

**Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team
Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2005**

Chairman David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed those members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the September 1st meeting were approved with a correction that the State of Florida won the Enforcement Light Award at the national level.

Subcommittee Reports:

Traffic Incident Management – Terry Hensley reported that the new Road Ranger contract was expected to be finalized soon. The new firm, Anchor Towing, is experienced and highly reliable according to Terry. They will be working on a new “Move It” brochure. Terry reported he has received good comments back on his draft version and it may be adopted statewide.

Engineering – Marc Hanger reported that the Gulf Boulevard speed limits will be lowered from 40 mph to 35 mph beginning in November. The lower speed limit will be in place for at least seven months from St. Pete Beach to Walsingham Rd. Speed studies will be conducted to address safety concerns. Six roundabouts have been proposed on Cleveland Street from Glenwood Ave to Belcher Rd, all part of a traffic calming project to ease traffic congestion. 39 traffic accidents were reported over 3 years on this residential road. Safety concerns were reported for Lake Shore Ln & Curlew Rd. There may be a sight distance problem making a left onto Curlew Rd due to a brick wall and where Curlew curves. Recently, a fatality occurred a block east of this area. Street lighting along 62 Ave N from 34 St. N to 49th St. N is being proposed in Pinellas Park. A crash versus volumes report for year 2004 will be available at the November CTST meeting. The delay has been due to new database formats and staffing. Next year we should have the report available earlier in the year.

Education – Jeanette Rouse reported that they are fast approaching the deadline for the Recipes on the Road and they expect to have it go to the printers the end of October or early November. Over 30 restaurants have sent in recipes. Pinellas had a very good response. Sponsors are still encouraged to assist with printing costs. Bruce Murakami brought flyers advertising the “CARS Program” which will be held in conjunction with the Tampa PD on Saturday, October 29, 2005 at Alonzo High School in Tampa. Teens join the club and agree not to speed, race, or drink and drive. They enter the car show for prizes. It is encouraging teens to be in a safer environment. Dave noted that the Bank of America was taking applications to fund community programs/events. They are interested in education and downtown redevelopment. Maybe there can be a tie into CTST activities. Melissa, who was unable to attend, wanted to report on the National Stop on Red Week. There was live news coverage and video clips on several news stations in the Sarasota/Manatee area regarding her efforts to continue to encourage strict enforcement and punishment for red light runners.

Enforcement – Ron McKenzie reported that the PCSO will have Laser classes on October 10 & 11 in Oldsmar and at the Pinellas Park PD on October 26 & 27. The City of Clearwater had a DUI Enforcement on Sept. 24; however, the detail was stopped early due to a traffic homicide. A total of 20 moving citations were issued, 3 DUI, 4 criminal citations and 8 non-moving. On Sept. 29, a traffic detail focused primarily on school zones and school bus drop off and pick up points within the city. As a result there were 2 passing a stopped school bus citations, 16 speeding, 36 moving citations, 9 red light violations, 9 seat belts, 20 non-moving and 2 criminal citations issued. The PCSO traffic enforcement activities on Sept. 2 were on the Bayside Bridge and resulted in 86 citations, 1 DUI and 1 arrest. On Sept.3, a DUI Checkpoint had 12 citations, 1 DUI, 1 DWLSR and 4 arrests. Sept. 4 had 28 citations, 6 DUI, 1 CCW, 1 felony DWLSR, 2 possession, 2 paraphernalia and 5 arrests were the result of the DUI checkpoint. The Labor Day Detail Sept 5 on the Bayside and Howard Franklin Bridges resulted in 110 citations, 4 DWLSR, 2 reckless, 2 warrants, 1 DUI, & 9 arrests. A north county wolfpack on Sept 29 had 150 citations, 1 NVDL, 1 DWLSR, & 2 arrests. There were 386 citations and 21 arrests for September. Peter noted that October 1 the fines in Pinellas increased for red light running. They were raised from \$114.50 to a minimum of \$179.50. In St. Petersburg, a Pedestrian Crosswalk Enforcement was held using decoys. In a 2 hour period at 3 locations, they issued 30 citations.

OLD BUSINESS – The Walk Your Child to School event in Pinellas Park had 300 children participated at 3 schools. In Clearwater, there were 100 children participating at 1 school. Overall there were 22 schools participating in Pinellas County. The Commuter Choices Week events in downtown St. Pete & Clearwater had very good attendance and the message was safety. Those attending were very impressed with the events.

NEW BUSINESS – Pete Yauch discussed the speed studies and the relationship to current speed driven. Under the state statutes, speed limits are to be set the 85th percentile + or – 5 mph. The question is if speed limits are not updated to reflect the higher speeds driven, do they become unenforceable. Gulf Blvd. at 40 mph going to 35 mph is okay as a study area. Factors such as vertical changes and sight distance can be used to consider not upping the limit. There was much discussion. The PCSO noted that volume is greater and road construction is greater, but the same volume speed tickets were issued. It is not unusual to ticket a driver at 100 mph on the Bayside Bridge. PCSO just gave a driver a ticket for 115 mph on US 19. It is helpful that the number of traffic officers is increasing in the county and cities. The CTST requested that a letter be sent to FDOT asking for a review of policy and procedures regarding increasing the limits based on the 85th percentile.

ANNOUNCEMENTS –The Pinellas CTST won the State Team of the Year award for our 2004 activities. The banquet was cancelled due to the hurricanes, but at the state Coalition meeting on Monday, the award will be announced. There was discussion on where the formal presentation could take place. It was hoped that a location in Pinellas could be found for the Monday, January 9 CTST statewide Coalition meeting, so the presentation could be attended by local CTST team members.

OPEN FORUM – The Safe Routes to School funding proposal from the Pinellas School Board was discussed. They are requesting that a full time position of Bike/Ped Coordinator for school kids be funded as explained by Kevin Fannon. The letter from the School Superintendent Mr. Clayton Wilcox was distributed and the PTA representative was present to support the proposal. Peter explained the way the money will be allocated for projects under the new SAFETEA and that they are not sure of when it will become available. He said \$5.5 million is coming to Florida. The first year’s funding is low. Approximately 70-90% of the funding will be used for infrastructure (construction). The remaining 10-30% will be used for non-infrastructure to encourage students to walk and bike to school. A discussion was held regarding how to make the best use of the money when it does become available. The CTST has the authority to prioritize projects.

Robert Davis discussed the issue of crossing guards for the high schools. The area of Seminole Blvd and 102 Ave was studied. Crossings by 13 students going to Osceola High School were observed with most being midblock crossings. There was no attempt to use the traffic signals to cross. There is an assumption that 8th grade and up students can provide for their own safety and make multiple assessments for safe crossings. The question is do high school students need adult supervision and if it were provided, would they use it? Currently, many middle school students don’t use the guards so they may not be effective since the kids may not use them anyway.

The Drive 4 Life campaign, as noted at last month’s meeting, may be a good model for a Pinellas campaign. The CTST can come up with a generic project to highlight a themed campaign, so members should be thinking of what they would like to work on.

Bruce will be willing to chair the Educational subcommittee to help it re-activate. Many thanks were expressed to Jeanette, Katherine and Thea for their work on the CTST award entry. A Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners' proclamation for October 10 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day was announced. Their support has been invaluable to the team. Also, the Governor sent a letter for the Recipes on the Road booklet. Our next CTST meeting will be on November 3rd.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

Members Present:

Ron Bulen	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
James Byers	PSTA	533-4303
David M. Chase	City of Pinellas Park	541-0773
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-3885
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339

Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Terry Hensley	FDOT – TIM	813-975-6259
Sgt. Dennis Hobbs	FL Highway Patrol	647-3743
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Thea Johnson	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Glen Luben	Pinellas Sheriff's Office	582-5604
Kevin Matson	Kenneth City PD	544-2564
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Eileen Pearson	Pinellas Co Health Dept	547-7780x153
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Greg Schwemly	St. Petersburg PD	893-7157
Marian Scorza	FDOT	813-975-6038
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad PD	813-664-6397
Sgt Butch Ward	Largo PD	586-7473
Sgt. Robert Wierzba	Clearwater Police Dept	562-4338
Pete Yauch	Pinellas Co DPW	464-3364
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Dawn Henirchon	6 th Circuit SAO	464-6221
Mike Kazouris	Tarpon Springs PD	938-2840
Johanna Moseley	PCCPTA	712-3019
Debra Kennaugh	FDOT Traffic Ops	813-975-6254
Mike Burke	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7100x4780