX.

Terry Hensley is the new Traffic Incident Management representative and new FDOT Traffic Incident Manager. Denny Pedrick, with Gray Calhoun, is working with FDOT during the transition. The goal is to support the reinforcing of policies for aggressive road clearance. New standards for wreckers to clear the road are in force and liability issues have been resolved. Terry wants to re-energize the TIM teams.

**New Business**- Chris Littlefield, from Greenhorne & O’Mara, presented their findings of two studies completed on the US 19 added lane report. The initial study covered US 19 from Republic to Tarpon Ave, approximately 8 miles, and studied crashes in the right lane. Overall there was a 21% decrease in crashes and the 6 high crash locations had a 218% increase in left turn crashes, or angle crashes which are more serious, and sideswipe crashes increased 173%. These left-turn crashes are primarily “through the queue” type and are concentrated at specific locations. The final recommendation is to close median openings at 4 of the 6 high crash locations: 298<sup>th</sup> Ave N., the first median opening south of Tampa Road, the first median opening north of Tampa Road, and Highlands Boulevard N. The long-term plan for US 19 is to add interchanges at Curlew Road, Tampa Road, and Alderman Road. These recommendations are consistent with the long-term plan.

**Announcements**—Toni Horan, Construction Information Liaison, was introduced. She will be working with the Public Information Officers of local agencies and FDOT to inform all regarding construction projects. Toni can get mailings out to let those who need to know about lane shifts, closures, road changes, etc. She plans to attend CTST meetings and provide updates of upcoming projects. The MPO also can provide updates on their website.

Commissioner Karen Seal sent an email request to Dave Fechter regarding the 9 year old child dropped off the school bus and was struck and killed trying to cross the street. She wanted the team to look at issues such as lack of school bus etiquette, lack of bus driver knowledge, school Choice Program taking kids too far from home into unfamiliar areas and bus driver training. The School Board has a committee which has recently reviewed school bus issues and it also found that school bus etiquette is a clear statute that nobody understands. Examples of the confusion were brought up to the team and there was confusion among the members on when to stop for a school bus. The Education Committee was assigned the task of looking into this area.

“Work Zone Safety—It’s Everybody’s Job” is a year long campaign sponsored by FDOT to make motorists more aware when driving through construction zones. More information can be obtained at the website, [www:itseveryonesjob.com](http://www.itseveryonesjob.com). FDOT will use off duty law enforcement officers at the construction sites to catch violators speeding through the work zones. Locally, Work Zone Safety week will be observed on April 3-9, 2005.

Lt. Charlie Cronin retired from Clearwater Police Department on 2/25/05 and is moving north of the area.

Calendar Updates—402 Safety Grants are due to the State Safety Office in Tallahassee by the end of March. There will be an emphasis on funding driver behavior programs. Go to [ctst.org](http://ctst.org) for links to the State Safety Office. The federal amount is supposed to be larger this upcoming year for safety funding.

There will be a Pro Bike/ Pro Walk Florida Conference at the Holiday Inn, Busch Gardens in Tampa on 4/6-4/8.

The Buckle Up Florida Award applications are due 4/15. There is expected to be a CTST Team of the Year award, but the application has not been posted on the website yet. Dave, Jeanette, Katherine and Thea will work on the Team’s application. The annual luncheon is in June, but the location is unknown at this time.

There is confusion when reporting a fatality. The report is filed within 30 days of the crash, but if the person dies after 30 days it is listed as #6, non-traffic fatality.

The Pinellas School Crossing Guard Program, operated by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, received an award as School Crossing Guard Program of the Year. It is quite an honor and it is a well deserved award. Captain Sharon Lough is to be congratulated.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

**Members Present:**

Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
David Chase	City of Pinellas Park	541-0773
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-3885
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas County Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
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	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas County MPO	464-8200
Kevin Matson	Kenneth City Police Department	544-2564
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park Police Department	541-0758
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Cpl. Joe Piper	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office	582-6434
Diane Roffey	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233x328
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Department	813-664-6397
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen, South Pasadena	360-9144
David Tobiassen	State Attorney's Office	464-6786
Melissa Wandall	Mark Wandall Foundation	941-751-9277
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas County MPO	464-8200
Barbara Zant	Tampa Bay's 10 – WTSP	577-8407
Chris Littlefield	Greenhorne & O'Mara	576-2402
Scott Pierce	St. Pete Police Department	893-7633
Robert Fletcher	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office	582-5602
Toni Horan	FDOT	725-7950