

Pinellas Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2005

Chairman David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed those present. Introductions were given. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as submitted.

Subcommittee Reports:

Enforcement: Ron McKenzie reported Clearwater Police Department held a Zero Opportunities for Running Red Light Offenders (ZORRO) detail on 1/28/05 at the four worst crash intersections in the City and issued 41 red light citations and 12 other moving citations. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office conducted two Sobriety Checkpoints in January. The first was on 1/28/05 on Bryan Dairy Road and the second was on 1/29/05 at Derby Lanes on Gandy Boulevard. A total of 1676 vehicles passed through these checkpoints and 384 were diverted for assessment. There were 16 charges, with 12 DUI and 25 traffic citations were issued and 11 vehicles impounded. St. Pete Beach Police Department will host a DUI checkpoint on 4/15/05 and would like representatives from MADD and RID to participate. Largo Police Department will host a Commercial Vehicle Checkpoint on 2/9/05 at the Largo Recycling Center. DOT Motor Carrier Compliance will be attending.

The City of St. Petersburg hosted a 2 day ped/bike class for enforcement personnel taught by Dr. Ron VanHouton and Dr. Louis Malenfant. Several officers attended. There was some discussion regarding the use of a "decoy" in pedestrian enforcement. The facilitators had one opinion and some of the enforcement personnel had other opinions. There seemed to be a conflict of interpretation. St. Pete Police Department is asking some questions on the interpretation and seeking a summary from the judicial system.

Education: Kristy Patterson reported the Fun and Safety Day is this coming Saturday, 2/5/05 and asked for support from the agencies. She said they did cancel the Child Safety Seat Inspection as there were not enough trained technicians to check the seats for proper installation. This is the 4th year the Team has supported this event. Kristy also announced that Palm Harbor Fire Rescue is hosting the Southeast Regional Extrication Challenge at St. Pete College in Tarpon Springs on US 19 on 3/15/05 to 3/20/05. Saturday, 3/19/05, is Community Safety Day from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. If you are interested in participating, let Kristy know. There will be a car seat checkpoint at this event and Infinity Broadcasting will do promotions.

Engineering: Marc Hanger reported Gulfport Boulevard near 64th Street was experiencing run off the road problems at a curve. The County is seeking funding from FDOT to solve this problem. The City of St. Petersburg is installing count down pedestrian signals at some intersections downtown. Currently, 5 are installed and eventually there will be 41 installed around town. Due to high pedestrian and bicycle traffic at the intersection of SR 60/Cleveland Street and Hillcrest Avenue in Clearwater, the MPO is exploring the safety crossing issues. The City of Clearwater plans to install

pedestrian features during a resurfacing project later this year. MOTs (Maintenance of Traffic Issues) – Last month, the Treasure Island Causeway was reported reduced to one lane in each direction due to construction. Also, pedestrians and bicyclists no longer have access to the mainland and the bridge will be completely closed for three weeks next year. McMullen Booth Road, south of Ruth Eckerd, will be closed for pedestrian overpass work on Sunday, 2/6/05, from 4:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Mike Gust said he had serious reservations with count down ped signals. Pete Yauch said there has not been much data generated yet.

Denny Pedrick passed out copies of the minutes of the Pinellas County Traffic Incident Management Team meeting from 1/4/2005 along with web site information and telephone numbers. The next TIM meeting for Pinellas will be held on March 1st at DOT's office on Ulmerton Road.

Allen Smith, a parent of a student at Palm Harbor University, addressed the team concerning traffic safety issues. Allen said he has three children at three different Palm Harbor schools. One is at Ozona Elementary School, one at Palm Harbor Middle School, and one at Palm Harbor University. His request was for the Team to pull together for a safe crossing from east to west on Alt 19 at 6:40-6:50 AM. He explained his son is a straight A freshman student at Palm Harbor University. Allen also said he is a cyclist and they tried riding bikes to school. At the Delaware Avenue crossing, there is no lighting and a large hole. They gave up on riding bikes and currently he drives his son to school. He has sent complaints to the school board and has spoken with representatives from the County and FDOT. He is looking for a safe crossing for all and has heard all the reasons why this can't be done. He wants one safe place to cross whether it is at Delaware, Nebraska, Florida or Illinois. Sidewalks are currently in place at Delaware. Peter Hsu replied the DOT got an update report on the turning movement counts and speed study this morning for Alt 19. He said the FDOT was going to work with the County to come up with a recommendation. The school has recommended a crosswalk at Delaware and a full signal at Florida.

Peter also said the FDOT have a new "before and after" study regarding the added lane along US 19. He will try to have the consultant make a presentation at our next meeting on these recommendations.

Old Business: Events in January – Mike Frederick said during the bike/ped training in St. Petersburg, law enforcement made 300 stops and found 50 violations and issued citations. They heard "what are pedestrians doing on the roadways anyway" as a response from motorists.

The Team also discussed a meeting held at Gibbs High School regarding new access on the south side at 11th Avenue S. It needs a signal and it will go in if the warrants are met. Now the state agreed to put in a signal and let the City do it. Pete Yauch explained the latest version of the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) has been modified to make provisions to put it in early. FDOT will provide the signal to Pinellas

County to install. Robert Davis said we need a discussion on where schools are built in relation to major roadways. When we look at school sites, we need to look at their placement beforehand in that Pinellas County is built out. The Team also discussed the Safe Ways to School legislation with no federal funding. Tom Paul replied that all proposals were to be submitted by February 5th. He said the House passed the federal legislation for funding and the slow down was in the Senate last year. They will work through the bill again this session.

Peter Hsu stated last month he offered to help enforcement agencies with traffic safety educational printed materials. Clearwater Police Department jumped on board with a go ped and motorized scooter brochure. Peter offered other ideas like safety tip trading cards. In Pinellas he said we would need a contact point because there are so many law enforcement agencies. If you want to take advantage of this opportunity to promote safety, we need an enforcement agency to be the central contact point.

Upcoming Events: The Suncoast Safe Kids is host a 32- hour training class for Child Passenger Safety on 2/28 to 3/3/05 in Palmetto, FL. Tow 2 Go has been expanded to cover the Super Bowl and other holiday events like St. Patrick's Day. The Florida Section of ITE along with Bike Florida is hosting a Pro Bike/Pro Walk Florida conference in Tampa on April 6-8, 2005 at the Holiday Inn on Fowler Avenue. The National Lifesavers Conference is being held on March 13-15, 2005 in Charlotte, NC. Bill Sparrowhawk from our team will be attending as a representative of the CTST Coalition along with Art Bodenheimer from the Polk CTST. We will have a CTST display booth and Bill will be showcasing his Operation Lifesaver railroad safety display. Dave Fechter is also attending and will display a poster on the white enforcement lights.

The City of St. Pete Beach said they need white lights at the intersection of 75th and Gulf Boulevard.

Steve Yeatman asked a question about a right turn on a red arrow. He asked for an interpretation. The Florida Statutes make no distinction.

Members Present:

David Tobiassen	State Attorney's Office	464-8730
Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
Harriet Burns	RID of Tampa Bay	797-4623
James Byers	PSTA	533-4304
T.C. Carter	FDOT, Pinellas Maintenance	570-5101
Charles Cronin	Clearwater Police Department	562-4162
Robert Davis	Pinellas County	464-3885
Kevin Fannon	Pinellas County Schools	547-7536
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
George Francey	Pinellas County School Board	507-4450x1024
Michael Frederick	City of St. Petersburg	893-7843
Thomas Goldberg	Kenneth City Police Department	544-2564
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223

Marc Hanger	Pinellas MPO	464-8200
Terry Hensley	Law Enforcement Liaison	367-9633
Peter Hsu	FDOT, Safety	813-975-6251
Mike Jockers	St. Pete Police Department	893-4813
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas County MPO	464-8200
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park Police Department	541-0758
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Kristy Patterson	Palm Harbor Fire	787-5974
Tom Paul	Congressman Bilirakis' Office	773-2871
Denny Pedrick	Traffic Incident Management	813-975-6259
Eric Reale	NTSI	888-349-6874
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Susan Samson	Area Agency on Aging	570-9696x234
Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept.	813-664-6397
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen, S. Pasadena	360-9144
Scott Vaughan	St. Pete Beach Police Dept.	363-9200
Pete Yauch	Pinellas Co Dept of Public Works	464-3364
Steve Yeatman	Pinellas Signal Shop	464-8987
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Sgt. Tim Pelella	Pinellas Co Sheriff's Office	582-5604