

**Pinellas County Community Traffic Safety Team  
Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2006**

Vice-Chair Ron McKenzie called the general meeting to order and welcomed members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the February 2, 2006 meeting were approved as distributed.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Enforcement**—Ron McKenzie reported that the Clearwater PD held two wolfpacks on February 10 & 17, a Z.O.R.R.O. (Red Light Detail) on Feb, 24 and a School Zone Detail on Feb 28 that resulted in a total of 166 citations. It was announced that Railroad Awareness Safety Week, April 16-22 will have involvement of law enforcement. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office report will be forwarded later as Glen Luben is ill. They did have two DUI details, one in Madeira Beach and one at Highlands and US/19.

**Engineering** – Marc Hanger announced that other beach projects during peak season in addition to the closure of the Treasure Island are the John's Pass Bridge is half closed to one lane in each direction. Also, a year long project has begun on the Tom Stuart Causeway. All three projects affect each other. The City of Clearwater has begun the Beach Walk project. Coronado Dr. is being converted from two to three lanes with additional pedestrian safety features added. In addition, Pasadena Ave. work begins in July. The railroad track crossing on McMullen Booth Rd due for closing in May will not happen this year. There may be some minor repairs instead that will close it for a few days not the original three weeks. They will try to schedule the work for a weekend. Reminder: The Bike/Ped Master Plan Public Workshop will be held at Largo Feed Store on March 14, 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Recently, a meeting with PSTA, Public Works, FDOT, PCSO & MPO was held at Commissioner Seel's office concerning a fatality of a pedestrian crossing on US 19 at CR 39 to ride a bus to a concert. It was suggested that both the CTST & PTAC, the MPO subcommittee be involved in a task force to determine the best course of action to assure more pedestrian protection crossing the US 19 Hwy. After much discussion, Peter noted that FDOT/FHWA will be studying all of US 19 for ped safety to look for innovative proposals.

**Education** –Bruce reported that on Saturday, February 15, the Street Night Activity at the Sunshine Speedway in Pinellas from 5 pm – midnight anticipated 250 kids and 850 attended. Kids aged 16-25 years participated. A total of 180 entered and raced with 50 in the show. Many safety items were distributed. It was a very successful event with no incidents. All were on good behavior and they will have their next event on Saturday, April 1.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** – The issue of the Red Light Camera Enforcement presentation was tabled until the next meeting. Ron requested information on the problem with the lights on 49<sup>th</sup> St/Park. They go on red/yellow flash during a malfunction. With two major arterials involved, why not both directions go on red flash? He witnessed two crashes before he could get out as there is confusion for motorists since others may be four reds. Pete Yauch will look into it. In California, a “failure flash” is all red. He will report at the next meeting.

On the Safe Routes to School projects, Peter received responses from the City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park and the county. The responses covered 48 % of total schools (middle/elementary). A task force has been formed with one representative from each agency and one school board member to rank a variety of project proposals. A decision will be made later on long term projects.

It was announced that the CTST State Coalition Meeting will be in Jacksonville on Monday, April 24, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Other issues discussed were on US 19 near Countryside Mall , car dealerships unloading on state right of way is a violation. They are permitted to have room to pull into their driveways which they are not doing. They can be cited. The City of St. Petersburg consented to do yielding compliance at crosswalks using decoys. They will work a three week operation with warnings first, then citations. In the Beach communities, the PCSO is doing an operation with warnings and citations, depending on the severity of the violation. They are using video which seems to help. The question came up regarding the status having magistrates educated regarding this type of violation. It was decided that follow up with the Chief Magistrate might be helpful. The CTST will discuss at the next meeting writing a letter to support the education.

Kenneth City School Crossing problem was highlighted on Channel 13 as a trap. The Chief said he would look into the situation. Renee Napier spoke about the DUI Impact Meeting. Of the 200 attending the mandatory meeting, many were repeat offenders. She was concerned that the message was not getting across to those who need it. It was noted that Pinellas County sits on the NHTSA Gold Standard Committee which will study recidivism.

**TIM** – Terry Hensley reported that the *Move It* campaign did start with flyers and materials distributed.

**Announcements** – FDOT will host a Safety Summit regarding SAFETLU. Expect further information.

The 402 grants are due March 31 in the State Safety Office in Tallahassee.

Traffic fatality numbers for the state were a record. The rates were under 10%. Pinellas, in 2005 had 105. In the same time frame of 2005 as compared to 2006, there were 18 and

now it is 24. A discussion of rates which are down and actual numbers which are up was held.

Peter discussed the District 7 Safety money and that it could be used for campaigns in the Tampa Bay Area for ped safety. Jeanette is hopeful that by using different strategies with the media, that she will be able to stretch the money farther.

Meeting adjourned 10:55 AM. Our next meeting is April 6, 2006 at the Suncoast Safety Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Thea Johnson, Secretary

**Members Present:**

Ron Bulen	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
Mike Burke	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7100
Harriet Burns	RID of Tampa Bay	797-4623
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
T.C. Carter	FDOT- Maintenance	570-5101
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-3885
George Edmiston	Largo Police Department	586-7473
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7536
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Jean Hatten	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Thea Johnson	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Mike Kazouris	Tarpon Springs Police	938-2840
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park Police Dept	541-0758
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Renee Napier	Safe Teen Driver	850-393-7441
Tom Paul	Congressman Bilirakis	773-2871
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police	813-664-6397
Charles Skipper	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office	582-6439
Bonnie Tarsitano	Pinellas Co Traffic	464-8926
Tom Washburn	Pinellas County	
Sgt. Robert Wierzba	Clearwater Police Dept	562-4338
Pete Yauch	Pinellas Co DPW	464-3364
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Peyton McLeod	Sprinkle Consulting	813-949-7445