



Florida Department of Transportation  
District 7  
11201 N. McKinley Drive  
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

**CTST MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Hillsborough County CTST - 4th Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.  
Pasco County CTST - 4th Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.  
Pinellas County CTST - 1st Thursday at 9:30 a.m.  
West Central Florida CTST - 2nd Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY EVENTS:**

**March 11**—Safe Kids Bike Rodeo  
Flat Woods Park Entry Station, Tampa, FL

**April 3-9**—Work Zone Safety Week

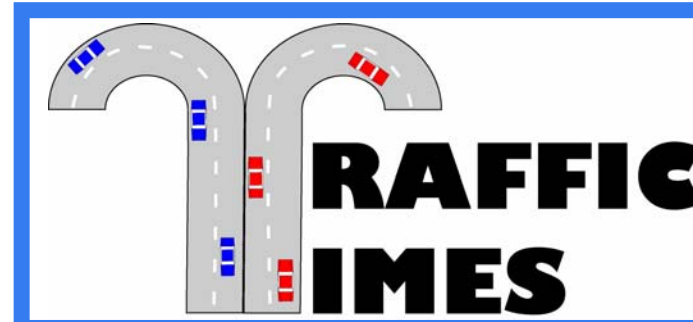
**April 9-11**—Lifesavers Conference—Austin, TX

**April 19-21**—Pro Bike/Pro Walk Conference—St. Augustine, FL

<http://www.probikeprowalk.florida.com>

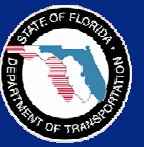
**April 24**—CTST Coalition Meeting—Jacksonville, FL

For information on location of meetings and events contact  
Jeanette Rouse at 813-975-6256 or [jeanette.rouse@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:jeanette.rouse@dot.state.fl.us)



February 2006

A newsletter published by the  
Community Traffic Safety  
Teams (CTST), Sponsored by  
the Florida Department of  
Transportation, District 7.



Local People Solving Local Problems

**Inside this issue:**

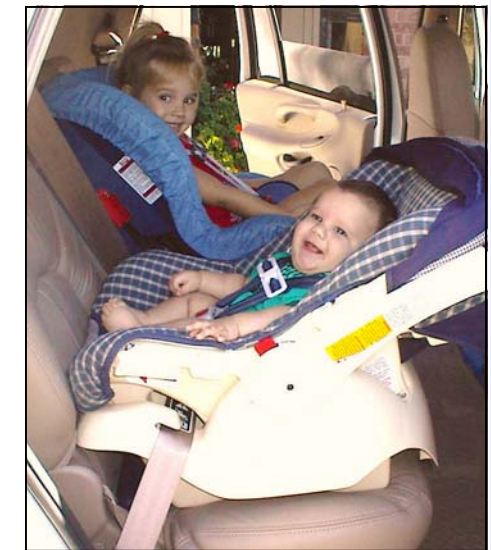
- Child Passenger Safety Week
- Ride for Science
- Pinellas CTST Wins Award
- Motorcycle Safety
- Move It! It's the Law!

**February 13-19 is Child Passenger Safety Week**

Local Safe Kids coalitions across the country will hold car seat inspections at Chevrolet dealerships in observance of Child Passenger Safety Week. Free inspections will be performed by certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians, with an emphasis on training parents and caregivers to install and adjust their car seats correctly.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children under 14. Properly used, a car seat reduces the risk of death by 71 percent for rear-facing infants and 54 percent for forward-facing toddlers. All children under forty pounds must be restrained in an appropriate car seat every time they ride—whether in the family car, traveling with friends or relatives, or in a rental car or taxi. Bigger kids need to be in booster seats until they are about eight years old and about five feet tall.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, approximately 73 percent of all child passenger restraints—more than eighty percent of car seats and about forty percent of booster seats—are used incorrectly. In a crash, a child restrained incorrectly is 3.5 times more likely to be seriously injured than a child who is properly restrained.



*Happy babies are buckled up babies!*

A CPS Technician's job is to teach you, the parent or caregiver, how to install and adjust your car seat. It is a parent's responsibility to make sure all children in a moving car are properly restrained at all times. Think of the inspection as a private lesson in the correct use of your car seat.

Why not just let the experts install your seat for you? Because you will occasionally need to remove a car seat and reinstall it later—to clean the car interior, to make room for adult passengers when your child is not in the car, or to transport your child in a relative's car or rental car. You also need to adjust the seat's harness straps as your child grows and, for some restraint systems, the adjustments are made on the back of the seat. So you need to know how to install your child's seat and a technician's role is to show you how to do it right.

Although local Safe Kids coalitions make special efforts to raise awareness during Child Passenger Safety Week, we want every week to be a child passenger safety week. Inspections are available all year.

For more info please visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) or call 1-800-441-1888.

**Move It! It's the Law!**

Moving your damaged vehicle off the roadway helps clear crashes quickly, reduces congestion and improves the safety conditions for responders.

If you are involved in a crash, follow these **FOUR** steps:

1. **CHECK for Injuries** - If anyone is injured, call 911 immediately and wait for emergency responders. Do Not Move Vehicles!
2. **MOVE IT...Yes You Can!** - If no one is hurt, determine if vehicles are movable. You are required by law to move your vehicle. Move vehicles off the road to the nearest safe location.
3. **NOTIFY Law Enforcement** - If there are no injuries, call 911 to alert them of the crash. Provide your location and direction of travel. Follow the instructions of the dispatcher.
4. **REPORT the Crash** - Exchange driver, vehicle, and insurance information. Report the crash as instructed by law enforcement and your insurance provider.

Police and insurance companies will not penalize you for moving your vehicle off the road.

For more information on the Move It! Campaign, please call Terry Hensley at (813) 975-6259 or [terry.hensley@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:terry.hensley@dot.state.fl.us)



“Step Up, Florida—On Our Way to Healthy Living!” is a statewide initiative promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles to Florida’s citizens and visitors. Step Up, Florida! has its own “Day” in each county, with local activities planned. For a calendar of events, check out: [www.doh.state.fl.us/family/chronicdisease/walk\\_index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/chronicdisease/walk_index.html)



Sprinkle Consulting, Inc staff, with funding from FDOT District 7, held the Ride for Science 2005 in Tampa on Saturday, November 12, 2005. The event captured how well roadway sections accommodated bicyclists, eliciting their perceived level of safety and comfort provided by the bicycling environment. For this event, participants completed two primary activities: (1) they viewed a video simulation; and (2) they rode a 20-mile course through the urbanized areas surrounding the University of South Florida (USF) and Busch Gardens. During both the video simulation and the bicycle ride, participants rated the varying geometric and operational environments on a pseudo academic ("A" to "F" representing "best" to "worst") scale. About 75 participants watched the video and about 60 rode the course.

The results of this research will be used to make recommendations to the FDOT for better design guidelines that will help improve bicycling conditions in Hillsborough County and throughout Florida.



## Pinellas County Won CTST Team of the Year Award!



The Community Traffic Safety Team of the Year Award recognizes a single team for their innovative ideas, education and enforcement programs, and effectiveness and leadership in promoting traffic safety.

The Florida Department of Transportation understands the important role the Community Traffic Safety Teams play in promoting traffic safety awareness and we are proud to publicly recognize the Pinellas County CTST Team for being selected the CTST Team of the Year for their dedication and commitment during 2004.

Congratulations to all the members of the Pinellas County CTST team!

*Congratulations to the Pinellas County CTST team, and thank you for your hard work in promoting traffic safety awareness.*



## Motorcycles.....are they really safe?

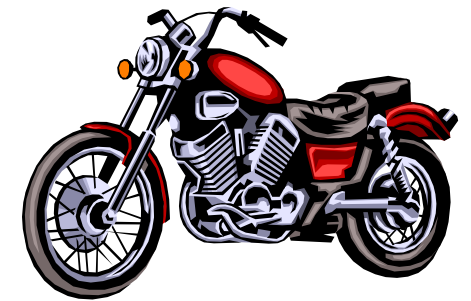
Steve Cook, Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven

They really aren't out to get you.

If you ride a motorcycle, especially in the "mean streets" of the Tampa Bay area, you must sometimes feel that you have a big "HIT ME" sign on your back. Who among us has not had the coffee drinking, cell phone talking, make-up applying, SUV driver ease over into our lane? I was cut off twice on Ulmerton Road just the other day. The Hurt Study<sup>1</sup> is the most recent comprehensive study of motorcycle crashes. It determined that the single most common (and deadly) crash involving motorcycles was a vehicle turning left into their path. If you have had this happen, then you know how scary it can be.

Who has the responsibility to assure you have a safe ride? It would be nice to believe that the four wheel vehicle operator will obey the rules, see you, yield the right of way properly, etc. Too often that's not the case. Invariably, in a vehicle crash involving a motorcycle, the car driver says, "I didn't see them." Often, the motorcyclist involved in the same crash says, "I made eye contact and they just pulled out." The cold, hard fact is that responsibility for your safety rests solely on you.

As a motorcyclist for more than thirty years, averaging several thousand miles per year in all types of conditions, I have been involved in only two accidents. One was a minor accident and the other a potentially serious crash that I walked away from. Does that make me an expert? Not on your life...or mine. Each day brings another challenge.



Keep the rubber side down.

1. Motorcycle Accident Cause Factors and Identification of Countermeasures, Volume 1: Technical Report, Hurt, H.H., Ouellet, J.V. and Thom, D.R., Traffic Safety Center, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California 90007, Contract N. DOT HS-5-01160, January 1981 (Final Report)

### The More You Know The Better It Gets

Motorcycles can provide many hours of enjoyable riding pleasure, save fuel, and be easy to park. Unfortunately, many riders never learn the critical skills needed to ride safely. Professional training for beginning and experienced riders prepares them for real world situations.

Motorcycle rider courses teach and improve activities such as:

- effective turning
- braking maneuvers
- protective apparel selection
- obstacle avoidance
- traffic strategies
- responsible attitudes

For more information on the DHSMV Florida Rider Training Program, check out:

<http://casey.hsmv.state.fl.us/intranet/ddl/motorcycles/>

For more information on motorcycle safety, check out:

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/motorcycle/index.html>  
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/motorcycle/FlaMCReport/images/FloridaMCReportscri.pdf>

**Don't Forget**

**Safety Grant Concept Papers are due by March 31, 2006**

