

Pinellas County Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2004

Dave Fechter called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the sign-in sheet was passed around the room.

Subcommittee Reports:

Enforcement – Pinellas Park Police Department hosted a truck route detail and DUI saturation patrol. In July the department issued 422 citations and made 22 arrests. Largo PD also participated in DUI patrols. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office hosted 2 checkpoints and 12 saturation patrols during August. 47 DUI arrests were made by the 6-member DUI Squad. On 8/6/04 they conducted a checkpoint in Dunedin and on 8/7/04, their second checkpoint was in Clearwater on US 19 at the K-Mart. These checkpoints resulted in 12 arrests, 11 DUIs, 17 traffic citations and 5 vehicles impounded. The PCSO worked with FDOT Motor Carrier Compliance for a commercial motor vehicle enforcement detail on 8/11/04 in the mid-county area. 54 trucks were stopped for violations observed resulting in 49 traffic citations and \$6,187.65 in fines were collected. St. Petersburg PD held a DUI checkpoint on 8/27/04 on 9th Avenue North which resulted in 6 arrests, 3 DUIs, 37 total citations, and 2 vehicles impounded.

Education – Diane Roffey reported the committee hopes to work with Great Bay Distributors and Clear Channel Outdoor on a DUI billboard campaign for the holidays. The team is also working on the "Recipes for the Road" booklet of non-alcoholic recipes to be used over the holiday season.

Engineering – Marc Hanger said a crosswalk signal feature for pedestrians has been approved but funding is still being determined for Alt 19 and Main Street in Dunedin. On Patricia Ave. in Dunedin, a FDOT safety funded project for major improvements has recently been completed. Brochures were distributed to team members with the new fish signs that were recently installed along the Pinellas Gulf beaches. These are similar to the way finding signs installed along US 19. The mile markers are reportedly working out well and help people find where they are going. These mile markers are located every mile starting at the southern end of St. Pete Beach with "0" and end at "25" at the northern end of Clearwater Beach. Marc also reported the 511 traveler information system begins today, 9/2. This is a free 24/7 traveler information system that features voice activated technology. You may also access their website at www.511tampabay.com. SIT is Simple Intelligent Transportation System and their website is now completed. For road construction project information, you may find this information at the MPO website at www.pinellascounty.org/MPO. The Traffic Incident Management meeting is scheduled for September 8th at the FDOT Maintenance yard location on 5211 Ulmerton Road from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Denny Pedrick is the new TIM Manager for FDOT.

Old Business: Events – none.

New Business: Election of Team Secretary – Dave explained that Alison resigned due to her work load. She did a fantastic job as secretary and took the team to the next level, where it was able to win the 2003 CTST Team of the Year Award and the 2002 AAA Gold Award. Contact Dave if you are interested in serving in this position. We will hold elections at our next meeting for team Secretary.

Presentations: Our first presentation was given by Dr. Ron Van Houten. He spoke on the training course regarding traffic pedestrian enforcement, which addresses pedestrian friendly engineering, education and enforcement. He said it is an eye opener to see the magnitude of the problem. Many times it is the driver's fault. If the pedestrian is on their radar scope, the driver has the weapon. The driver must exercise due care to avoid a crash. The main focus of the course is to tighten cases so you can win in traffic court. He is meeting with magistrates so they are aware of all the laws when citations are issued. He feels we need to generate publicity to make more motorists aware of their responsibilities. The course is free and there is field work, in addition to classroom presentations. Dr. Van Houton would like all the officers in Pinellas County to be able to attend.

Our second presentation was given by Bruce Murakami with Safe Teen Driver. Bruce said their main focus is driver education classes within local high schools. They hope to be in Pinellas County schools this year. They typically can bring their reality based program to 2-3 schools per month. He said he is working with a movie production company in Nashville, TN to direct and produce a video targeting teen drivers to make the right choices behind the wheel. They hope to use real crash footage to bring reality to the presentation. They are opening three new chapters in New York, California and Hawaii. Bruce is planning to purchase a car, customized for Safe Teen Driver and use it to encourage teens to race at local tracks and sanctioned road races. This October Safe Teen Driver will participate in three events in Hawaii. You may visit their website at www.safeteedriver.org.

Our third presentation was given by Jim Millican with Lealman Fire Rescue. Jim said they are working on behalf of Safe Kids to promote the Walk Your Child to School day event at area schools. He gave a Power Point presentation that explained for 5-14 year olds, the number one cause of death was unintentional injury. Safe Kids Walk this Way event will be held on October 6th, the first Wednesday in October. They currently have 13 schools participating and are encouraging media involvement. They have a walkability checklist and are doing data collection and speed surveys. Within the next five years, they want to involve all the schools in the County to participate in this event to encourage children to learn proper pedestrian behavior.

It was announced that long-time Pinellas CTST member and former chairman Steve Burch is the new Police Chief in Crystal River.

Peter Hsu reported on a recent red light running crash at SR 580 and Bayview Boulevard in the Oldsmar area in which a coworker's son was involved. He encouraged the use of white enforcement lights to help reduce these intersection crashes and said he was working with the County on the LED light. FDOT is also producing a roll call video to be used for those enforcement personnel outside of the traffic units to explain how the white lights work.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Rouse

Members Present:

Charles Skipper	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office	582-6439
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
TC Carter	FDOT, Maintenance	570-5101

Charles Cronin	Clearwater PD	562-4162
Kendall Davidson	State Attorney's Office	464-6221
Robert Daugherty	City of South Pasadena	347-4171
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
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 PD	893-4813
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Nancy Kelly	Tarpon Springs PD	938-2849
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Kristy Patterson	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	787-5974
Tom Reichert	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7294
Diane Roffey	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233x328
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT, Safety	813-975-6256
Susan Samson	Area Agency on Aging	570-9696x234
Bruce Shaw	CSX RR PD	813-664-6397
Pat Siracasa	State Attorney's Office	464-6786
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen	360-9144
Scott Vaughn	St. Pete Beach PD	363-9200
Lydia Wardell	State Attorney's Office	464-6786
Pete Yauch	Pinellas County – DPW	464-3364
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Dean LoBianco	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758