



West Central CTST – July 14, 2021

Meeting started 1:31pm

I. Welcome and Introductions were made

II. Minutes were approved for July with the following updates/corrections:

- Cayce's name was misspelled in the July minutes

III. Old Business – Review of Problem Location Spreadsheet

1. US 41/US 98/SR 45/SR 700/SR 50A - E. Jefferson St. @ N. Brooksville Ave. and N. Broad St. @ S. Magnolia Ave.: The City has decided not to install any signals in the downtown area. They did agree to install "pedestrian ahead" signage on US 41 and Jefferson. A service request has been sent to the Brooksville Operations to have that signage installed. *This will be removed from tracking at the next meeting.*

2. County Line Road at Waterfall Drive: Ernie received an email from Pasco County stating this was in the purchasing process. A signal will be installed, and it is currently out for bid. *This will be removed from tracking at the next meeting.*

3. Powell Road at Silver Ridge Boulevard: Ernie stated they are still analyzing the data they received from the consultant.

4. Forest Oaks Boulevard at Deltona Boulevard: No update.

5. US 41 and CR 491: No update. Walt has received numerous complaints from the residents who live along Smith Street about speeding in the neighborhood. People are using Smith Street as a bypass. Walt asked the CCSO to look at this area.

6. Coronado Drive around J.D. Floyd in Spring Hill: No update.

7. Silver Lake Campground at Croom Rital Road: Ernie stated they have ordered the pedestrian crossing signs which will be installed within 30 days. Harry thanked Hernando County. *This will be removed from tracking at the next meeting.*

8. Good Neighbor Trail- Stop Signs: Ernie checked with the County Engineer Admin. to see when this meeting would be rescheduled, but due to the hurricane coming through last week, he's been quite busy. No date has been set yet.

9. Withlacoochee State Trail and Independence Highway Crossing: Peter stated they received a request several months ago and evaluated the situation. Towards the end of summer 2021, the permissive left turn will be stopped when the button is pushed. The signal controller is outdated and needs updating. Peter stated this is an MUTCD issue. Harry read Secretary Gwynn's response/email. Harry inquired how will FDOT encourage the trail user to push the button. Peter stated he would request assistance from Harry, Julie Bond, and Jim McLean on educating trail users. Harry stated he would be happy to discuss with anyone. Discussion followed. Julie stated she would get with Mike and Peter about an education program. Jim said he would speak with the local bike shops. Mike mentioned we could put this



information into the Citrus Chronicle, a local newsletter. Discussion followed with Jim and Harry if the sign was already there or not.

10. Good Neighbor Trail - Preston Road & Weatherly Road: Ernie stated he will be clearing some of the right-of-way at Preston at Richbarn, on the northbound side. They will also be changing some of the signs and adding new signage. Some of the ADA mats will be replaced. Ernie said he will take another look at the Weatherly intersection. Harry brought up that a fence on Preston is blocking views of trail users and motorists. Ernie stated he would look at this next year (they would have to survey all of Preston Road, and it is not in the budget this year). The above-mentioned items could be updated/corrected as early as next week.

11. US 41/SR 700 in Brooksville: Ernie has his signal tech guys go check the timing of the pedestrian crossing and the signal, and they stated it was working fine. Discussion followed with Harry, Ernie, and preemptions. Mike said to address this when the construction is over. Walt asked Mike if he could speak to Cleo (with FDOT) about this. Walt said that we might table this till after construction, since it will be put into a default mode. Mike stated that the estimated completion date is the spring of 2023.

12. US 41, Croom Road: Off 41, on Croom Road, the new section that was recently paved, is already rutted out badly and has a 6-8" of drop-off, which causes lane departures. This has caused several accidents and one fatality. Ernie said he will look into this and get the Project Manager involved.

13. Construction on SR 50, I-75 to US 301: David Carr brought up the construction on SR 50, I-75 to US 301, and asked if they would they be placing any safety signals by the fire department. Mike Zinn said he would look into this. The specific location is at Paul R. Steckel Road and SR 50.

IV. Calendar Updates/Activity Reports

Jeannine, with MADD, stated she is doing outreach and education live at some places. They are gearing up for the upcoming school year so they can give their impaired driving education. Over the summer, they've been working on updating an online education program, Power of Parents. Here is the link to the updated online Power of Parents education workshop that is available for any parent, caregivers, schools, etc. It's quick and easy for schools, organizations, and businesses to offer this free education to their staff and parents. <https://form.jotform.com/210847437202148>

Mike gave the July campaigns:

- National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month
- Wrong Way Driving Awareness Month
- Back to School Safety Month

V. SRTS Update

Walt stated the Turkey Oak sidewalk is underway, as well as the sidewalk for Forest Ridge. Construction for both projects should start soon.



VI. New Business

Cayce stated at the last MPO meeting, there was a gentleman that lived in Crystal River and he is wondering when the stop lights would be fixed. He also added that they can't see the street signs west on 44, from Lecanto to Inverness. He asked if the signage could be larger. Discussion followed. Cayce will review the video of his requests and will email us the specific details.

David Carr brought up the construction on SR 50, I-75 to US 301, and asked if they would they be placing any safety signals by the fire department. Mike Zinn said he would look into this. The specific location is at Paul R. Steckel Road and SR 50.

Mike stated off 41, on Croom Road, the new section that was recently paved, is already rutted out badly and has a 6-8" of drop-off, which causes folks to run off the road there. This has caused several accidents and one fatality. Ernie said he will look into this and get the Project Manager involved.

VII. Open Forum

Jim mentioned the tunnel on US 41, that connects the Dunnellon and Withlacoochee State Trail, is progressing quite well. Discussion followed.

Harry had several comments:

1. FDOT District 7 puts out a newsletter and there was an article inside about survey crew safety. Survey crews are always in danger being on and around the roadways. His comment was that FDOT is worried about survey crew safety and not about bicyclists on Florida roads. Harry then read a passage from an article about the Netherlands regarding bicyclists and speeds.
2. Recently Inverness installed some RRFBs at the Withlacoochee State Trail, Eden Drive Crossing. When Harry saw the plans, he called the Project Manager to discuss serious design flaws. He stated it was a missed opportunity to not relocate the RRFBs.

Mike gave updates on fatal statistics:

- Citrus County: 22 YTD, 4 pedestrians, 0 bicycles, 7 motorcycles
- Hernando County: 17 YTD, 2 pedestrians, 0 bicycles, 1 motorcycle

Meeting adjourned at 2:41pm

Attendees: Thomas Ashley, Julie Bond, David Carr, Sherry Cook, Cayce Dagenhart, Walt Eastmond, George Edmiston, David Guttenplan, Beverly Howard, Peter Hsu, Ernie Lane, Jeannine Lawrence, Jim McLean, Lori Palaio, Ginger Regalado, Andrea Sauvageot, Melissa Shepherd, Michele Snow, Harry van den Berg, Mike Zinn



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Problem Locations – July 2021

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	January 2019	US 41/US 98/SR 45/SR 700/SR 50A E. Jefferson St. @ N. Brooksville Ave. and N. Broad St. @ S. Magnolia Ave.9	Ginger/ Peter/ Mike Z	July 2021	7/14/2021	Currently this is in design by JMT. No design schedule yet. 1st priority is the crosswalk at Jefferson and Brooksville Avenue; 2nd priority is North Broad Street at Magnolia Avenue; 3rd priority is North Broad Street at Brooksville Avenue. Mike Zinn reported that the City approved the conceptual plans and the plans are back with the engineer. The consultant is working on possibly putting in a full-blown pedestrian signal rather than RRFBs. The full signal is a federal pilot program; trying to see if this will qualify. Mike stated he had a meeting scheduled the meeting and some folks didn't show up. He will try and reschedule the meeting one last time to get resolved. Discussion followed. Mike Zinn stated that FDOT had a meeting, and this is in John Darling's hands at the City of Brooksville. FDOT is awaiting their response. The City has decided not to install any signals in the downtown area. They did agree to install "pedestrian ahead" signage on US 41 and Jefferson. A service request has been sent to the Brooksville Operations to have that signage installed. This will be removed from tracking at the next meeting.
2	March 2019	County Line Road at Waterfall Drive	Ernie	July 2021	7/14/2021	Steve D. with Hernando County Schools wanted to know if a signal could be installed at this location. Hernando County will be meeting with Pasco County to go over the requirements for the signal and required equipment and what County agency will install and implement it. Consultant is on board to design and build project. Ernie - This is in Pasco County's hands. Ernie stated that the County has sent funds to Pasco County for design of this project. Going to speak to Venkat at the Pasco County CTST to add this project/info to their CTST notes. Ernie is awaiting a returned call. Ernie stated that this was in Pasco County's arena. He received the plans for the



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						<p>intersection improvements and they under review. Mike spoke with Venkat at the last CTST, in Pasco County, he would be getting with Hernando County on this project. Cayce stated that HC MPO is putting the widening of County Line Road on their priorities list. Currently this project is unfunded. Melissa read to the group the Pasco County CTST notes for this location, which are: “Venkat stated he thought the Engineer Project Manager was working through the plans. Will send us an update for the meeting from his side. Project designs are going through the review process. Zinn stated we would let Ernie Lane know that Venkat is in the design process.” David G. stated there is no update on this. Tina Russo will follow up with Venkat on this item. Ernie received an email from Pasco County stating this was in the purchasing process. A signal will be installed, and it is currently out for bid. This will be removed from tracking at the next meeting.</p>
3	March 2019	Powell Road at Silver Ridge Blvd.	Ernie	July 2021		<p>Steve D. vehicles have been observed traveling the wrong way in the directionalized left turn median opening. Ernie will work with Carlene for update. Hernando County is designing delineator alternatives. The County is working with their consultant (ICON) to get the contract completed. Performing safety audits for this project. Will be following up with consultant on status of completion. Ernie is trying to make contact to transfer the files over to them. Ernie spoke with the consultant and they went to the location and noticed the problem. He has not received anything back from the consultant yet with recommendations for a solution. To date, the consultant only sent the preliminary report. Steve Daniels states the location is still a mess. Ernie stated they just received the information from the consultant, and they are reviewing. Ernie stated they are still analyzing the data they received from the consultant.</p>



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4	March 2019	Forest Oaks Blvd. at Deltona Blvd.	Ernie	Mar. 2021		Steve D. a raised concrete traffic separator has been installed at this location, making it difficult for buses to make the turns. Ernie – they shaved the median back 8ft, this should help. Ped signal should be up soon. Studying the area. Ernie stated this project is still on hold. This may be released at the end of the month and Ernie will get with the County Engineer to see how he wants to proceed. Discussion followed with David G. and Steve about setting up a meeting offline. No update.
5	Sept 2018 & Sept 2019	US 41 and CR 491	Peter/ Edith	July 2021		Northbound left turn has no left turn signal phase; but there is a left turn lane. Due to heavy SB traffic, no gaps are created for vehicles turning left. They need to wait for multiple cycles or take risk turning in front of oncoming traffic. Citizens are requesting evaluation of timing and phasing, possibly add left turn phase. Drivers are cutting through Smith Terrace to avoid signal at intersection. On hold – waiting for things to return to the old normal. Walt received a complaint from an irate citizen regarding the left turning movement. Walt said he will call them back to let them know we are tracking this location. Once we go back to the old normal, Walt stated DOT will perform traffic counts. No update. Walt has received numerous complaints from the residents who live along Smith Street about speeding in the neighborhood. People are using Smith Street as a bypass. Walt asked the CCSO to look at this area.



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6	Feb. 2020	Coronado Drive around J.D. Floyd in Spring Hill	Cayce/ Ernie	Feb. 2021		Complained that there is a speeding issue at this location and people are passing in a no-passing zone. A speed limit flashing light/camera was also requested at this location. Sidewalks are also needed at J.D. Floyd Elementary School. Ernie said this is a school principal issue. This has been an issue for the past 5 years (traffic backs up into surrounding roadways). Cayce: Scott, a HC engineer, is performing a study at JD Floyd. Both Hernando County and Hernando County School Board are conducting studies. Sgt. Brown stated it was the parents that queue along neighborhood streets that is causing the problem. Ernie stated he spoke with the consultant and they were going to start on the traffic study soon. No update.



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7	Feb. 2020	Silver Lake Campground at Croom Rital Road	Ernie	July 2021	7/14/2021	<p>This was originally brought up back in 2016. Harry originally asked for a crosswalk to be installed. The crosswalk was postponed due to construction. Ernie stated that they are restarting on crosswalks on Croom Rital Road. Ernie will be taking a field visit Friday to see where things are at with the project. Harry asked that all three parties are involved with this effort. Ernie stated there were some issues with this project. All the players that were involved with this project have left the County. Harry stated there is a crest in the road to the north; difficulty seeing oncoming traffic. Ernie said he'd open a service request up and do some investigating. On hold. Ernie needs to complete a sight distance study of the location and needs to measure how long the sidewalk will be required. He will try and get this completed by the next meeting. Ernie spoke with the new Assistant County Engineer and he will be looking into this. Discussion followed with Harry and David G. regarding the original requests Harry made and where things are at currently. David G. stated they could discuss this further when they meet in the coming weeks. No update from Ernie. David Carr stated it is up to the US Forestry Division, the DEP (trail), and the County as to what needs to be done here. David G. didn't have anything to add. Discussion followed. Mike pulled the crash reports for this area, and over a 5-year period there have been no crashes at this location. Ernie stated he found one crash, a careless driving crash. Discussion followed. Harry stated he is willing to reach out to DEP and Forestry, as a citizen, in regard to this item.</p> <p>Harry changed his mind about contacting FDEP and is now going to ask the County if, instead of a crosswalk, they would install signs at the crossing. Discussion followed. The signs would be posted to alert the drivers of a crossing. Ernie stated they have ordered the pedestrian crossing signs which will be installed within 30 days. This will be removed from tracking at the next meeting.</p>



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Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
8	Feb. 2020	Good Neighbor Trail- Stop Signs	Ernie/ David G.	July 2021		<p>Harry stated that the stop signs along the trail are around 9 feet high and bicyclists always disregard stop signs. Harry wanted to know why there are stop signs along the trail. Ernie stated the Forestry Division asked for the stop signs. There are 19 yield signs within a 2-mile area and 3 to 4 stop signs. He asked why is the priority placed to the driveways rather than the trails? Ernie has reached out to FWC and is awaiting their call back to discuss. Ernie spoke with FWC they do not have an issue with changing over the stop signs. Ernie is trying to get in touch with the EOR to get their permission to relocate the stop signs.</p> <p>Harry stated he will send an email directly to Ernie to get an update. The fire road stop signs that are facing the trail users should face the fire road users. Ernie stated this is under review by EOR and Engineering. Ernie is waiting on the EOR to provide him the plans to allow changing of the signs. The other part, regarding the yield signs is being evaluated by the County Engineer. Discussion followed.</p> <p>David G. thought that they had received permission from the Forestry Service to remove the stop sign, but they unsure of who should be handling the removal (Hernando County or the Forestry Service). This item will be solved with the understanding that if there is a forest fire, bicyclists should not proceed in front of emergency vehicles. Discussion followed if it was one stop sign or five of them. David G. thought it was just one stop sign. Discussion followed.</p> <p>David G. said that he has an upcoming meeting with the original EOR for this project, folks at the County, and Harry to discuss what can be completed holistically.</p> <p><i>continued on next page...</i></p>



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						<p>David G. has reached out to the original designer (HDR) and they have a couple indications on what they think should be done in this area. Scott Herring has reached out to Harry to set up a meeting over the next couple of weeks. Harry agreed to meet. They will discuss the options amongst each at that time. Hernando County PW is discussing solutions to the issue. Ernie stated he has no update on this. Harry stated there will be an upcoming meeting within the next couple of weeks to discuss this. Harry stated Hernando County requested a postponement of the meeting. No date has been set.</p> <p>Ernie checked with the County Engineer Admin. to see when this meeting would be rescheduled, but due to the hurricane coming through last week, he's been quite busy. No date has been set yet.</p>



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9	Feb. 2021	Withlacoochee State Trail and Independence Highway Crossing	Harry / Mike Zinn	July 2021		<p>At this location, Harry has had folks stop him with issues with signal timing and several close calls. What the folks described to Harry was not what the FDOT promised him, in writing, they would implement at this location. Harry went to the location and noted several observations: 1) FDOT has implemented a permissive, protected left turn for NB 41 traffic turning on to Independence across the Trail. FDOT promised him a protected let turn only. 2) The protected left turn phase for the NB traffic was activated with no vehicles in the turn lane, which caused a delay. 3) When the trail users push the button and receives the green signal to cross Independence, the green signal is only lit between 4-5 seconds. This is very short. 4) The “no right turn” blank out signal for SB 41 traffic, trying to cross the trail, is only illuminated during the 4-5 seconds the trail is green. Turning traffic is being released even though trail users are in the crosswalk or allowed in the crosswalk. 5) After Harry pushed the button, he had to wait about 85 seconds before he received a green signal. 6) Trail is closed one block north of the crossing.</p> <p>There was very low traffic and they still had to wait, or they just went for it, looking both ways. Harry again stated the signal timing issues and that this was not what FDOT promised him when they were working on this intersection.</p> <p>Jim McLean stated he did go and investigate this area. Depending on when you push the button to cross, there could be a wait to cross Independence. He did not find it to be a problem. FDOT did relocate the sign out towards the intersection; it’s very visible now. The County would have to get involved to move the sign onto the mast arm. Harry mentioned that he sent Mike an email with items he was requesting at this location (items are in the problem location sheet). Mike sent those items, back in February, to Signals at Traffic Ops. Discussion followed. <i>continued on next page...</i></p>



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						<p>Mike does not have an update. Discussion followed. Harry inquired about his previous requests. He requested that the blank-out signs need to be lit at all times. Also inquired about a permissive left turn. Peter Hsu stated they are looking at these updates and still working on these improvements. Mike did not have an update. After the last meeting, Harry reached out to Peter Hsu and Peter has not responded to him. Harry is going to reach out to the District Secretary about this location.</p> <p>Peter stated they received a request several months ago and evaluated the situation. Towards the end of summer 2021, the permissive left turn will be stopped when the button is pushed. The signal controller is outdated and needs updating. Peter stated this is an MUTCD issue. Harry read Secretary Gwynn's response/email. Harry inquired how will FDOT encourage the trail user to push the button. Peter stated he would request assistance from Harry, Julie Bond, and Jim McLean on educating trail users. Harry stated he would be happy to discuss with anyone. Discussion followed. Julie stated she would get with Mike and Peter about an education program. Jim said he would speak with the local bike shops. Mike mentioned we could put this information into the Citrus Chronicle, a local newsletter. Discussion followed with Jim and Harry if the sign was already there or not.</p>



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10	Apr. 2021	Good Neighbor Trail - Preston Road & Weatherly Road	Ernie / Harry	July 2021		<p>Harry stated that on the Good Neighbor Trail, where it crosses Preston Road, the sight distances to the north are severely restricted. In the NW corner, there are a lot of trees; if they could be trimmed back that would help significantly. Crosswalk warnings are currently facing the motorists; these signs are in odd locations. Mike added that the ADA mats are crumbling and peeling up. Ernie stated he will look into this location. On Weatherly Road, the warning signs at this location are positioned in strange locations as well. Ernie stated he will be clearing some of the right-of-way at Preston at Richbarn, on the northbound side. They will also be changing some of the signs and adding new signage. Some of the ADA mats will be replaced. Ernie said he will take another look at the Weatherly intersection. Harry brought up that a fence on Preston is blocking views of trail users and motorists. Ernie stated he would look at this next year (they would have to survey all of Preston Road, and it is not in the budget this year). The above-mentioned items could be updated/corrected as early as next week.</p>
11	May 2021	US 41/SR 700 in Brooksville	Harry / Ernie	July 2021		<p>Harry stated the crossing signal timing is off and takes too long to cross. Requested the crosswalks be timed accordingly. Discussion followed. Ernie will take a look at this. Ernie has his signal tech guys go check the timing of the pedestrian crossing and the signal, and they stated it was working fine. Discussion followed with Harry, Ernie, and preemptions. Mike said to address this when the construction is over. Walt asked Mike if he could speak to Cleo with FDOT about this. Walt said that we might table this till after construction, since it will be put into a default mode. Mike mentioned that the estimated completion date is the spring of 2023.</p>



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12	July 2021	US 41, Croom Road	Mike / Ernie	July 2021		Off 41, on Croom Road, the new section that was recently paved, is already rutted out badly and has a 6-8” of drop-off, which causes lane departures. This has caused several accidents and one fatality. Ernie said he will look into this and get the Project Manager involved.
13	July 2021	Construction on SR 50, I-75 to US 301	David Carr	July 2021		David Carr brought up the construction on SR 50, I-75 to US 301, and asked if they would they be placing any safety signals by the fire department. Mike Zinn said he would look into this. The specific location is at Paul R. Steckel Road and SR 50.