

**Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting
September 1, 2005
Minutes**

Chair David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the previous meeting of August 4, 2005 were approved as distributed.

Subcommittee Reports:

Education – Kris reported that the 3rd annual Fire Prevention Expo would be held on October 1, 2005 at the Countryside Mall, near Sears from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Numerous fire and rescue departments from Pinellas will be on display. Peter gave information about the DOT Drive 4 Life Campaign. They have radio and TV coverage, banners, billboards and safety tips. Clear Channel Radio will start airing Public Service Announcements for 3 months starting on Labor Day. While the safety dollars now are focusing on I4, future input from the CTST will be needed to assist with other campaigns. Jeanette did a simple RFP to radio and the response was tremendous. The City of Clearwater developed the “Share the Road Campaign” using safety grant money. Currently, District 7 has significant monies going into construction. Other monies must be used for safety projects.

Anthony Telesco reported that the principal of Countryside High School is interested in working with the Foundation. Bruce, Renee and Anthony will work together for a teen driving awareness program in December.

AAA has the Tow-To-Go program available for Labor Day. It is a free service for those who feel they are unable to drive. The tow truck will take the car and driver home.

Jeanette was unable to attend today due to her husband’s surgery.

Enforcement – Glen Luben, PCSO, reported that the PCSO will be starting the holiday week with You Drink & Drive, You Lose. Due to the Hurricane Katrina effect, there may be a loss of some resources. All enforcement agencies will be involved. Back to school activities seemed to yield fewer violators than in the past. Because the school bus stop information was not categorized, they were not able to identify stops easily. School zone enforcement reported activities were on August 3-5 with 35 deputies at 70 school crossings. A total of 248 citations in/around school zones were issued. On August 15-19, 15 deputies issued 22 citations at school bus stops. An aircraft detail on the Bayside Bridge on August 3-5 used 11 deputies who issued 122 citations. On August 4, 11 deputies issued 52 citations on a speed detail on CR 296. The Gulf beaches pedestrian detail on August 13 had 8 deputies who issued 40 crosswalk citations, 2 DWLSR arrests and 16 other citations. A DUI sustained enforcement wolf pack held on August 20-21 utilized 32 deputies. There was 1 stolen vehicle, 14 DWLSR arrests, 114 citations, 3

DUI and 11 drug/warrant arrests. The Oldsmar saturation patrol on August 23 had 12 deputies involved who had 1 warrant arrest, 3 traffic arrests and 125 citations. The August total was 741 citations and 33 arrests. The City of Clearwater had a back-to-school enhanced traffic enforcement on August 3-5 at various locations throughout the city with 200 traffic citations issued. On August 25, a Click It or Ticket enforcement yielded 56 citations. At a DUI wolf pack on August 27, they issued 94 citations with an August 29 DUI enforcement netting 78 citations. Tarpon Springs and St. Pete PD stats will be reported later, but they also had a busy month.

Katherine stated that at the BIG C meeting, it was reported there will be a study done in November regarding the lower speed of 35 mph along Gulf Boulevard. They will expect heavy enforcement. Possible pedestrian safety islands where crosswalks are installed would be a good idea for enforcement areas.

Engineering – Marc reported, as did Peter, that the I-4 Drive For Life campaign is using federal safety construction dollars. US19 in Pinellas is under construction and more is planned for many years to come. A similar campaign effort for US 19 may be appropriate when dollars are available. Street lights are being considered in unincorporated Pinellas County by a non-ad valorem assessment for street light districts. A public hearing is September 6 at 6:30 pm in the assembly room. Twelve crosswalks are to be added along Gulf Blvd in Treasure Island, Madeira Beach, and N. Redington Beach by FDOT. Reducing the speed limit (as noted above) to 35 mph is being considered. Countdown signals to alert pedestrians to traffic light changes are being planned and installed at new state road traffic signal locations and high pedestrian locations. Some money is available by FDOT for cities and the County to install them. Overhead warning devices for crosswalks are being planned at 20 locations in St. Petersburg and 61 crosswalks will be improved with enhanced signs and markings. Construction is expected in early 2006. MOT -- Gulf Blvd. between 183 Terrace and 192 Ave. (near Park Blvd) will be reduced to one lane during night time hours. The construction will start September 1 and will last 130 days.

Melissa noted that the “I Stop On Red” Campaign and the National Stop On Red Week are coming up. In Sarasota on November 5, there will be a golf tournament to raise money for charities. Please check TheMarkWandallFoundation.com web site for additional information.

Peter announced that the City of Clearwater won an Enforcement Light Award. There was considerable discussion on red light running in construction zones.

OLD BUSINESS – The Pinellas Board of County Commissioners presented a proclamation acknowledging the Pinellas CTST on its 10 year anniversary at the August 16 County Commission meeting. Pictures were taken and 10 members were present to accept the proclamation. Thanks to Katherine for assistance in making the arrangements.

NEW BUSINESS – Cindy Campiore from Bay Area Commuter Services (BACS) provided an informative presentation on BACS and its goals to reduce traffic at rush

hour. During Commuter Choices Week, September 26, there will be many events and media coverage to encourage ride sharing. Free booths are available –contact Cindy at 813-282-8200.

At the latest BAC (Bicycle Advisory Committee) meeting, there was concern voiced regarding the community readiness for encouraging bike travel. There was a motion made to open the Pinellas Trail at night for bike riders during Commuter Choices Week at that BAC meeting. The CTST may want to comment on this proposal. The BOCC must approve a change such as opening the trail for night travel, as the trail is a county park.

FDOT will be providing stickers to schools who participate in the International Walk to School Day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Buckle Up Awards Luncheon scheduled for September 9 will be in Orlando. Pinellas CTST is nominated for Team of the Year. In the national competition, the CTST received an Honorable Mention, which was an excellent showing. Pete Yauch sent a letter to Dave regarding the speed limits in Pinellas. Based on their statistics, 20% obey the speed limit, 33% go up to 10 above the speed limit, and 47% are going over 10 miles above the posted speed limits. The study selected areas in Palm Harbor, East Lake, and Oldsmar which were areas of likely uninterrupted traffic flow. A high violation area was the Bayside Bridge. There was discussion about how the limits are decided and that good engineering judgment is needed. The Driver License Swipe Ticket grant was awarded to the PCSO and they are on target for 60,000 tickets this year. Future meetings will have Pete on the agenda for further discussion on the speeding issue.

Peter noted that the FHWA money awards are difficult to get but other federal money is available for safety projects. Safety dollars are specific to other safety projects and ideas need to come from locals.

TIM- Terry reported that the Traffic Incident Management meetings are the first Tuesday of each month with the next one will be September 6, at the FDOT Ulmerton Road location.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thea Johnson, CTST Secretary

Members Present:

Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
Harriett Burns	RID of Tampa Bay	797-4623
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
T.C. Carter	FDOT Pinellas	570-5101
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-3885

David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Terry Harding	AAA Auto Club South	448-2600
Jim Hartwell	City of Largo	587-6730
Terry Hensley	FDOT- TIM	813-975-6259
Peter Hsu	FDOT – Safety	813-975-6251
Thea Johnson	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Dean LoBianco	Pinellas Park Police Dept	541-0758
Glen J. Luben	Pinellas Sheriff’s Office	582-5604
Kevin Matson	Kenneth City Police Dept	544-2564
Tom McMullian	VMS, Inc.	813-299-9379
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Renee Napier	Safe Teen Driver	850-393-7441
Susan Samson	Area Agency on Aging	570-9696x234
Kris Scholz	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	787-5974
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Bonnie Tarsitano	Pinellas County Traffic	464-8926
Angelo Telesca	Anthony Telesca Foundation	813-814-9025
Scott Vaughan	St. Pete Beach Police Dept	363-9200
Melissa Wandall	Mark Wandall Foundation	941-751-9277
Sgt. Robert Wierzba	Clearwater Police Dept	562-4338
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Ron Bulen	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Cindy Campiore	Bay Area Commuter Services	813-282-8200
Cpl Frank Burke	Florida Highway Patrol	570-5010 x 331