

## Pinellas CTST – September 1, 2022

Meeting started at 10:03 am

### I. General Meeting

Welcome and Introductions were given.

The August meeting minutes were approved.

### II. Committee Reports

#### *Enforcement*

Lt. Terri Nagle (St. Pete PD): The St. Pete PD has been working on the High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) grant. They continue conducting ongoing enforcement.

Mike Blickensdorf (Largo PD): They are conducting school enforcement in the morning and afternoon. Recently, there was a morning bicycle hit and run fatality. They are also conducting HVE.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): On August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, he attended the Florida Impaired Driving Coalition. He also went to San Antonio for the Annual DRE Conference. On August 27<sup>th</sup>, MADD held Saturation Saturday, which aims to remove impaired driving from the roadway. Howie was transferred back to patrol and Deputy Loring will take his place. Howie will still be the CTST vice chair. Next week is the DUI Education Academy class. Mark discussed an upcoming trial.

#### *Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian*

Cheryl Stacks (City of St. Petersburg): They have made progress on Safe Streets and Roads for All application; it's due in September. The City is working on a \$30-million-dollar project to reconstruct 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The project will consist of streetcapping, along with other safety measures. The City has a robust program to add enhanced pedestrian crosswalks, RRFB's, etc. at several locations within the City. They will use the TEM changes with enhanced beacons and provide appropriate treatments.

Jonathan Kuntz (Pinellas County): The County is pursuing a couple of grants applications.

Mike Zinn (FDOT): The DOT is starting a study at Gulf to Bay Boulevard and the SR 60 corridor. There is another study north of SR 60 at Drew Street. The studies are to determine locations for potential improvements.

Deneta Jones (Pinellas County): The SunRunner project is on track for its grand opening. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, at the pedestrian crossover on Harn Boulevard, the County is changing the timing and working on detours. For the first day of school, they had "watch out for children" signs. She spoke about how the County can do dynamic message signs to support different efforts. She said she can assist with efforts like MADD, etc. They did the variable message signs (VMS) at Pasadena.

### *Education and EMS*

Joseph Camera (Pinellas School Board): He said that school opened a couple of weeks ago. People are still running school busses with the stop arms out. At Tyrone Middle School, there are complaints that there are too many cars on the road. At 54<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup>, the bus is stopping further away from the raised medians where the RRFB's are located. There was a fatality on Belleair Road with a 15-year-old. The location where the fatality took place, the visibility is low and it's quite dark out at 6:44am. The first two weeks of school is the worst. Discussion followed.

Julie Bond (CUTR): She stated CUTR is working on the high school program and drivers' education program. George has Pinellas County schools booked. The scholarships for teachers went well in Pinellas. There were seven scholarships and Pinellas asked for four more. The course is all online and it's 80 credits, and they receive a certificate. It takes approximately three months to receive the certificate. The scholarship is through FDOT funds. Pinellas County is excited to have the new teachers. CUTR has been updating the presentation and trying to make an impact with their presentations. At the end of the presentation, there is a test. Kids seem to like the test. They take the test after with their phones and give the teachers the test results. The test results could be part of the kid's grade. Topics in the presentation include bicycle and pedestrian, speeding, new infrastructure, etc. CUTR also did a 30 second seatbelt PSA at Brandon High School. The PSA is posted on the FDOT website. They wrapped up the speeding campaign on Park Boulevard. They hand out education postcards, conduct geofencing, etc. They partnered with Forward Pinellas on this effort.

Mike Zinn (FDOT): Mike attended the Teen Driver Coalition. The group discussed licensing parameters.

Casey Morse (Pinellas County): There has been an increase in request for crossing guards for high school students. A lot of times, high schools do not qualify for school crossing guards. They are reviewing school zone policies per FDOT standards. Overall school crashes have been down from previous years. But, overall, parents are not teaching kids how to cross the street. Discussion followed. Dawn Pecora (PCSO), said they have a shortage of 89 school crossing guards. Mike Zinn said that they will be starting a pilot program in elementary schools (Pinellas and Hillsborough) in November and see how this educational effort works. Discussion followed. Dawn Pecora mentioned there are 33 trainers and they are teaching school guards education at the elementary school level. They are educating and recruiting trainers. Mark Eastty stated that guards can educate students at the school crosswalk itself. For example, guards can tell the students crossing – "This is why we are stopping," etc. Doug Hansen discussed teaching kids how to cross and use RRFB's, etc. Cheryl Stacks said that most kids are taught how to cross a two-lane road, but not a four or five lane road. Casey Morse discussed the Great American Teaching. She said that kids don't know the rules and phrase "left, right, left," when crossing the street. Discussion followed. It was brought up that kids use Tik Tok, but do not know how to cross a street. Janice Martinez (LEL) brought up Tik Tok and using the phrase "Walk with the man, not with the hand," in Tik Tok videos. Janice discussed salary incentives. Mike said there are a lot of teach shortages due to salary. Discussion followed.

Brandy Howard (Suncoast Safety Council): At the Clearwater Neighborhood Family Center they had a driving simulator showing what it's like to be distracted and impaired while driving. Kids loved the simulator.

### III. Old Business

#### *Problem Locations*

1. **US 19/298/297:** This seems to be an ongoing problem and may not be fixable. Leave this on the problem location sheet for now.
2. **US 19/E. Lime Street - Tarpon Springs:** No update.
3. **School Zones – Tampa Road and 19<sup>th</sup> Street, West of US 19:** There is queuing. Consider education and enforcement efforts.
4. **Passing School Busses:** This is a districtwide problem. Everyone forgets and more education and enforcement is needed.
5. **Light at Tarpon Mall:** They are waiting for approval. Mike will follow up.
6. **US 19 and Northside Drive:** No update.
7. **East Lake Road at Woodlands Parkway:** No update.
8. **RRFB @ Starkey Road north of Ulmerton Road:** Putting lights further north may possibly fix issue.

Doug Hansen (Citizen): At 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 66<sup>th</sup> Street, Doug asked why they didn't change this to a four-section head. Cheryl Stacks said that they have not heard anything about a significant delay. They dropped two spots on the high crash list with the protected left turn. Discussion followed.

#### *HSIP and SRTS Projects*

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): They are working with FDOT/Bill Riha/Peter on equipment needs with Cities and Counties as the requests come in. They are working with Cities and Counties in implementing LPI's on city and local roads. They are looking at 46 intersections for Safe Strides to Zero to make intersections safer. The portal for HSIP applications is still not accessible. Send applications and HSIP questions to Mahshid. Discussion followed. Cheryl Stacks asked Mahshid about LPI timing and why they cannot extend the LPI to ten seconds. Discussion followed. Mike Zinn said that the FDOT guidance is three to seven seconds. Cheryl will send email to Mahshid regarding LPI timing length.

#### *Fatal Map Status*

Sandra Knoebel-Peeples (Forward Pinellas): Sandra discussed the Pinellas Fatal map. There were three doubles in August. The percentages on the map are not correct. The percentages should be 32% motorcycles, 7% bicycles, and 29% auto-vehicle. They added ten fatalities yesterday. Sandra and Mark discussed the backside of the map. If any of the agencies know information on the highlighted crashes, reach out to Sandra, so she can record if they are fatal or not. Mark Eastty said this time last year, there were 102 fatal crashes.

Sandra Knoebel-Peeples (Forward Pinellas): Sandra discussed the Pinellas Trail Count Data. They want to collect crash data on the Pinellas Trail loop. Sandra asked Juan to collect data from January to present.

### IV. New Business

### *High Crash Intersections*

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Mark attends and chairs MADD Walk Like MADD meetings. They created a video to get more agencies and people involved in Walk Like MADD. The team that raises the most amount of money for MADD will get a catered lunch. Mark showed the CTST group the video. The Walk Like MADD event will be held on October 22nd in the Oldsmar Sports Complex. The video will be posted on walklikemadd.org/Pinellas. The event will have a DJ, K9 demo, and a food truck. Melissa will send out the website link on the MADD event/PSA. Mark discussed the Operation Southern Slowdown statistics from last month. There were 97,394 citations.

### Activities Reported:

- Hours of Speed Enforcement – 30,399
- Speed Citations/Warnings – 24,910
- Aggressive Driving Citation/Warnings - 984
- Seat Belt Citations/Warnings – 2,347
- DUI Arrests - 433
- Other Arrests – 8,178
- Press Conferences Held - 52
- TV Earned Media Reports - 136
- Radio Earned Media Reports - 39
- Print Earned Media Reports - 71
- Social Media Exposure - 250,386

### *Presentation by Mike Zinn*

Mike Zinn presented a challenge coin and a certificate to Mark Eastty for his role in the community. Mike's speech consisted of discussing Mark's vast accomplishments over his 18-year law enforcement career.

Deneta Jones (Pinellas County): Deneta stated she was promoted.

The next meeting is October 6th at 10:00 am and it will be virtual.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24 am

**Attendees:** Mahshid Arasteh, Mike Blickensdorf, Julie Bond, Joseph Camera, Brandon Drawhorn, Mark Eastty, Doug Hansen, Brandy Howard, Deneta Jones, Sandra Knoebel-Peeples, Jonathan Kuntz, David Kwoph, Blaine Loring, Janice Martinez, Casey Morse, Lt. Terri Nagle, Lori Palaio, Dawn Pecora, Frances Leong Sharp, Melissa Shepherd, Don Skelton, Cheryl Stacks, Jeff Thompson, Robert Wallace, Mike Zinn

## PROBLEM LOCATIONS - SEPTEMBER 2022

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/Withdrawn	Comments
1	8/5/2021	US 19 / 298/297   <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/Y5Frg2nNDMe8DEoR8">https://goo.gl/maps/Y5Frg2nNDMe8DEoR8</a>	Deputy Miller, Deputy Pierce, Peter Hsu, Mike Zinn	9/1/22		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. Discussion followed.  <b>This seems to be an ongoing problem and may not be fixable. Leave this on the problem location sheet for now.</b>
2	8/5/2021	US 19 / E. Lime Street – Tarpon Springs   <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/FSX3cQ664YwAXQ1k6">https://goo.gl/maps/FSX3cQ664YwAXQ1k6</a>	Deputy Miller, Deputy Pierce, Peter Hsu, Mike Zinn, TSPD	7/8/22		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.  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 now. Crashes have gone down. They have seen a lot of breaking

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						<p>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.</p> <p><b>No update.</b></p>
3	11/4/2021	School Zones - Tampa Road and 19 <sup>th</sup> Street, West of US 19   <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/qAzk7C9v1SpZbc388">https://goo.gl/maps/qAzk7C9v1SpZbc388</a>	Deputy Miller	9/1/22		<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.</p> <p>This will stay on the list and will address it next month when school kicks back up.</p> <p><b>There is queuing. Consider education and enforcement efforts.</b></p>

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4	11/4/2021	Passing School Buses	Deputy Miller, Joseph Camera	2/3/22		<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.</p> <p><b>This is a districtwide problem. Everyone forgets and more education and enforcement is needed.</b></p>
5	12/2/2021	Light at Tarpon Mall	COTS PD (Boone)	7/8/2022		<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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>They are waiting for approval. Mike will follow up.</b></p>

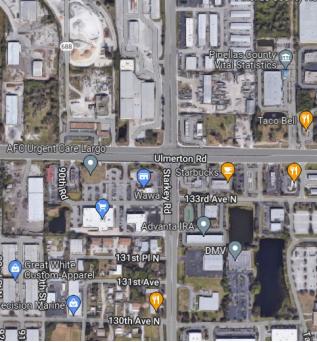


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6	6/2/2022	US 19 and Northside Drive  <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/BD73YvDPLEVZ7vx8A">https://goo.gl/maps/BD73YvDPLEVZ7vx8A</a>	FHP	7/8/2022		<p>Suggested to look at shutting the left-turn lane. You must make a U-turn to get to other side of the street. 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><b>No update.</b></p>
7	6/2/2022	East Lake Road at Woodlands Parkway  <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/CzzzPzYvzTTEHENSA">https://goo.gl/maps/CzzzPzYvzTTEHENSA</a>		6/2/2022		<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><b>No update.</b></p>

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8	7/8/2022	RRFB @ Starkey Road north of Ulmerton Road   <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/mP4aTReBBao4HLwn6">https://goo.gl/maps/mP4aTReBBao4HLwn6</a>	Joe Camera, PCSB	9/1/2022		<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.</p> <p><b>Putting lights further north may possibly fix issue.</b></p>
9	8/4/22	Multiple Locations along the northern portion of US 19 in Pinellas County	Deputy Miller/Mike Zinn/Mark Eastty	8/4/22		<p>At <b>Tampa Road and US 19</b>, 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 <b>Curlew Road and US 19</b>. 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</p>



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						<p>is from all the tires riding on the sidewalk.</p> <p>The roadway on <b>US 19</b> 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><b>No update.</b></p>