

**Pinellas County Community Traffic Safety Team  
Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2006**

Chairperson David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed members present. Introductions were made. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as distributed.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Enforcement** –Ron McKenzie reported that the Sheriff's Office May activities included 2 DUI Checkpoints on May 12 & 13 with 10 DUI's, 2 second refusal, 2 DWLSR, 2 possible cocaine, 2 no valid DL, 2 poss Oxycodone, 2 possession of unauthorized ID, 1 carrying a concealed weapon, and 1 disorderly intox for a total of 17 arrests, and 23 citations. On May 17, a 2 hour red light detail was held in Seminole that netted 22 red light violations, 3 seatbelt violation, 2 criminal violations, 1 moving violation, 5 non-moving violations, 2 warnings for a total of 33 citations issued. The CR296/US 19 detail on May 26, yielded 93 citations and 1 arrest while the Bayside Bridge Detail had 77 citations. May 27 & 28 county wide details were conducted with 135 citations, 6 warnings, 1 narcotics arrest, 2 possible narcotics and 2 arrests. The Bayside Bridge Detail held on the 28<sup>th</sup> netted 113 citations, 8 warnings & 3 possible narcotics 3 arrests. The minimum speed stopped was 70 mph and although they were using 7-8 vehicles, they ran out of chase vehicles. On May 30, a north county wolf pack was held with 70 speeding, 6 seatbelt, 16 nonmoving, 1 moving violation, 5 warnings and 1 arrest made. A total of 564 citations and 24 arrests were made in May. Also reported Largo PD hosted a Commercial Motor Vehicle Checkpoint in conjunction with other Law enforcement and FDOT Motor Carrier Compliance. A total of 102 vehicles were checked, with 97 infractions, 12 taken out of service, 12 overweight, 2 drivers taken out of service, 6 criminal citations and 2 arrests. Another CMV checkpoint is planned with the Sheriff's Office on June 21. A white light enforcement at East Bay/ US19 yielded 56 citations in 2.5 hours using 4 chase cars. The seatbelt ticket numbers are not in yet.

Robert Davis noted that on St. Pete beach this past Memorial weekend, many of the hotels had *Click It or Ticket* ads on their marquee signs.

**Education** –Bruce reported that the last Cars Program was held at the end of May since school is out. They are retooling the Street Night at the Sunshine Speedway. Bruce, Bonnie, Melissa, Katherine, Jeanette, & Melissa are planning to work the CTST booth at the Toyota Teen Driver Event at Tampa Bay Downs on June 2- 4. This teen defensive driving course is a 4-hour program to supplement teen's behind the wheel driver's training and has a waiting list for attendance. It is very popular with the students. Teens from Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco are registered to attend. Toyota spends about \$500,000 per event and travels to towns around the US conducting these free classes.

**Engineering** – Marc Hanger reported that the north side of the Treasure Island Causeway is expected to be open June 3<sup>rd</sup> with one lane in each direction. Construction of the south side will take another year to complete. Construction of the new Belleair Bridge is

expected to start in September and will take 2.5 years to complete. The existing bridge should remain open during construction except for some periodic night time closures. The City of Clearwater has scaled back plans for 6 roundabouts along Cleveland St. in the Skycrest neighborhood to 4 roundabouts at Lake Drive, Saturn, Corona and Aurora Avenues. The traffic circles will calm the traffic by reducing speeds. Construction will start this fall. NHTSA has released year 2006 rollover ratings for vehicles. The worst offenders with a 23% or greater rollover risk were: 1). Ford E350 Van, 2). Chevy Express Van 3).Nissan Exterra SUV 4). Hummer H3 SUV 5). Chevy Tahoe ,GMC Yukon, Cadillac Escalade SUV's (same platform) 6)Ford Explorer SUV. Peter sent in stats that showed for the first 4 months of 2006, 40% of fatalities were on county/city roads. This data can be monitored and then considered when planning future projects.

**TIM** – Terry Hensley reported that the Road Ranger's federal self assessment was good. There is an information campaign coming up soon. Also, they are getting printed material that will help explain the no tipping policy to the public. People don't seem to believe that the Rangers cannot accept tips and it has caused some problems.

**OLD BUSINESS -** Dave is working on pulling together some Motorcycle Safety Tips with some associates that do ride cycles. We hope to print these educational tip cards soon.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Peter Berkman presented on the Nestor Traffic Systems Photo Enforcement Speed technology. This is an automated enforcement system based on the vehicle owner liability that benefits officer safety and morale. The machine records the violation, the evidence is reviewed and a citation is issued/delivered by mail to the vehicle owner. Advantages are the cost savings, increased citations, increased convictions with the goal to reduce accidents. There was much interest and good discussion following the presentation.

**OPEN FORUM** – Jeanette distributed safety bookmarks and has more that can be requested. Bicycle safety Tip Sheets are being developed now with the cooperation of the St. Pete Bike Club.

Elections will be held in July. Team members decided to have nominations from the floor rather than a committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup>. The members felt that it was not a problem with the holiday week, so the meeting date will remain the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday. Remember to encourage attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

## **Members Present:**

|                     |                              |              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Katherine Burbridge | Pinellas County              | 453-3457     |
| Mike Burke          | Pinellas Co Schools          | 547-7100     |
| Harriet Burns       | RID of Tampa Bay             | 797-4623     |
| Kendall Davidson    | State Attorney               | 464-6221     |
| Robert Davis        | Pinellas County              | 464-8855     |
| George Edmiston     | Largo Police Dept            | 586-7473     |
| Kevin Fannon        | Pinellas Co Schools          | 547-7536     |
| David Fechter       | HNTB                         | 813-884-7339 |
| Mike Gust           | City of Dunedin              | 298-3223     |
| Marc Hanger         | Pinellas Co MPO              | 464-8200     |
| Terry Harding       | AAA Auto Club South          | 448-2600     |
| Terry Hensley       | FDOT – TIM                   | 813-975-6259 |
| Mike Jockers        | St. Pete Police Dept         | 893-4813     |
| Kim Jowell          | Suncoast Safety Council      | 442-0233     |
| Thea Johnson        | Neighborly Care Network      | 571-4384     |
| Melissa Kuruzovich  | UPN 44- WTOG                 | 813-220-5174 |
| Ron McKenzie        | Pinellas Park Police Dept    | 541-0758     |
| Robert Mitchell     | AAA Auto Club South          | 448-2600     |
| Bruce Murakami      | Safe Teen Driver             | 420-7937     |
| Tom Paul            | Congressman Bilirakis        | 773-2871     |
| Cpl. Jim Piper      | Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office | 582-6434     |
| Jeanette Rouse      | FDOT Safety                  | 813-975-6256 |
| Marian Scorza       | FDOT Public Information      | 813-975-6038 |
| Pat Siracusa        | State Attorney's Office      | 464-6786     |
| Bonnie Tarsitano    | Pinellas Co Traffic          | 464-8926     |
| Venkat Vattikuti    | Tindale Oliver               | 813-224-8862 |
| Melissa Wandall     | Mark Wandall Foundation      | 941-751-9277 |
| Tom Washburn        | Pinellas County              |              |
| Pete Yauch          | Pinellas County – DPW        | 464-3364     |
| Randy Bly           | AAA Auto Club South          | 813-289-5934 |
| Darrell Schultz     | DHSMV                        | 863-499-2921 |
| Peter Berkman       | Nestor Traffic Systems       | 813-600-2971 |