



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:**

- Oct. 2-6 - Drive Safely to Work Week**
- Oct. 2 - 6 Walk & Roll to School Week**
- Oct. 9 - Statewide Coalition Meeting in Gainesville (Workshops)**
- Oct. 10 - Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day**
- Oct. 15 - 21 - School Bus Safety Week**
- Oct. 15 - National White Cane Day**
- Nov. 13 - 26 Thanksgiving Click It or Ticket**

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)

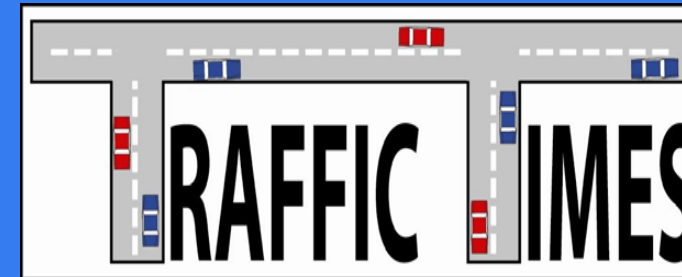


**Congratulations to the recent winners of the Florida Law Enforcement Challenge...**

The Florida Law Enforcement Challenge is a competition among similar sizes and types of law enforcement agencies. It recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in Florida. The areas of concentration include efforts to enforce laws and educate the public about occupant protection, impaired driving, and speeding.

- Officer Steve Gassen, Tarpon Springs Police Department**—Florida Law Enforcement Officer of the Year—3rd place
- Crystal River Police Department**—2nd Place (Police Category II)
- St. Pete Beach Police Department**—3rd Place (Police Category III)
- Tarpon Springs Police Department**—3rd Place (Police Category II)
- Hernando County Sheriff's Office**—3rd Place (Sheriff Category II)
- Pasco County Sheriff's Office**—2nd Place (Sheriff Category II)
- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office**—1st Place (Sheriff Category II)
- New Port Richey Police Department**—Impaired Driving Award—presented to the law enforcement agency with the best impaired driving program in Florida.

The Florida Department of Transportation is an equal opportunity employer without regard for race, religion, sex, or age.



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:**

- Learning about the White Cane Law
- Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day
- Motorcycle Safety Gear
- Walk and Roll to School Day
- Recent Florida Law Enforcement Challenge Winners

**What do you know about the White Cane Law?**

**White Cane Law: Traffic regulations to assist blind persons**  
*Florida Statute 316.1301*

"Whenever a pedestrian is crossing, or attempting to cross, a public street or highway, guided by a dog guide or carrying in a raised or extended position a cane or walking stick which is white in color or white tipped with red, the driver of every vehicle approaching the intersection or place where the pedestrian is attempting to cross shall bring his or her vehicle to a full stop before arriving at such intersection or place of crossing and, before proceeding, shall take such precautions as may be necessary to avoid injuring such pedestrian."

During the 1960s, several state organizations and rehabilitation agencies serving blind and visually impaired citizens of the United States urged Congress to proclaim October 15 of each year to be White Cane Safety Day. This marked a climactic moment in a long campaign to gain state and national recognition for the white cane.

The cane has long been a mobility device, symbol and identifier for the blind and visually impaired. Throughout history, the cane, staff, and stick have existed as travel tools to aid the blind in recognizing obstacles in their path.

It was not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the white cane was promoted for use as a symbol to alert others to the fact that an individual was blind. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, blind persons walked with their canes held diagonally in a fixed position to alert others.

When blind veterans of World War II returned to the United States, the use of the white cane emerged as a symbol of blindness and began to make its way into government policy.

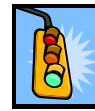


**April Stanley, Senior Rehabilitation Specialist**  
*Division of Blind Services*  
**Florida Department of Education**

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"Last year we were car riders and this year we have been riding bikes to school. The kids and I both love it! It takes me the same amount of time as it did to drive to school without all the hassle. I feel like it gets the kids' blood pumping and wakes them up more so they are more alert and mentally active by the time they get to school."

*-Beth Cupari*  
*Believer in Walk and Roll to School*



## What is the White Cane Law? Continued

In the first White Cane Proclamation, President Lyndon Johnson commended the blind for the growing spirit of independence and their increased determination to be self-reliant. "A white cane in our society has become one of the symbols of a blind person's ability to come and go on his own," he said. "Its use has promoted courtesy and opportunity for mobility of the blind on our streets and highways."

April Stanley is an outstanding example of the spirit of independence. April is the Senior Rehabilitation Specialist for the Division of Blind Services in the Florida Department of Education. She commutes to work every day on the bus with her dog, Ventura. On a good day, it takes her approximately 1 hour and 5 minutes to get to work, but that doesn't slow her down at all. Her passion to get to work and to be able to help others has been a source of encouragement for many people. "God put me where I am needed," said April. Now she is doing what she loves and is definitely helping others in the process.



## October 15th is National White Cane Day.

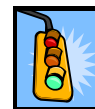


## October 10th — PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES DAY

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day is a nationwide campaign whose goal is to generate enough public awareness to have a day with zero fatalities on America's streets and highways. It is important that everyone — pedestrians, bicycle and motorcycle operators, and passenger, focus on their own individual behavior when using the roadways. Each person needs to take an extra measure of care to ensure their safety and the safety of others by sharing the road with other users in safe manner.

To greatly reduce your odds of becoming a traffic statistic, follow these simple, proactive steps:

- Drive courteously and defensively.
- Know the rules of the road for your method of transportation.
- Obey all signs and signals.
- Wear protective gear (e.g., seat belts or helmets).
- Make sure that children are properly restrained.
- Avoid speeding, driving while impaired or distracted, and driving in an aggressive manner.



## Motorcycle Safety Gear...

Steve Cook, Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven

I'd like to talk about safety gear. This subject is open to a variety of opinions and preferences. Whole volumes have been written on this subject. No matter how long we have ridden, we must acknowledge that we are vulnerable when we ride our motorcycles. There is not enough safety gear in the world to protect us from a serious encounter with a four wheeled vehicle. But, in the majority of situations, there is safety gear available that will lessen the injury if an accident occurs.

The single most valuable piece of safety gear is a quality, DOT approved, helmet. The wearing of helmets is a widely discussed and highly emotional issue. The discussion ranges from the "ride free, no helmet, wind in my hair" folks to the "full face, racer replica, sport-bike" crowd. Emotions and vanity aside, the use of a protective shell for your brain just makes sense. Take your knuckles and rap on your head. Hurts doesn't it? Now imagine that head hitting the pavement or sliding to a stop on that nice smooth asphalt.



Just a few years ago, the owner of a motorcycle shop in Orlando, was found seriously injured, lying next to a motorcycle. It appears he was simply moving the bike from the back of the shop to the front when he somehow lost control, fell off, and hit his head. He died after two days in the hospital. I'm sure, as an experienced motorcyclist, he never thought it would happen to him.

Safety experts recommend leather boots that cover the ankle, abrasion resistant pants and jacket, gloves, helmet and eye protection whenever we ride. I'll admit the Florida heat and humidity make some gear uncomfortable. Fortunately, manufacturers are making most of this gear ventilated and comfortable for most conditions. Yet, we still see motorcyclists riding in shorts, tank tops, and even flip-flops. Amazing to me is the sport-biker in tank top, shorts, and a \$400 helmet. Even more astounding is when this helmet is hanging off the bike instead of on the head.

Wearing safety is a choice. Just realize that there are comfortable products that increase your chances of survival and make your ride more pleasant.



## October 4: Walk -n- Roll to School Day

October 2-6 is Walk-n-Roll to School week and is an international event with over 30 countries participating this year. Walking and biking to school are a great way for kids to get exercise and reduce traffic near schools.

In Florida, 135 schools have registered to participate, including 25 schools in Pinellas County, 4 schools in Pasco County (Dayspring Academy, Dayspring Middle, Marlowe Elementary and Deer Park Elementary), 3 schools in Hillsborough County (Westchase Elementary, Davis Elementary, and Shaw Elementary), 1 school in Citrus County (Homosassa Elementary), and 1 school in New Port Richey (NPR Elementary).

Many thanks to the supporters of this event: All Children's Hospital in Pinellas County, Pasco County Health Department, Safe Kids Tampa, and the Citrus County Sheriff's Department.

For more information, or to register your school for this event, simply go to:

<http://www.walktoschool.org/who/index.cfm>