

**Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting
April 5, 2007 Minutes**

Chair David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Subcommittee Reports

Enforcement:

George Edmiston reported that the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office announced the Memorial Day SALE (Sea, Air, Land Enforcement) Press Conference will be at 10:00 AM on May 23rd across from the St. Pete Airport on 46th Street. Many local law enforcement agencies will be attending. On May 15th, the PCSO is hosting an Aggressive Driver Class for law enforcement at the Medical Examiner's Office, 10900 Ulmerton Rd, Largo. The registration form for the free class is available on their intra-office web page or calls may be directed to 582-5714, or 582-5724. Traffic enforcement March activities conducted by the PCSO included:

- An aircraft detail on the Bayside Bridge, March 17, which resulted in 42 speeding, 7 moving, 13 non-moving, 2 DWLSR, 3 seatbelt, 3 criminal, with 70 total citations, 7 warnings and 3 arrests;
- The DUI Wolfpack on March 17-18, had 27 speeding, 5 DWLSR, 9 DUI, 1 .02 violation, 1 non-moving, 20 moving 4 criminal 1 careless 4 expired tags for 21 arrests and 72 citations;
- A Safety Harbor Saturation Patrol on March 22, yielded 58 speeding, 2 red lights, 8 seatbelt, 2 DWLSR, 14 moving, 13 non-moving, 1 criminal, 3 arrests with 98 citations, and 22 warnings;
- The St. Petersburg Police Department held 5 speed and red light operations resulting in 396 citations. The six Pedestrian Operations yielded 149 citations. They also had 5 school zone operations with 258 citations issued.
- Largo PD had 15 DUI arrests and 15 seatbelts. Their Peds/Bike operations had 251 citations.
- The Pinellas Park PD had 2 operations. The one held on March 13th had 54 speeding, 17 passing a stopped school bus, 8 non-moving, 6 seal belt, 2 moving and 2 move over violations for a total of 96 citations, 2 arrests, 1 for felony habitual DWLSR and 1 misd reckless driving while there were 4 DWLSR and 1 no valid license. On March 16, a DUI Saturation Patrol netted 36, speed, 2 DWLSR, 3 red light, 3 seatbelt and 2 helmet, 9 other traffic violations totaling 54 citations. DUI arrests were 5, 3 felony arrests and 1 misd arrest.

There was discussion regarding the motorcycle problems at the 49th St N location for Quaker Steak & Lube. Past activities at that location have attracted 4,500 or more motorcyclists. The event planned for April 11th is expected to have the same amount or more attending. The Pinellas Park PD has notified the owners and they are announcing

the planned traffic enforcement detail. There have been verbal notices and signs erected to advertise the police presence that night. The results of the detail will be reported next month but they will have zero tolerance.

EMS:

Kris distributed an article on Child Passenger Safety and announced a car seat class in June. Julie Groves is working with the new curriculum now under Safe Kids which is hoped to be more effective.

Education:

Bruce Murkami announced that the Safety Fair/Car and Motorcycle Show will be at the Quaker Steak & Lube on April 28 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. It is a family event and they are expecting a large crowd. On April 22, Channel 10 CBS is showing a Hallmark Hall of Fame Movie at 9:00 PM on the events that happened to Bruce's family. He will be interviewed at the end of the movie. His new interactive website should be up in 10 days. Kim Jowell reported on the Battle of the Belts results, Palm Harbor High School had an 86 % seat belt usage up 4%, Largo High had a 43% baseline and final score of 96%, Countryside High went up 4% to 79%, Seminole High went up 13% to 86%, Clearwater High did not finish, East Lake High results are not in, and Tarpon Springs High has results pending. The Battle of the Belts awards ceremony will be April 23 at 11:00 AM at the Gus Stavros Center on Starkey Road in Largo.

Engineering:

Marc Hanger reported that St. Pete Beach Public Works replaced their speed limit signs with signs saying "Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25". Unfortunately, the signs do not meet standards for traffic control and are not enforceable. They were meant for yards, lawns, etc. and not for traffic control devices. Interstate guardrail concerns at two locations were reported at the last TIM meeting. Due to some serious crashes at the 31st S off-ramp, beacons and chevrons are expected to be added. Concerns were stated about no guardrail located on a curve with a pond at 118 Ave N to I-275 southbound. Peter Hsu noted that crash data was reviewed, but did not warrant any change. A FDOT pilot program in Brevard, Duval, and Palm Beach counties calls for a \$50 increased penalty for speeding. The designated areas are called "enhanced penalty zones". The Virginia DOT has begun a program to better manage speeds. There are white parallel bar lines painted on each side of the lane. The distance between the lines gradually decreases giving the driver an illusion that they are going faster than their actual speed. Peter reported that was also done in Waldo, FL and the results were good for the short term but no long term change was noted.

Old Business:

Dave reported that the Lifesavers Conference in Chicago he attended along with Katherine Burbridge, Jeanette Rouse and Bruce Shaw was very interesting. Dave presented a poster on a project designed to reduce crashes on McMullen Booth Road with advanced street name signage. The FDOT had a booth which Katherine helped man. Bruce Shaw attended for the first time and was impressed with the number of attendees (2,500). He did not feel that there were many sessions on his area of Railroad Grade Crossing Safety, but it was a great opportunity to see what others were doing.

New Business:

Marc discussed the recommendations from the March 29 US Highway 19 Pedestrian Task Force meeting and asked the CTST members for their thoughts and comments. Two members from the MPO Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee were attending today's meeting. Some of the recommendations regarded education activities. Peter reported that the US 19 corridor will have a FDOT safety media campaign beginning late July or August, 2007. They are looking for a good slogan and ways to inform commuters using bikes.

Robert noted that many of the bike fatalities were at night and the rider was riding in the wrong direction. It was suggested that signs go on the backs of existing signs in English and Spanish warning the rider they are going in the wrong direction. In the area of enforcement, it was suggested that they continue enforcement details and consider an enhanced penalty zone.

Coordination with judicial officials should continue. We need to know how many cases are thrown out and can the taskforce help and how. Increased fines for violating pedestrian movement and legislation requiring stopping rather than yielding for those in crosswalk has passed a House committee and is working through the Senate. In discussing using cameras for red light enforcement, it was noted that it is against the law in Florida and the CTST was undecided on this issue. Marc thanked the team for its comments and he will pass them on as appropriate.

Announcements/Updates:

Bruce Shaw announced that the 10th Annual Train Safety Awareness Week will be the 3rd week of April and Pinellas does have operations planned.

On April 9 at 9:00 AM, the statewide CTST Coalition will have their workshop format meeting at the Kissimmee Safety Council.

The CTST Team of the Year Application is in the works. It is due April 20.

Peter announced that four applications were submitted from Pinellas for the Safe Routes to School funds. St. Pete withdrew their proposed project.

Kim asked that the team help decide the winners for the Battle of the Belts posters and PSA's. All were very good and showed a lot of talent. The winners were: Tom Bortynk from Seminole HS won first and second place for his PSA's and Kim Vogel, also from Seminole, won third. The winning poster was submitted by Christian Homme – "You do the Math", the 2nd place poster was "Don't be a Statistic" by Colin O'Hara, and the 3rd place poster "Buckle Up or Give it Up" was submitted by Lindsey Parker.

Next CTST meeting is May 3, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

Members Present:

Lt. Phil Beahn	St. Petersburg PD	893-7157
Mike Bingnear	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758
Ron Bulen	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Harriet Burns	RID of Tampa Bay	797-4623
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-8855
George Edmiston	Largo Police Dept	586-7473
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7286
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Terry Harding	AAA Auto Club	448-2600
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Kim Jowell	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233 x 328
Thea Johnson	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Barbara Mabee	Pinellas o Health Dept	820-4150
Ashley Marchese	Pinellas Park Fire Dept	541-0713
Bonnie Martinez	Waste Management	813-597-5811
Robert Mitchell	AAA Auto Club South	448-2600
Elizabeth Monforti	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	787-5974
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Diane Pearson	Mother on a Mission	797-0176
Cpl Jim Piper	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office	582-6434
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Frank Ruggiero	Tarpon Springs Police	938-2849
Kris Scholz	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	787-5974
Marian Scorza	FDOT, PIO	813-975-6038
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Bonnie Tarsitano	Pinellas County Traffic	464-8926

Scott Vaughan	St. Pete Beach PD	363-9200
Pete Yauch	Pinellas Co- Co Admin Ofc	464-3485
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Susan Miller	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Tom Ferraro	Bicycle Advisory Committee	
Kenneth Page	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Ofc	582-5604