

Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2006

Chairperson Dave Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed all present. Introductions were given around the room. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as submitted.

Subcommittee Reports:

Enforcement – Ron McKenzie - Ron reported Pinellas Park PD worked with 4 schools for Walk to School Day events and there were no incidents. St. Pete PD conducted 3 speeding operations with 400 citations and 1 red light operation, which netted 22 citations. St. Pete also worked with 8 schools for Walk to School Day events. Largo PD worked with 2 schools for the Walk Your Child to School Day. Ron also commented on the very impressive use of the signs donated by FDOT promoting Drive Carefully – Children Walking and Biking to School. Glen Luben reported the Sheriff's Office work with Seminole Elementary School. Pinellas SO also conducted a DUI checkpoint on 9/1 with Maderia Beach that netted 3 DUI, 3 DWLSR, 1 felony, 14 citations, 1 possession Marijuana, 6 arrests and 7 charges. On 9/2 they conducted a second DUI checkpoint at St. Pete Beach with 41 deputies and 5 St. Pete Beach officers and netted 2 DUI arrests, 2 violation of probation, 1 possess cocaine, 2 possession marijuana, 2 possession paraphernalia, 13 citations, 6 arrests, 9 charges. The total for the Sheriff's Office for September was 27 citations and 12 arrests.

Everyone said thanks to Peter Hsu for his quick actions to have the signs ready for the Walk to School Day events.

Engineering – Marc Hanger – Marc reported on the top worst intersection preliminarily reported by the City of St. Petersburg based upon the average crashes during the year 2001 through 2005. They are:

- 1) 38th Ave N & 49th Str N (59)
- 2) 38th Ave N & 34th Str N (57)
- 3) 22nd Ave N & 34th Str N (56)
- 4) Gandy Blvd & 4th Str N (56)
- 5) Tyronne Blvd & 66th Str N (51)
- 6) 38th Ave N & 66th Str N (51)

A new state law recently went into effect requiring drivers to give bicyclists 3 feet of clearance as they pass. Failing to do so is a moving violation with a \$60 fine and 3 points added to your driver's license. In Pinellas County it was noted this fine would be \$117.50.

The Illinois legislature recently approved a bill allowing the use of photo enforcement cameras in cities within an 8 county area. Registered vehicle owners will be

responsible for photo enforcement citations for red light running, but speed citations can not be issued with the technology.

Marc announced the US 19 Pedestrian Safety Task Force meets today at 3:00 PM at the MPO. Peter added the FDOT was conducting a US 19 Pedestrian Safety Study and used data from 2000-2005 to summarize patterns. They identified the 10 ten corridors and most were within the City of St. Pete. Peter will share the draft report, when completed, with the MPO. The Engineering Subcommittee will also review.

Marc concluded by announcing that beginning October 9th both Pinellas Ave and Tarpon Ave will have periodic closures for construction work. The project will last up to two years.

Peter reported the Safe Routes to School funding has been set for the first 1 ½ years until September 2007. Our local share will be \$750,000 for construction projects, and \$75,000 for educational efforts. He thanked Kevin Fannon for his assistance. We will wait to program future projects when the statewide guidelines are established. With this year's funding, FDOT will purchase school flashers, speed feedback signs that are solar powered, and bike racks for schools.

Education – Kim Jowell – Kim reported we have a draft of the new motorcycle tip card. Kim also had some handouts from AAA including Welcome Your New Driver, Becoming the New Driver and driver contracts for new drivers and their parents. Kim also explained the National Road Safety Foundation which started 40 years ago has created several good handouts, public service announcements and Power Point presentations you can download. Their website address is www.nationalroadsafety.org. The Suncoast Safety Council conducts classes on Driver Improvement with behind the wheel driver instruction. They also offer the DUI Offender Program and Occupational Health and Safety Classes on OSHA, First Aid and CPR.

The Safety Simulator was at the Target lot and 12 different schools were able to participate. It was very informative and everyone got to drive. Eileen Pearson said it was very impressive.

Pinellas Park is hosting their annual Children's Festival on Saturday, September 9th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM on 82nd Avenue and 49th Street.

John Temple with Tampa Bay Engineering presented on Road Safety Audits (RSA). He gave an overview, discussed a case study conducted in St. Pete, and spoke about FDOT District 7's program. John explained how crashes have evolved from the 1960's to being just part of the day-to-day routine, to the 1990's when we've evolved to the caring roadway. Crashes are attributed to 95% human factors, 28% to the roadway, and 8% to the vehicle. He described a RSA as a formal safety performance examination by an independent audit team with a focus on road safety. It is not an evaluation, critique or crash investigation. RSAs can be performed at any point in the

life cycle of a facility from planning, during construction, on existing roads, and off roadway system. The owner responds to the audit report and makes changes. The Federal Highway Administration has provided some RSA software with a very comprehensive prompt list. FHWA will be publishing RSA Guidelines this month.

TBE worked with Mike Frederick on an RSA on 38th and 40th Avenue North in St. Petersburg. He showed the example of this location between 4th Street N and 1st Street N. The roadway at this location has a curve and there is a Publix Plaza development in the section. Several recommendations were made.

District 7 has a district-wide RSA contract for two years funded in the amount of \$300,000 in federal safety funds. They have targeted 9 intersections, 4 resurfacing projects, 4 run off the road sections, and 1 active construction project. The first two projects are Florida Avenue at Waters Avenue and Hillsborough Avenue at Ambassador Drive in Hillsborough County.

The next statewide CTST Coalition Meeting will be held on Monday, October 9th in Gainesville. They will be holding three consecutive workshop sessions at the meeting.

Eileen reported next week RID of Tampa Bay will be hosting their Top Cop Dinner to recognize the top DUI officers.

Melissa Wandall distributed information packets about the efforts to Stop Red Light Running. She related Representative Regan introduced the bill again this year and it will go through the committees this year. They are looking for funding to hire a lobbyist. She is also planning a bus tour to Tallahassee in February with families who have lost a loved one.

The Pinellas CTST is considering the formation of an EMS Subcommittee due to the large number of fire department employees who have recently been attending its meetings.

Julie Groves, St. Pete Fire/EMS, gave a presentation on the dangers of 15 passenger vans. Julie had some powerful photos of what happens in 15 passenger van crashes. The left rear tire tread separates and the driver is unable to control the van. All injuries were on the right side of the van. The right rear of the van is the most dangerous spot. The 10th person in the van seems to make it more likely to roll. Ford, GM and Dodge all manufacture 15 passenger vans. They were not designed to hold passengers, but cargo. They lack structural integrity, there is no crash padding, and passengers tend to fly out the side windows. NHTSA has advocated that public school students can not ride in 15 passenger vans. There are increased risks with 10 or more people, the tire pressure needs to be monitored regularly, you should not place any load on the roof of the van, the driver should have experience with driving a van, driver fatigue and driving too fast lead to crashes. Julie asked enforcement to look at the lack of seat belts use in vans.

Members Present:

Lt. Phil Beahn	St. Petersburg PD	893-7157
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	453-3457
Mike Burke	Pinellas County Schools	547-7100
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
T.C. Carter	FDOT, Pinellas Mtn.	570-5101
George Edmiston	Largo Police Dept	586-7473
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Julie Groves	St. Pete Fire Rescue	893-7726
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Kim Jowell	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233
Mike Kazouris	Tarpon Springs Police Dept	938-2840
Melissa Kuruzovich	UPN 44- WTOG	813-220-5174
Glen J. Luben	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office	582-5604
Ashley Marchese	Pinellas Park Fire Dept	541-0713
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park Police Dept	541-0758
Tom McMullian	VMS, Inc.	813-299-9379
Elizabeth Monforti	Dunedin Fire Dept	
Renee Napier	Safe Teen Driver	850-393-7441
Julie Newby	St. Pete Fire Rescue	893-7480
Eileen Pearson	Pinellas Co Health Dept	547-7780 x 153
Julie Rivard	St. Pete Fire Rescue	893-7218
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
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 Co Traffic	464-8926
Venkat Vattikuti	Tindale Oliver	813-224-8862
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
John Temple	TBE Group	727-235-2297
Barbara Mabee	Pinellas Co Health Dept	820-4150