

Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2004

Dave Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Introductions were made around the room. Minutes of the September meeting were approved as submitted.

Subcommittee Reports:

Sue Samson made a suggestion of forming a new subcommittee of those who work with seniors. She had some alternative services to provide to enforcement personnel when they recognize those who should not be driving such as calling care givers and sending case managers out. Sue felt this was not a singular issue.

Education Subcommittee: Jeanette Rouse reported the Education subcommittee is currently working on the Recipes for the Road booklet of nonalcoholic recipes to be served during the holidays. We hope to have it ready for distribution by the end of November.

Engineering Subcommittee: Marc Hanger distributed copies of the top 100 crash locations in Pinellas County. At next month's meeting he should have the crash data versus the traffic volumes information available. Marc said it was reported last September about a program in Manatee County for power outage operation they used gas power converters for traffic signals. This traffic signal program worked well during Tropical Storm Frances. The MOP's ITS subcommittee is reviewing this program. The Keene Road connection has increased traffic volumes and crashes at some intersections. Left arrows will be added at Belleair Road to solve the crash problem. A study at Nursery Road is forthcoming. Ulmerton Road, Lake Avenue, and 20th Avenue SE – Wal-Mart needs a traffic signal on SR 688 opposite of Lake Avenue. This is creating concerns due to the close proximity to the railroad crossing. Old Coachman Road Bridge, north of Drew Street, has had 14 head-on collisions in the past 8 ½ years and 5 other crashes. The bridge is substandard and narrow. Currently a funding source to fix or repair the bridge has not been found.

Enforcement: Largo PD's DUI car started 4 weeks ago and they have made 28 DUI arrests. St. Pete Beach conducted 2 move over details which netted 2 DUIs. Clearwater PD had a total of 144 citations from their Click it or Ticket operation on 9/22/04; and on 9/24 Clearwater had a citywide DUI wolf pack with a total of 54 citations and 3 DUI arrests. The Pinellas Sheriff's Office conducted 17 saturation patrols which resulted in 47 DUI arrests. The PCSO's Sobriety Checkpoint Program cumulative totals for the 12 month period of October 03 through Sept 04 resulted in 16,960 vehicles through their 24 checkpoints with 4265 drivers assessed for impairment and 212 arrests including 126 for DUI, 403 traffic citations issued and 127 vehicles impounded.

Walk to School events were conducted at 14 schools in Pinellas County. It was noted that there are some barriers for some schools for walkability.

Presentations:

Scott Korpi with American Consulting Engineers presented on a safety project along Alligator Alley, 50 miles from Naples to the Broward County line. This is a four lane divided roadway with canals on each side. Vehicles stray off the roadway, hit the wildlife fence, and land in the canal. The fence pops back into place, making it difficult for emergency personnel to locate the crashed vehicle. They were experiencing one fatality every other month. The main objective of this design/build job was to minimize the vehicle going off the road and with the existing condition of the canal, to facilitate officer response. Their design/build teamwork put in a cable system to harness the vehicle. This acted like a spider web to keep the vehicles from going into the canal. This deflection system was designed to keep at least one part of the vehicle in sight. A beacon was attached to the pole which goes off when activated. So far the cable system has been hit 30-35 times with no fatalities. The cost of this system versus guardrail was \$40,000 per mile compared to \$350,000 per mile for guardrail. Scott felt this was a good example of engineering serving the public well.

Peter Hsu reported FDOT has set aside \$500,000 yearly budget to reduce run off the road crashes on local roadways. If you know of a situation on local roads, please contact your city/county engineers.

Steve Tindale announced "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" as October 10, 2004. Mike Guest said he will obtain a proclamation for the City of Dunedin. The event needs media exposure. The goal for future events is to make more people aware of the facts. In the last six years, almost a quarter of a million people have been killed on our roadways. In Florida, 3,000 people per year are killed. Steve said we need to look at the data and see what has changed. Steve showed crash fatality rates for Pinellas County from 1997 through 2003. Pinellas County is on a downward trend. Steve suggested we look at this in the summer and see what we can plan for this event next year.

The Secretary position for the Pinellas CTST is open. George Francey and Thea Johnson have agreed to have their names placed on the ballot. We will vote on this position at next month's meeting.

Calendar Updates: The National Lifesavers Conference will be held on March 13-15, 2005 in Charlotte, NC. We felt that Bruce Murakami's Safe Teen Driver program would be a good presentation workshop for Lifesavers. The CTST statewide Coalition meeting will be held on Monday, October 11th in St. Augustine. On November 2 at 10:00 AM the Traffic Incident Management meeting will be held at the FDOT offices on Ulmerton Road.

Marc Hanger asked enforcement personnel how large was the problem associated with traffic signals not working after the tropical storms/hurricanes. It was a large problem at 85-90% of the intersections. When stop signs were placed at these intersections, they had to be removed quickly when the signals came back on. We discussed some type of reflective markings for signalized intersections so when the power is out, you can at least realize that you are at an intersection. One suggestion was sheeting on the back plate to outline the signal. There are already proven products available for reflectivity. It was reported in Punta Gorda they painted the names on the roadway to locate positions.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Rouse

Members Present:

Jim Bordner	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office	582-6439
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
Harriet Burns	RID of Tampa Bay	797-4623
T.C. Carter	FDOT	570-5101
David M. Chase	City of Pinellas Park	541-6739
Kendall Davidson	State Attorney	464-6221
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-3885
Robert Daugherty	City of South Pasadena	347-4171
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
George Francey	Pinellas Co School Board	507-4450x1024
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
Thomas Goldberg	Kenneth City Police Dept	544-2564
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Jim Hartwell	City of Largo	587-6730
Peter Hsu	FDOT	813-975-6251
Mike Jockers	St. Pete PD	893-4813
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Denny Pedrick	FDOT, TIM	813-975-6259
Tom Reichert	Pinellas Co Schools	547-7294
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT	813-975-6256
Susan Samson	Area Agency on Aging	570-9696x234
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Pat Siracasa	State Attorney's Office	464-6786
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen	360-9144
Scott Vaughn	St. Pete Beach PD	363-9200
Lydia Wardell	State Attorney's Office	464-6786
Sgt. Robert Wierzba	Clearwater Police Dept	562-4338
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas County MPO	464-8200
Frank Ruggiero	Tarpon Spring Police Dept	
Steven Tindale	Tindale Oliver and Associates	813-224-8862
Scott Korpi	American Consulting Engineers	813-996-2800