

**Pinellas County Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting
April 7, 2005 Minutes**

Chairman David Fechter called the general meeting to order and welcomed those members present. Introductions were made. The minutes from the previous meeting of March 3, 2005 were approved as distributed. Notations were made by the secretary regarding two corrections to the attendance, the first being Cpl. Jim Piper (not Joe), PCSO and Bonnie Tarsitano (not Bennie).

Subcommittee Reports:

Enforcement – Ron McKenzie reported that the Pinellas Sheriff's Office conducted a saturation patrol on 3/15/05 in the City of Dunedin. Although it was cut short due to weather and a fatality crash, they issued 43 moving violations and 29 non-moving violations. Sobriety checkpoints were held on 3/11/05 in Madeira Beach and 3/12/05 in Seminole. Combined totals were 30 PCSO members with equipment handled 2023 vehicles through the checkpoint with 343 diverted for assessment. All drivers' licenses and warrant status were checked with an average intrusion time of 1 min. 4 sec. – 1 min. 18 sec. There were 19 arrests with 24 charges, 11 DUI, 1 DWLSR, 2 possession of marijuana (1 felony), 3 possession of paraphernalia, 1 resist arrest w/o violence, 2 possession of alcohol under 21 and 2 warrant arrests. In addition, there were 22 traffic citations and 12 vehicles were impounded. St. Pete Beach held a saturation patrol on 3/31/05 with 5 DUI arrests and on 3/15/05 there were 25 DUIs.

Education. - Diane Roffey reported that she and Jeanette Rouse will be writing a letter to request donations for printing the *Recipes for the Road* booklets. They are targeting 30 companies in Pinellas for donations. The NTSI (National Traffic Safety Institute) has donated \$100 towards the goal of \$20,000. Kristy Patterson is still in Gainesville and she was missed at the Palm Harbor Safety Day, 3/19/05. The turnout was very good and pictures of the event were passed around.

Engineering – Marc Hanger reported that the City of St. Petersburg identified the worst intersections in 2004 and they were: 1) 38th Ave. N & 49th St. N -3.5% crash rate, 2) 22 Ave. N & 34th St. N – 3.12% rash rate 3) 54th. Ave. S & 31st. St. S – 3 % rash rate and 4) 94th Ave. N & Dr ML King St. -3% crash rate. The national average crash rate is 2 %.

MOTS – Belcher Rd. at the RR crossing north of Coachman Rd will be closed for 4 weeks starting late May for improvements. Cleveland St. at Myrtle Ave will be closed for 8 weeks starting April 15 for storm water improvements. **New Legislation** – a bill called “Road Rage Reduction Act” is proposed in Tallahassee to keep traffic moving and hold tempers in check. It prohibits drivers from driving in the left-hand lane unless they are passing. Discussion held indicated there were problems with the legislation. **Florida Work Zone Safety Week** is this week. Nearly 900 people are killed in work zones each year nationally. Engineering standards have increased to improve safety such as

temporary rumble strips, brighter reflective signs & speed displays. The FHP is strictly enforcing work zones and they are disguising themselves as workers in an attempt to highlight this issue. The PCSO will also be focusing on enforcing work zones this week.

TIM - Terry Hensley reported that there will be a TIM meeting next week. Also, VMS has a new contract with FDOT to respond to road problems on I-275 & I-4. The Road Rangers are still on the job and are well received. The emphasis will be on street work, as opposed to site placement.

New Business: The *Courtesy Promotes Safety Video* was shown. The goal is to increase bike/pedestrian crossing safety using courtesy as well as education, enforcement and engineering. The video demonstrated how driver behavior changed when safety improvements along with pedestrian crossing courtesy was introduced.

Updates—FDOT - a draft report regarding Alt. 19 and Tampa Rd. is due to the MPO regarding the findings. Largo PD reported that the City will prohibit crossing anywhere except at the East Bay intersection to resolve the problem at Keene Rd/East Bay. The large complex north of the intersection 600-800 ft and the many access points for vehicles make it a dangerous area for pedestrians. There is much concern that the problem will continue. Sue Samson, AAAPP, discussed issues regarding the safety of older drivers. Training is to be provided in this area and interested persons are encouraged to contact Sue to sign up. The course is a NHTSA & ASA combined effort called DriveWell and Carfit, which is a course designed to encourage safety using adaptations for older/disabled drivers. There is no charge for attendance or materials, but one must be registered. It is a train the trainer concept.

Announcements

The Florida CTST Coalition had a FDOT sponsored booth at the Lifesavers Conference held in Charlotte, NC in April. Jeanette and Dave attended. It was very successful and pictures of the booth were distributed.

Steve Yeatman from Pinellas Traffic Operations showed a short demo video of what possibilities there are for a CTST video.

Melissa gave an update on the Red Light Running Repeat Offenders Bill. It is not going through this year. Work will continue for next year. This year's bill was attached to the camera legislation. Next year it will be filed separately. Any contact/representatives that might be helpful, please let Melissa know.

Peter discussed the possibility of doing a presentation to the Sheriff regarding finding money for the teen driving school in cooperation with Channel 10. In Hernando, the SO is using forfeiture money to provide a school at no charge.

The Pinellas School Safety Summit held on 4/6/05 had a presentation on the K-12 plan for safety programs. There was a good turnout and good press. There will be 2 more

upcoming workshops. The theme is “Safety First Initiative, Be Cool-Follow the Rules”. Public Service Announcements and training will help get the message out. A traffic consultant was hired by the School Board to do a study of the Countryside (SR 580) High School area for recommendations.

The CTST Team of the Year Award application is being completed with Dave, Jeanette, Katherine and Thea assisting on the effort. Jackie Z. did a considerable amount of the data work related to the 2004 crash analysis information for the application as well.

Thea reported that the City of Dunedin Recreation Department is having a “Touch a Truck Day” on 4/30/05. Over 100 trucks will be on display and attendance is expected to be 5,000 – 10, 000. The CTST will have a small booth with Neighborly Care Network who will have a bus on display.

Jeanette and Dave will be presenting at the Pro Walk/Pro Bike Conference in Tampa later today regarding our CTST activity.

There is a quarterly statewide CTST Coalition Meeting in Gainesville on 4/11/05 from 10 am – 2 pm at the Harn Museum.

Bruce Murakami noted that the teen car control classes have shown a 70% reduction in teen crashes. It is deemed highly effective.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Thea Johnson, Secretary*

Members Present:

Katherine Burbridge	Pinellas County	464-3721
David M. Chase	City of Pinellas Park	541-0773
David Fechter	HNTB	813-884-7339
Steve Field	Largo Police Dept	587-6730
Thomas Goldberg	Kenneth City PD	544-2564
Mike Gust	City of Dunedin	298-3223
Marc Hanger	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Terry Hensley	FDOT TIM	813-975-6259
Peter Hsu	FDOT	813-975-6251
Thea Johnson	Neighborly Care Network	571-4384
Sandra Knoebel	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Ron McKenzie	Pinellas Park PD	541-0758
Bruce Murakami	Safe Teen Driver	420-7937
Jim Piper	Pinellas Co Sheriff’s Office	582-6434
Diane Roffey	Suncoast Safety Council	442-0233 x 328
Frank Ruggiero	Tarpon Springs PD	
Susan Samson	Area Agency on Aging	570-9696 x 234

Bruce Shaw	CSX Railroad Police Dept	813-664-6397
Bill Sparrowhawk	Citizen	360-9144
Bonnie Tarsitano	Pinellas Co Traffic	464-8926
David Tobiassen	State Attorney's Office	464-6786
Scott Vaughn	St. Pete Beach PD	363-9200
Melissa Wandall	Mark Wandall Foundation	941-751-9277
Pete Yauch	Pinellas County DPW	464-3364
Steve Yeatman	Pinellas Signal Shop	464-8987
Jackie Zakrzewski	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200
Tom McMullian	VMS, Inc.	813-890-0586
Tom Allen	VMS, Inc.	813-890-0586
Danny Hamilton	Pinellas Co MPO	464-8200



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Calendar of Events

May 23 through June 5, 2005

Click It or Ticket Enforcement Mobilization

June 10, 2005

Click It or Ticket Early Reporting Deadline for Law Enforcement Agencies

June 15, 2005

Click It or Ticket Final Reporting Deadline for Law Enforcement Agencies

August 19 through September 5, 2005

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