

## **Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2003**

Chair Pete Yauch called the general meeting to order and introductions were given. The minutes of the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Enforcement- Ron McKenzie** reported that Adrian Arnold had been promoted to Sergeant at the Pinellas SO and Jim Bordner may return to the team. On Jan. 16, the Stop Red Light Running detail will hit intersections countywide from 1:00–6:00 pm. The Mock Funeral Parade on New Year’s Eve received excellent news coverage by five news channels. Law enforcement is looking at dates for the entire year for details/events.

**Engineering – Marc Hanger** distributed a list of the top 45 intersections in the county, not including the city of St. Pete, for crashes caused by red light running. He said some numbers might be missing but the rankings should be fairly accurate. This can be used as a tool for enforcement. Marc also stated the crash data center has made some movement to get St. Pete’s data and have them listed on all reports. The signal at US 19 and Innisbrook needs to have the poles moved by Florida Power. This signal should be in by March. In Oldsmar at Forest Lake Boulevard west of Pine, the speed limit has been reduced from 45 mph to 35 mph. A new signal was added at Pine Street and they are trying to get a signal at Lake View Drive. New sidewalks are being added along Forest Lake Boulevard. Marc reported that a part of downtown Palm Harbor was getting some dollars to help with a study of Florida Avenue at Alternate 19. Palm Harbor has eleven intersections with Alt. 19. Marc also discussed a recent article in **Better Roads** magazine about the top 10 ways to make roadways safer.

**Education – Kristy Patterson** reported the Fun and Safety Day on February 1 in Palm Harbor will be supported by the CTST; however, we will not have a child passenger safety checkpoint because we can’t get enough technicians to support the event. A sample of a card that indicates hard of hearing or deafness and is placed in the windshield was displayed for consideration. Public information grant funds could be used to print these. EMS says this is helpful information in a crash situation. Kristy said there are 100,000 deaf residents in Pinellas County and a Deaf Services Center in Pinellas Park. Diane Roffey said that several years ago the team had pocket cards printed that were distributed in tux pockets and through florists in corsage boxes with a “Think, Don’t Drink” message. The education subcommittee will investigate printing these again for prom season.

### **Old Business:**

US 19 Task Force – The way-finding signs are being posted. It was noted there were some incorrect numbers posted north of Drew.

The total fatalities for Pinellas County went from 101 to 115 for 2002. The total fatalities statewide increased from 2,999 to 3,067 for 2002. Hillsborough County had a large increase from 177 in 2001 to 218 in 2002.

Diane reported on her meeting with Senator Sebesta regarding the primary seat belt law. The Senator would support the bill if the fine for not wearing your seat belt were equal to the fine for a first time DUI. The current seat belt violation fine is \$46. Under Sebesta's idea, the fine would jump to just under \$200. Diane suggested we work through grass roots efforts to obtain local proclamations, contact insurance agencies, and combine our support with MADD. We will write a letter to the Senator and thank him for his support and wait another year. Diane has an appointment with Gus Bilirakis and she might ask him to address our CTST.

Mike Frederick reported on several pedestrian issues. He said they would be presenting their work program to the public next week. They have hired a bike/ped coordinator.

The speed limits signs along Brian Dairy have been corrected. Ron McKenzie said this makes it easier for enforcement. Ron said the merging problem would remain until they restripe the area. This information has been passed along to the project manager.

Dave Fechter reported the pedestrian signage is in place on how to operate the ped features at Missouri and 4<sup>th</sup>. The Largo utility representative is to meet with Florida Power on additional street lighting in the area. Butch reported a crossing guard request was placed in the budget. Timing has been adjusted in the area to help with the traffic flow. It was also reported there was a DUI related fatality a few weeks ago at Missouri and 16<sup>th</sup> Street South.

Mike Stephens reported the money is budgeted for in-pavement street lighting in Belleair Beach, but it has not been installed yet. This may be the first one in the county.

Jeanette distributed information on submission of Section 402 Safety Grant concept papers. Guidelines and forms were available. The deadline for submission is March 31, 2003.

Keith discussed the white enforcement lights. He said FDOT would buy and distribute. He sent letters yesterday to the maintaining agencies. Contact Keith with your interest. He wants to purchase the lights and have the stock available. We will also need to be able to track where they are being placed.

Terry Hensley stated the agency reports on the DUI wave are due this week. A challenge luncheon meeting to explain the next waves is scheduled for January 21 at FDOT. RSVP is required and each agency can send four people. Terry said there will be a major press conference for the Memorial Day wave and another major press conference to kickoff the DUI wave for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Terry distributed copies of the Quick Reference booklets on traffic laws.

**Members Present:**

Adrian Arnold	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office	582-6439
Shelia Martin	Bay Area Commuter Services	813-282-8200
Keith Crawford	FDOT Safety	813-975-6255
Chief James Ernst	Kenneth City PD	544-2564
David Fechter	Traffic Engineering Dept-Largo	586-7418x4303
Barbara Fidler	City of Dunedin	298-3010
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
Vicki Gilbert	RID of Tampa Bay	545-1260
Geoffrey Gray	AARP 55 Alive	393-5988
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	727-298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	727-464-8200
Terry Hensley	LEL-IPTM	367-9633
Sandra Johns	Pinellas Co MPO	727-464-8200
Nancy Kelly	Tarpon Springs Police	938-2849
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758
Lynda Meyer	Pinellas Traffic Eng	464-8907
Kristy Patterson	Palm Harbor Fire	787-5974
Joseph Pratt	St. Pete PD	893-4883
Diane Roffey	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233x328
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	975-6256
Kris Scholz	Palm Harbor Fire Rescue	787-5974
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Pat Siracasa	State Attorney's Office	464-6786
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen	360-9144
Michael Stephens	Belleair Beach PD	595-4646
Lt. Rob Vincent	Gulfport Police Dept	893-1055
Sgt. Butch Ward	Largo Police Dept	586-7473
Alison Weber	Pinellas Co Schools	588-6151
Pete Yauch	TEI	813-884-7339
Steve Yeatman	Pinellas Signal Shop	464-8987
Kathie Collins	St. Pete Course, AmeriCorp	892-5494

