

## **Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2006**

Chairperson Dave Fechter called the general meeting to order and introductions were given by those present. Minutes of the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted. It was noted the Sheriff's Office had an officer killed in a motorcycle crash and his funeral was today. With our email only notification (no hard copies of minutes mailed out), our attendance has slipped. It was suggested the Subcommittee Chairpersons (Engineering, Education, Enforcement) make some phone calls to remind everyone of the meeting.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

**Education:** Bruce Murakami reported on his recent racing event at Sunshine Speedway. He said there were about 500 kids present with 125 racing. He felt they were competing with high school prom events. His last car club event is scheduled for May 13 at Bloomingdale High School. Next year he hopes to conduct car club educational events in Pinellas high schools. Bruce has Operation Street Nights cards that are given when enforcement stops kids and they get a ticket they also receive this card that tells about their legal racing events held at the Sunshine Drag Strip.

The Battle of the Badges Chili Cook off is this Saturday at Largo Central Park. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Click it or Ticket Press Conference will be held at 10:00 AM.

**Engineering:** Marc Hanger reported the County Courthouse at Court Street and Chestnut is getting a pedestrian safety review by the City of Clearwater. This was due to the huge increase in traffic from the realignment of the Memorial Causeway Bridge. Due to the high volume of left turns and crash data showing a lot of right angle collisions, Bayside Boulevard at Curlew Road will be getting a traffic signal. The location is 800 feet from the Tampa Road and Curlew Road signal and both will be synchronized. The Pro Bike/Pro Walk Conference in St. Augustine held in April recently distributed the latest ped and bike studies to improve safety. A new study conducted by Federal Highway shows red light cameras cut crash costs. They are most beneficial at intersections where a lot of right angle crashes occur. The economic benefit of cameras is estimated at \$45,000 per year for each site. The US Department of Transportation has released the Year 2005 death toll compared to 2004 numbers. Alcohol-related fatalities rose by 1.7%. Passenger car fatalities dropped by 1.8%. Light truck occupant deaths rose 4.3%. Pedestrian deaths rose by 0.7%. Large truck crash fatalities rose by 0.7%.

The number of fatal crashes for 2005 increased from 3515 to 3525. Peter reported for 2006, Hillsborough County's fatalities are down from last year, Pasco County's fatalities are up, and Pinellas County is up by 20%, 36 this time last year and 45 for this year. Of the 2006 fatalities, 40% are on Pinellas County roadways, including Clearwater, Largo, and the City of St. Pete. Peter reported Federal Highways is offering three upcoming training classes. One is on Intersections, the second is a Signal Workshop, and the third is on performing Road Safety Audits.

**Enforcement:** Bruce reported Clearwater PD conducted a School Zone detail on 4/25 and wrote 75 citations, 16 were for speeding in a school zone. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office conducted a Wolf Pack on 4/13 in Dunedin with 67 total citations. They did a one hour aircraft detail on the Bayside Bridge on 4/14 with 44 citations-33 of these were speeding violations. One Corvette was doing 144 mph and a Trans Am was doing 129 mph. A DUI Wolf Pack was held on April 14-15 with 12 DUIs. On 4/18 they conducted a Railroad Detail at CR 611 and SR 590 with 10 citations and 3 warnings and another Railroad Detail on 4/19 with 39 citations and 4 warnings. On 4/26 they conducted a North Redington Beach Detail where they issued 10 citations and 10 warnings to pedestrians. Total for the month of April for PCSO is 136 citations and 20 arrests. Largo PD has an upcoming Commercial Motor Vehicle checkpoint on May 16. The Anthony Telesca Foundation sponsored a seat belt safety event at East Lake High School on 4/27 which will be airing on Bay News 9 on 4/29. The Dunedin Touch a Truck event was well attended.

Dave reported the CTST Coalition held an election for new officers. Robin Butler was elected Chairperson, Gary Tait was named Vice Chair, and Mark Van Hala was elected Secretary. Dave held the position of Chairperson for the last two years. The next statewide meeting will be in the Orlando area on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Bruce Shaw spoke about the Train Safety Awareness week which was created by the statewide CTST Coalition. This has become the biggest awareness week for Operation Lifesaver. He said Dade-Broward-Palm Beach area held an operation where 1000 citations were given. They have a large number of commuter trains. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office issued over 100 citations this year. Bruce said there are three large railroads in Duvall County. Pinellas County did an outstanding job with 106 citations and arrested 10 people for fishing on the rail trestle. They all went to jail. Next year will be the 10<sup>th</sup> year for this awareness week.

Melissa Kuruzovich with UPN 44/WTOG distributed informational packages to those present. She has been in the television business for 5 years and is familiar with working with grants. She feels she is a media partner that can stretch your dollars. Their station's audience is teens and minorities in the 18-24 demographics. The station also has a Chatter bus street team. She said they are the only TV station that does this type of promotion similar to a radio station. The video camera on the bus attracts a crowd. They also feature a Bayside Show which is a 30 minute community affairs event where you can talk about your program, promote your website, and it's all free! You can use this 30 minute footage to show in the future. The production of this show is worth thousands of dollars. She will work with any size budget. Melissa said you can reach 30% or more of adults age 18-34, 3 times a month for 1 month for less than a \$3500 investment. She told us UPN and WB 38 will become CN. They have a community affairs program that airs on Saturday morning.

Dave led a discussion on motorcycle safety. It was suggested we develop a tip card of ideas for motorists. Peter said he could help with the printing costs. Our team also has about \$1,000 to help with a media campaign to stretch the outreach. It was suggested

that local enforcement agencies with motorcycle units would want to review what we draft before printing.

Dave also gave a brief recap of the Lifesavers Conference held in Austin in April. The CTST had a booth with handouts, especially the Best Practices booklet.

Our next meeting date will be June 1<sup>st</sup>.

AAA is sponsoring CarFit Training to help mature drivers find their perfect fit. The class will be held at Bill Currie Ford on N. Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa on May 11-12 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Registration is through AAA.

Dave said at our last meeting we discussed photo enforcement. Melissa Wandall is trying to get a bill passed through the legislature this session.

St. Pete PD is using an undercover cop as a decoy acting as a pedestrian. They said it was amazing to see the noncompliance with yielding to pedestrians. They are handing out informational flyers and trying to educate the motorists and giving warnings. They try to do this activity every few weeks.

### **Members Present:**

Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	453-3457
T.C. Carter	FDOT Pinellas Mtn.	570-5101
David M. Chase	City of Pinellas Park	541-0773
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-3885
George Edmiston	Largo Police Dept	586-7473
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Marc Hanger	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Jean Hatten	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233
Mike Kazouris	Tarpon Spring Police	938-2840
Tom McMullian	VMS, Inc.	813-299-9379
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Cpl Jim Piper	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office	582-6434
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Kris Scholz	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	787-5974
Greg Schwemley	St. Petersburg PD	893-7157
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad PD	813-664-6397
Bonnie Tarsitano	Pinellas Co Traffic	464-8926
Venkat Vattikuti	Tindale Oliver & Assoc	813-224-8862
Sgt. Robert Wierzba	Clearwater Police Dept	562-4338
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Sgt. John Diebel	Clearwater Police Dept	562-4338
Melissa Kurzvovich	UPN 44- WTOG	813-220-5174