



West Central CTST – September 8, 2021

Meeting started 1:36pm

I. Welcome and Introductions were made

II. Minutes were approved for August, with the following corrections to be made as stated below:

- Floral City RRFBs (CR 48/Orange Avenue) corrections to both the meeting minutes and problem location table. Corrections are as follows. Harry was the person who criticized the location of the push buttons. Harry was the person who criticized the lack of signage that was visible to bicyclists. Harry was the person who asked for the name of the person who approved this installation.

III. Old Business – Review of Problem Location Spreadsheet

1. Powell Road at Silver Ridge Boulevard: No update.

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

3. US 41 and CR 491: Waiting for Walt to perform traffic counts when things resume to normal traffic; maybe fall.

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

5. Good Neighbor Trail- Stop Signs: No update.

6. Withlacoochee State Trail and Independence Highway Crossing: Per Harry's request, his comments below were read aloud during the CTST meeting. "During the July meeting I discussed the need for educating trail users after the new controller has been installed and properly programmed. The minutes reflect that, "Peter stated he would request assistance from Harry, Julie Bond, and Jim McLean on educating trail users." Peter also directed Ginger to address this issue, but I have not heard from anyone." Jim did a survey on this location; he was left feeling vulnerable. His recommendations were 1.) all traffic at RT/LT stop when "WALK" is on. 2.) Needs literature/campaign to educate folks. They are still waiting on the new controller. A lot of group discussion about this location. Heading SB there is no signage; it needs to face users. No one stops at stop bar.

7. Good Neighbor Trail - Preston Road & Weatherly Road: No update.

8. US 41, Croom Road: Mike stated that FDOT donated a sign with LEDs to Hernando County.

9. Construction on SR 50, I-75 to US 301: Mike stated the design team will be interviewing the Fire Chief regarding the retaining wall.

10. Floral City RRFBs (CR 48/Orange Avenue): Per Harry's request, his comments below were read aloud during the CTST meeting that he emailed to Mike Zinn. "Although I was the person who brought the problems at this location to the team's attention, I was kept out of the loop when the issue was apparently discussed among Austin, Walt, and Jim. And why did Austin meet with Jim to discuss the issues at this location when I was the person who brought them to the team's attention?" Jim gave an



update on these items: The supplemental push button sign has been complete. The tree trimming is complete. Austin is working on getting an apron installed for riders to push and go. They will be adding a yield sign by the push button by the trail. Discussion followed. Only 1 in 10 were pushing the button. An education plan is necessary. The group discussed adding pavement markings on the trail. Jim stated he would get with FDEP about this. Mike stated he could supply the materials for the pavement markings. George mentioned having enforcement at the trail/writing tickets for not using the push buttons. Further discussion followed. The group mentioned that within the past 7 months, there have been approx. 48,000 riders on the trail; there are counters are CR 48.

IV. Calendar Updates/Activity Reports

Brentin mentioned the virtual Sprint for Safety 5K during the month of October, which is National Pedestrian Safety month.

Janice stated they finished the Drive Sober/Get Pulled Over and they are evaluating the data collected. The next campaign will be in December.

Ashley said October 6th is International Walk to School Day. They are partnering with Westside Elementary School and will be walking four blocks to school. Janice stated she would get her some items for the event.

Mike gave the September campaigns

- Pedestrian Safety Month, October 2021
- Child Passenger Safety Week, September 19-25th
- Child Safety Seat Check, September 25th

Mike displayed the new CTST website and discussed where to find things and new features the website holds. He asked that if anyone sees anything that needs to be corrected, please send him the revisions. Discussion followed.

V. SRTS Update

Mike stated Turkey Oak is starting construction and Forest Ridge is starting soon.

VI. New Business

Beverly mentioned a local man was moving barrels along US 19 /Homosassa. He moved the barrels onto the sidewalk, out of the roadway. This was near the CVS/Walgreens. The following day the barrels were returned their original position on the roadway. Group discussion followed.

Sherry, via Mike, stated that there are bad potholes on E/W of Rock Crusher at SR 44. Mike stated he would contact Brooksville Operations Manager about this.



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VII. Open Forum

Mike gave updates on fatal statistics:

- Citrus County: 23 YTD, 6 pedestrians, 2 bicycles, 3 motorcycles
- Hernando County: 22 YTD, 4 pedestrians, 3 bicycles, 11 motorcycles

Mike and Bala discussed LPIs and played the recently added LPI video for the group. Discussion followed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm

Attendees: Cayce Dagenhart, George Edmiston, Beverly Howard, Janice Martinez, Jim McLean, Brentin Mosher, Bala Padmanabhan, Melissa Shepherd, Ashley Thomas, Mike Zinn



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Problem Locations – September 2021

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	March 2019	Powell Road at Silver Ridge Blvd.	Ernie	August 2021		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. Ernie stated they will put back a full intersection based upon funding of this improvement. No update.
2	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.
3	Sept 2018 & Sept 2019	US 41 and CR 491	Peter/ Edith	Sept. 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. ...continued on next page...



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						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. Waiting for Walt to perform traffic counts when things resume to normal traffic; maybe fall.
4	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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5	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. 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. 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 (HC) 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. 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. 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. HCPW is discussing solutions to the issue. Harry stated there will be an upcoming meeting within the next couple of weeks to discuss this. Harry stated HC requested a postponement of the meeting. No date has been set. 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. No update.</p>



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6	Feb. 2021	Withlacoochee State Trail and Independence Highway Crossing	Harry / Mike Zinn / Ginger	Sept. 2021		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. 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. Harry again stated the signal timing issues and that this was not what FDOT promised him when they were working on this intersection. 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. Mike sent those items, back in February, to Signals at Traffic Ops. Harry inquired about his previous requests. He requested that the blank-out signs need to be always lit. Also inquired about a permissive left turn. Peter 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 and Peter has not responded to him. Harry is going to contact the District Secretary about this. Peter stated they received a request several months ago and evaluated the situation. <i>-continued on next page-</i>



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						<p>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, and Jim on educating trail users. Mike mentioned adding this info into the Citrus Chronicle. Peter said he would make the changes to the controller to remove the left turn phase and ped bike crossing violation. Peter has not heard back from the signal group on this; Mike will follow up. He asked Harry if anything has been done in the area since he's local; Jim stated nothing has changed. Harry brought up the educational component, the lack of signage. Peter stated that they need to work with Walt, Ginger, and the community on this educational request. Ginger will talk the FDOT's signal people on the status of this request. Jim stated he did some research on the RRFB at Eden Drive and contacted Eric Williams, the Inverness City Manager, regarding the use of RRFBs and bicyclists. There should be suppl. signage to let the bicyclist know to cross. The controller sign should be facing the trail. Jim brought these issues up to the Chronicle which should be posted this week.</p> <p>Per Harry's request, his comments below were read aloud during the CTST meeting. "During the July meeting I discussed the need for educating trail users after the new controller has been installed and properly programmed. The minutes reflect that, "Peter stated he would request assistance from Harry, Julie Bond, and Jim McLean on educating trail users." Peter also directed Ginger to address this issue, but I have not heard from anyone." Jim did a survey on this location; he was left feeling vulnerable. His recomm. were 1.) all traffic at RT/LT stop when "WALK" is on. 2.) Needs literature/campaign to educate folks. They are waiting on the new controller. A lot of group discussion about this location. Heading SB there is no signage; it needs to face users. No one stops at stop bar.</p>



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7	Apr. 2021	Good Neighbor Trail - Preston Road & Weatherly Road	Ernie / Harry	August 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. Ernie stated the service request has been entered to clean a site distance area. There is no completion date yet due to previous storms. No update.</p>
8	July 2021	US 41, Croom Road	Mike / Ernie	Sept. 2021		<p>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. Ernie said this is under review. Mike mentioned several of the signs have been corrected, but the drop-offs have not been. Mike stated that FDOT donated a sign with LEDs to Hernando County.</p>



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9	July 2021	Construction on SR 50, I-75 to US 301	David Carr / Mike / Ernie	Sept. 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. Mike said the Fire Department is going back out for review with the retaining wall. The Fire Chief has no issues with pulling out; the issue is when he returns. FDOT will do another warrant study at Sherman Hills to see what's going on there in the future. Mike stated the design team will be interviewing the Fire Chief regarding the retaining wall.



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10	August 2021	Floral City RRFBs (CR 48/Orange Avenue)	Harry / Ginger / Walt	Sept. 2021		<p>Walt asked if Ginger could get with Austin and the Contractor and see what happened during construction. Jim mentioned the tree trimming needs to be done again, so the solar panels could be charged; Walt mentioned he would contact Road Maintenance about this. Since the meeting, several emails have been routed around (Austin/Walt) and Austin met with Jim to discuss the issues at this location. Per Austin, the following items need further coordination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Supplemental Push Button Sign: Harry wanted to see about adding an extra “push to cross” sign on the push buttons that faced towards the trail to make them more visible to users. Austin told him that the FDOT standard was parallel to the crossing as installed, but that the county now maintains the RRFB so it would be for them to dictate if this was something that would be considered. ♦ Concealed Crossing Ahead Sign: Harry noted some visibility issues with a crossing ahead sign going eastbound on CR 48. Austin discussed this with the FDOT Traffic Ops group and they noted the best option would be to adjust this sign to where the “Speeding Fines Doubled” sign currently is to the east, and mount the “Speeding Fines Doubled” sign to the crossing ahead sign. As these are both Citrus County signs and were installed prior to FDOT’s project, Austin wanted to see how Walt/County would like to proceed with this item. ♦ Primarily an FYI- Jim mentioned to Austin that he had watched 30 people use the crossing that morning and only three had used the push button to cross. While Austin was standing there with Jim, he witnessed multiple riders come right up next to the supplemental push buttons and not push them to cross. He knows from previous conversations that RRFB are not prevalent in Citrus County (possibly the only one on a county road?). Austin plans to reach out to the FDOT Traffic Ops group to see if they can partner with Walt/County and the CTST to possibly put out some information or a campaign of some sort to help with... <p>...continued on next page...</p>



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						<p>encouraging trail users to utilize the push buttons. Walt had no issues with the first two items and referred the issues to County Road Maint. staff (via email). The last item, Walt mentioned he would bring it up at the CTST meeting and see what opportunities can be created for this. Also, per Austin, Jim was especially grateful of the work that had been done by Citrus County with the trees in the area.</p> <p>Per Harry’s request, his comments below were read aloud during the CTST meeting that he emailed to Mike Zinn. “Although I was the person who brought the problems at this location to the team’s attention, I was kept out of the loop when the issue was apparently discussed among Austin, Walt, and Jim. And why did Austin meet with Jim to discuss the issues at this location when I was the person who brought them to the team’s attention?” Jim gave an update on these items: The supplemental push button sign has been complete. The tree trimming is complete. Austin is working on getting an apron installed for riders to push and go. They will be adding a yield sign by the push button by the trail. Discussion followed. Only 1 in 10 were pushing the button. An education plan is necessary. The group discussed adding pavement markings on the trail. Jim stated he would get with FDEP about this. Mike stated he could supply the materials for the pavement markings. George mentioned having enforcement at the trail/writing tickets for not using the push buttons. Further discussion followed. The group mentioned that within the past 7 months, there have been approx. 48,000 riders on the trail; there are counters are CR 48.</p>