

Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2003

In Dave Fechter's absence, Vice Chair Ron McKenzie called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM at the Suncoast Safety Council. Introductions were made around the room. Minutes were approved with one notation; on page 2 it should say "overpasses" not pedestrian overpasses.

Subcommittee Reports:

Enforcement – Jim Bordner said there was some confusion about truck routes between enforcement and engineering personnel. The county ordinance uses 35,000 pounds gross weight. It was recommended the county ordinance be updated to 26,000 pounds to meet the federal standard and state statute.

Jim Byers with the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority spoke about changing the Florida statute to make it a more serious offense to run a red light after the cross traffic has started. This brought up some discussion on the white enforcement lights. Steve Burch countered with the improvement of the white lights. He said at US 19 and SR 60, in four months they wrote 900 citations. Steve said Alabama is using an LED light on the back of the signal. He felt this was limited in its direction and our white lights offer 360 degrees of visibility. Pete Yauch commented that the clearance intervals have gotten longer over the years.

Engineering – Marc Hanger reported on the crash reports at SR 60 and Alt. 19. The data is correct. The database uses 300 feet from the intersection as a default. US 19 is under construction in the area of Sunset, Drew and Coachman. Pedestrians crossing US 19 to catch bus routes will not be able to cross during construction. Buses will have to use the frontage roads to pick up passengers. They will have to take a bus south, then transfer and take a bus in the other direction rather than cross US 19. Marc also discussed emergency power at signalized intersections along the evacuation routes. These would be batteries and stand-by generators. A maintenance of traffic concern was discussed at Treasure Island Causeway being partially closed from four lanes to two lanes. This is a part of the evacuation route. Bill Sparrowhawk had a traffic calming concern at Corey Causeway and Pasadena with the speed limit posted too high. One stretch is posted at 40 mph. We had an update on Micro Networks by Mike Meehan regarding traffic reporting on the Interstates. Their new name is Mobility Technologies and they have two state contracts to install sensors and develop and operate the Advance Travel Information System, ATIS, 511 to call for traffic information. This is voice activated and has cameras to enhance information on what's happening on the roadway. There are poles with solar powered detectors that sample levels of traffic, the speed of the lanes, and the number of cars going by. It should be in operation by July 2004 to include the sensors. Their operations number is 813-637-0170. Currently the Orlando office is open 24 hours a day at 407-869-8025.

Education - Diane Roffey said the Safety Council will write a grant and will work with the Sheriff's Office. One recommendation was a PSTA bus wrap with a Buckle Up or DUI message. The Hillsborough Sheriff's Office has graphics for a bus wrap with buckle up that we might use. We are looking for additional sponsors who may want to help. The cost is \$20,000-\$24,000 for a year which includes monthly maintenance to wash the bus. This is good exposure. Kristy Patterson reported the Education Subcommittee is also planning a mock DUI at Palm Harbor in April. We would also like to do a mid or south county high school such as Clearwater or Countryside and work with the School Resource Officers. The Great American Teach-in is November 19. Kristy urged everyone to volunteer.

Kristy also reported on the Traffic Incident Management meetings. At the last meeting they discussed turning your flashers off at the scene. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) gives 90 minutes as just a general guideline for clearing the scene. There was some discussion on this issue. Jim Bordner asked to not disturb the crash scene. He said it's a rescue effort first then a crime scene and asked them to not tamper with the evidence. This can bring a blurring of the facts with a jury.

Kristy also discussed 911 calls. The state mutual aid channel is 853-3875.

Commuter choices week is October 6-11, 2003. The purpose of this week is to get solo drivers to share rides by vanpooling or carpooling. The Bay Area Commuter Services is planning a weeklong series of events on commuter choice options.

Calendar Updates:

- The North Pinellas County Expo is Saturday, October 4th, at Countryside
- Traffic Incident Management meeting is November 4th at Clearwater Police Department from 10:00 AM to noon
- Jim Bordner reported a training day for law enforcement only on Saturday, September 13th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on medical updates

Peter reported he is getting ready to purchase enforcement lights. Please let him know how many you need.

Steve Burch reported they have received a youth alcohol grant and will purchase portable breath testers. The grant also has a public information and education component. Steve says the Clearwater Police Department has a new program two days a month. On the first Tuesday they conduct Click it or Ticket details. This month they wrote 97 citations. On the last Friday of the month, they will conduct a Booze it and Lose it detail.

Members Present:

Jim Bordner	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office	582-6439
Lt. Steve Burch	Clearwater Police Department	562-4161
David M. Chase	City of Pinellas Park	541-0773
Charles Cronin	Clearwater Police Department	562-4162
Robert Daugherty	City of South Pasadena	347-4171

George Francey	Pinellas School Board	507-4245
Thomas Goldberg	Kenneth City Police Department	544-2564
Geoffrey Gray	AARP 55 Alive	393-5988
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Jim Hartwell	City of Largo	587-6730
Peter Hsu	FL Dept of Transportation	813-975-6251
Ciari Jalandoni	Bay Area Commuter Services	813-282-8200x232
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas Co. MPO	464-8200
Felicia Leonard	Clearwater Bike/Ped	562-4852
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park Police Department	541-0758
Chuck Mura	City of Largo – Engineering	587-6713
Kristy Patterson	Palm Harbor Fire	787-5974
Joseph Pratt	St. Pete Police Department	893-4883
Tom Reichert	Pinellas County Schools	547-7294
Diane Roffey	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233x328
Jeanette Rouse	FL Dept of Transportation	813-975-6256
Kris Scholz	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	787-5974
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen	360-9144
Scott Vaughn	St. Pete Beach Police Dept	363-9200
Lt. Rob Vincent	Gulfport Police Dept	893-1055
Lydia Wardell	State Attorney's Office	464-6786
Pete Yauch	TEI Engineering	813-884-7339
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
Mike Meehan	Traffic Pulse Networks	813-637-0170