

Pinellas CTST – October 6, 2022

Meeting started at 10:02 am

I. General Meeting

Welcome and Introductions were given. The September meeting minutes were approved.

II. Committee Reports

Enforcement

Cassidy Perry (PPPD): No update.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Last month PCSO finished up their grant. There was an unfortunate accident on I-275 with Deputy Michael Hartwick. Then the hurricane came. In October, they are starting a detail starting next week. The detail was supposed to start the week of the 22nd, but it was delayed. PCSO is going to be doing some US 19 traffic enforcement with around ten deputies. Some Command Staff that traveled to work for PCSO had seen some egregious traffic violations for the morning rush hour traffic. The traffic unit, DUI unit, etc. will be out in the morning to combat that aggressive driving. October 22nd is Pinellas County's Walk Like MADD. The information is on the CTST website. The MADD ladies are putting together a bunch of stuff for that.

Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian

None

Education and EMS

Joseph Camera (Pinellas School Board): He said that with schools being closed last week, it has been quiet.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): They used some of the school busses to move people to shelters right before the storm hit.

Brandy Howard (Suncoast Safety Council): No update.

Janice Martinez (LEL): They finished Drive Sober, Get Pulled Over for Labor Day. They are collecting data from all the law enforcement agencies that participated. Going into Halloween, trafficsafetymarketing.gov has a ton of social media outreaches for Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving. There is no data collection for it, but there are a lot of great resources for it.

Julie Bond (CUTR): They rescheduled some of the high school presentations. They are still working with the schools for the scholarships for the drivers education teachers. They are continuing with safety presentations and on the street education. On Sunday, November 20th is World Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims. The event will be at 9am at Treasure Island City Hall and there will also be an event at 1pm in St. Petersburg. The people who are putting this together are victims or have family members killed riding a bicycle or walking. They put out a press release.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): He is participating in an event in downtown Tampa called Tunnels to Towers. It was a group created after 911. They deal with victims for first responders and military. They are climbing over 40 stories.

Denise (MADD): She is hopefully to see lots of people at Walk Like MADD event. She is waiting for an approval for the presentations. On November 3rd, from 11am to 2pm, St. Pete College is doing an Impaired Driving Awareness Event. They will have a simulator company out there and the crash car.

III. Old Business

Problem Locations

1. **US 19/298/297:** Mark spoke with Deputy Miller. It is going to be an ongoing issue for a while, until they get rid of or extend the medians.
2. **US 19/E. Lime Street - Tarpon Springs:** No update.
3. **School Zones – Tampa Road and 19th Street, West of US 19:** The traffic people worked that area. The Sheriff was out there sitting in the median with the radar gun, and he had two or three people pulled over on the side. At 54th Avenue and 37th Street, the bus drivers are complaining about people running by through their stop bars. Mark will pass that location to the traffic guys.
4. **Passing School Busses:** This was discussed in item three and will stay on the problem location sheet throughout the school year and will be taken down once the school year passes. It has been a historic problem.
5. **Light at Tarpon Mall:** Mark believes Officer Boone retired. He will ask Officer Gaskin who will replace him. Mike said this is already under construction and the contractor is currently working on it. It is for the City of Tarpon Springs. They are getting new extended turn lanes and turn signals. They are getting a lot of different things at that intersection.
6. **US 19 and Northside Drive:** They are doing enforcement. There will be overpasses on US 19 north and south of here. On the north side, it will be a right in and right out. The overpass will be for pedestrians.
7. **East Lake Road at Tarpon Woods Boulevard:** The delineators are 80 dollars apiece and are being replaced every week. Deputy Miller works that area. Mark will reach out to him for an update. Issues are during rush hour traffic. The road goes from three lanes to two lanes right before the light, then it's a right turn only. People do not want to wait the extra five minutes in traffic. It is at East Lake Road and Tarpon Woods Boulevard, not Woodlands Parkway. Pinellas County has a live only camera at the traffic light. Discussion followed.
8. **RRFB @ Starkey Road north of Ulmerton Road:** A lot of people are congregating there. The school nearby is Southern Oaks Elementary School. Kids come out from the apartment complexes. It is an ongoing issue.
9. **Multiple Locations along the norther portion of US 19 in Pinellas County:** It is in the work program to get resurfaced. Currently they are doing design work on it. It will take a while before it gets to physical construction. They will be out there starting next week for the next month doing strict traffic enforcement for speed and aggressive driving.

HSIP and SRTS Projects

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): She welcomed Brian Pessaro from the City of St. Petersburg; he took Mike Frederick's position. Mahshid is working with Bill Riha on material requests. They are reviewing speed feedback signs and are incorporating LPI's on local roads. They are talking to cities and counties. They are also working on Safe Strides to Zero intersections that are higher crashes. For any applications for HSIP, send them in an email form to Bill Riha and copy Mahshid; the issues have not resolved with the portal yet.

Mike Zinn (FDOT): They are reviewing four locations in Reddington Shores for RRFB's and reviewing four other locations in Indian Shores.

Fatal Map Status

Mark Easty (PCSO): Last month was not a good month. This month there was a crash in St. Petersburg with juveniles. The driver who was not expected to live, is most likely going to live. Sandra was not at meeting to discuss map. There could be an issue with CDMS. There was a report Sandra asked for last month that Mark approved. It was submitted to DHSMV, which should have seen on her end, but she couldn't see it. Mark had to physically send the report to Sandra. Pinellas County is down about 20 crashes from last year. May to July and some of August, they were doing very good with only a couple fatal crashes a month.

Mark discussed the Pinellas County Trail User Count Data. It has been historic that Dunedin always has the highest set of users with about 33,000 people for the month of July. Most of them were bicyclist. More people are utilizing the trail in the morning, between 6am and noon. Between January and July approximately 1.2 million pedestrians or bicyclist have used the Pinellas Trail.

IV. New Business

High Crash Intersections

Mark said to put the High Crash Intersections section with the Fatal Map Status.

Mike Zinn (FDOT): Mike discussed the different safety campaigns in October:

- October 12th is National Walk to School Day. Quite a few schools from the Bay Area will be participating in that.
- October 15th - White Cane Safety Day for the blind population
- National School Bus Safety - October 17th - 21st
- National Teen Safe Driving Week - October 17th - 23rd
- Mobility Week - October 21st - October 28th
- Walk like MADD - October 22nd

For Mobility Week, the State has a training program called Car Fit. Car Fit is for senior drivers. It is designed to help seniors learn how to fit in their cars correctly, since car technology is changing so drastically. The last one Mike attended to was in Leesburg. A lot of seniors do not know how to adjust their

steering wheels, etc. Mike is trying to bring training in the local Bay Area. Mark said a lot of people are tourists and visitors who rent brand new cars. The tourists and visitors do not know that the lights are not automatic. So, a lot of people do not have their vehicle lights turned on at night. Discussion followed on car features. For the Car Fit, each training takes about 20 minutes. AARP and AAA are also involved; it is a partnered event. Maybe the City of Dunedin or other municipalities can get involved. The City of Dunedin has a senior center that has a large auditorium that can fit plenty of people. In Pasco, 12 people want to sign up to become a technician. It is a two-day course to be technician. The training to become a technician is free, outside of time having to be there for two days. One is coming up in January in St. Cloud with a full class. Mike has not had a Hillsborough meeting yet to discuss Car Fit there. They are looking to have event organizers in each community.

The next meeting is November 3rd at 10:00 am and it will be virtual.

Meeting adjourned at 10:49 am

Attendees: Mahshid Arasteh, Julie Bond, Joseph Camera, Brandon Drawhorn, Emmeth Duran, Sgt. Mark Eastty, Scott Friedman, Jenn Hall, Brandy Howard, Johnathan Kuntz, Janice Martinez, Lori Palaio, Cassidy Perry, Brian Pessaro, Joan Rice, Melissa Shepherd, Mike Zinn, Robert Wallace Autumn Westermann, Denise with MADD

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	8/5/2021	US 19 / 298/297  https://goo.gl/maps/Y5Frg2nNDMe8DEoR8	Deputy Miller, Deputy Pierce, Peter Hsu, Mike Zinn	10/6/22		<p>Dangerous location. Peter mentioned he could assist with this location. This has been turned over and is under review. Deputy Miller said that he has been hitting this area a lot. They put up a sign for the new traffic pattern and it has helped a lot. There is a constant amount of people cutting over at the last minute in rush hour. Deputy Miller stated there is a new traffic pattern which has resulted in less violators, except during rush hour. Miller stated they are still cutting over at the last minute and they are still getting citations. This is a constant problem and doesn't look like it will go away. He said they will have to educate more. There are ongoing problems with the right turn lane and vehicles hitting the delineators. This seems to be an ongoing problem. Whenever new delineators go up, within two days, they are hit. They keep having to replace them. New delineators are on the market that have been tested well, as an example some are on the Suncoast Expressway. It's a new type of delineator where trucks can run over them, and they pop right back up. Mike does not know how long until the new type of delineator will be replaced everywhere. This seems to be an ongoing problem and may not be fixable. Leave this on the problem location sheet for now.</p> <p>Mark spoke with Deputy Miller. It is going to be an ongoing issue for a while, until they get rid of or extend the medians.</p>
2	8/5/2021	US 19 / E. Lime Street – Tarpon Springs  https://goo.gl/maps/FSX3cQ6	Deputy Miller, Deputy Pierce, Peter Hsu, Mike Zinn, TSPD	7/8/22		<p>Dangerous location. Peter mentioned he could assist with this location. This has been turned over and is under review. Ofc. Boone stated they are still having at least 3-5 crashes per week (on average) at this location. He stated this is due to the backing up of MLK. Currently they are down two traffic guys.</p> <p>FDOT came out and they are getting ready to put the delineators up to force people to make a right turn versus going straight. This was complete about two and a half weeks ago. They sent the guys out to do the program there today and it has been very successful with about 15 traffic stops on US 19. They are in education mode right</p>

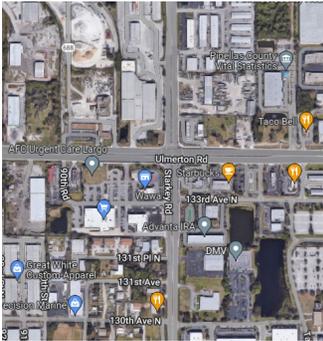
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		64YwAXQ1k6				now. Crashes have gone down. They have seen a lot of breaking and slowing down. The raised curbing or delineators will help a lot. This will stay on the problem location sheet until those things are complete. No update.
3	11/4/2021	<p>School Zones - Tampa Road and 19th Street, West of US 19</p>  <p>https://goo.gl/maps/qAzk7C9v1SpZbc388</p>	Deputy Miller	10/6/22		<p>Drivers are going very fast in school zones; the top speed he recorded was 52 MPH in a 15 MPH school zone. He is requesting that a yellow stripe be placed on the poles to indicate the end of the school zone; people are thinking after the lights is the end of the school zone. Deputy Miller stated that this school zone is the worst. He clocked someone traveling 53 MPH in a 15 MPH zone. Mike Zinn stated he can purchase safety equipment; he needs an email explaining the issues and justifications. Miller stated people think once they leave the light in the school zone, they are out of the school zone. He sits in the middle of the median, in a marked car, and people still speed past him at 55 MPH. He suggested putting up signage in the median to help. In two weeks, school will be over. There will still be some school busses running in the summer, but not as much. June 6th starts the Summer Program, so they are trying to figure out bus schedules and routing. Deputy Miller currently stopped someone going 52 mph in the school zone. The speed limit at this location is 40 mph. The minimum fine speeding in a school zone is \$660. Discussion followed regarding speed feedback signage. This will stay on the list and will address it next month when school kicks back up. There is queuing. Consider education and enforcement efforts.</p> <p>The traffic people worked that area. The Sheriff was out there sitting in the median with the radar gun, and he had two or three people pulled over on the side. At 54th Avenue and 37th Street, the bus drivers are complaining about people running by through their stop bars. Mark will pass that location to the traffic guys.</p>

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4	11/4/2021	Passing School Buses	Deputy Miller, Joseph Camera	10/6/22		<p>He and other deputies have been targeting people passing stopped school buses. The buses are not activating the red lights which activates the stop bars, only the yellow lights are on. People are passing with the yellow lights on. The deputies can't stop people unless the red lights are on, and the stop bars are out. He asked that the bus drivers be re-educated about this to help the situation. Discussion followed. Joseph Camera will be speaking to his bus drivers about this. Joe said that he sent information to the supervisors with instructions for all the drivers. Joe still averages about 12 per week. This will stay on the list and will address it next month when school kicks back up. This is a districtwide problem. Everyone forgets and more education and enforcement is needed.</p> <p>This was discussed in item three and will stay on the problem location sheet throughout the school year and will be taken down once the school year passes. It has been a historic problem.</p>
5	12/2/2021	Light at Tarpon Mall  https://goo.gl/maps/RNwqUTnPLqxd4rwp6	COTS PD (Boone)	10/6/22		<p>Officer Hollingsworth brought up to the group the light at the Tarpon Mall. There have been many bad crashes and fatalities at this location. There are no designated turn arrows. Ofc. Boone stated they've had multiple incidents at this location due to the no left turn arrows. From his understanding, FDOT has a contractor coming in to work from Huey Avenue to US 19. He heard this was supposed to happen in the spring. They have been out doing traffic counts and studies. They are still waiting on FDOT to start that program. They need the left turn arrow bad. They have had multiple fatalities and several crashes. With no arrow, it is a big problem. They heard it would start in March, but it keeps getting put off. It is on Tarpon Avenue, west of US 19. There's a traffic light in between Walmart and the Publix entrance. Mike stated to put a traffic warrant request in. They are waiting for approval. Mike will follow up.</p> <p>Mark believes Officer Boone retired. He will ask Officer Gaskin</p>

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						who will replace him. Mike said this is already under construction and the contractor is currently working on it. It is for the City of Tarpon Springs. They are getting new extended turn lanes and turn signals. They are getting a lot of different things at that intersection.
6	6/2/2022	US 19 and Northside Drive  https://goo.gl/maps/BD73YvDPLEVZ7vx8A	FHP	10/6/22		<p>Suggested to look at shutting the left-turn lane. You must make a U-turn to get to other side of the street. Enforcement is being conducted in the area between 4pm and 6pm. Joan stated within six months it is probably going to be closed down due to the construction on US 19. They will keep this on the list to see what happens with the construction. This is more of an enforcement issue.</p> <p>They are doing enforcement. There will be overpasses on US 19 north and south of here. On the north side, it will be a right in and right out. The overpass will be for pedestrians.</p>

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7	6/2/2022	East Lake Road at Tarpon Woods Boulevard  https://goo.gl/maps/CzzzPzYvzTTEHNSA		10/6/22		<p>The delineators are being continuously ran over. The delineators are the big boulder ones that are approximately \$80 per piece. They are being replaced every week. The delineators are being continuously ran over. A suggestion was to have more deputies out there during rush hour. This will stay on list and there will be an update next meeting.</p> <p>The delineators are 80 dollars apiece and are being replaced every week. Deputy Miller works that area. Mark will reach out to him for an update. Issues are during rush hour traffic. The road goes from three lanes to two lanes right before the light, then it's a right turn only. People do not want to wait the extra five minutes in traffic. It is at East Lake Road and Tarpon Woods Boulevard, not Woodlands Parkway. Pinellas County has a live only camera at the traffic light. Discussion followed.</p>
8	7/8/2022	RRFB @ Starkey Road north of Ulmerton Road  https://goo.gl/maps/mP4aTReBBao4HLwn6	Joe Camera, PCSB	10/6/22		<p>At the intersection of Ulmerton Road and Starkey Road, a lot of people congregate. There are two left turn lanes, a right turn lane, and a forward lane. Everyone is trying to get to the north side quickly. The townhomes are further north on Starkey Road on the east side. A lot of Southern Oaks Elementary School students are in the townhomes. People are not paying attention and the kids want to go to Wawa or Walmart and cut across Starkey Road. He is worried that in the morning and afternoon, the kids are not being protected and aimlessly going across the roads. Drivers are speeding and not paying attention. Kids cannot evaluate the speed of a vehicle to cross the road. An RRFB could help children and adults cross the road safely. Discussion followed. This will be added to the problem location sheet. Joan brought up that she needed to know the specifics of the location in question and Joe stated he get the number of students and where the exactly cross street is at. Putting lights further north may possibly fix issue.</p> <p>A lot of people are congregating there. The school nearby is</p>

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						Southern Oaks Elementary School. Kids come out from the apartment complexes. It is an ongoing issue.
9	8/4/22	Multiple Locations along the northern portion of US 19 in Pinellas County	Deputy Miller/Mike Zinn/Mark Easty	10/6/22		<p>At Tampa Road and US 19, they resurfaced the road, and they didn't put the delineators back on at the right turn lane going westbound. People keep on going straight and almost causing several crashes.</p> <p>He did a traffic detail on Curlew Road and US 19. They had nine deputies and they ended up stopping 67 people. He was a spotter and people were not coming to a complete stop when making a right-hand turn. He almost got hit twice when the tractor trailers came around the turns. For the delineators that are set up there, there isn't enough room for tractor trailers to turn. Their rear wheels come onto the sidewalk and the sidewalk is broken. There were several pedestrians at the intersection that said they almost got hit as well. 30-foot box trucks also go over on the curb and hit the sidewalk. Maybe they can remove two or three delineators, so the trucks have more room to make that turn. The roadway is eroded where the dirt is from all the tires riding on the sidewalk.</p> <p>The roadway on US 19 is starting to deteriorate where people are making U-turns on US 19. The top layer is wearing out. It is causing uneven surfaces on the roadway from people going 55 mph to 60 mph. People are swerving left to right when they hit these patches. Whenever there is a U-turn on US 19, when you look on the other side the roadway, it is worn away from the tires turning on that roadway. When driving north or southbound in the left turn lane, you hit that patch and people are swerving. People on the right are moving over because they don't know what the other vehicle is doing. Deputy Miller will find the specific locations and will send them to Mike Zinn.</p> <p>It is in the work program to get resurfaced. Currently they are</p>



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						doing design work on it. It will take a while before it gets to physical construction. They will be out there starting next week for the next month doing strict traffic enforcement for speed and aggressive driving.