

### Pinellas CTST – February 2, 2023

Meeting started at 10:11 am

#### I. General Meeting

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

#### II. Committee Reports

##### *Enforcement*

Sean McCollough (SPPD): He discussed that the SPPD is conducting motorcycle details.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): He discussed the PCSO's motorcycle details and the zero tolerance with speeding. The group discussed the street racing statute.

Michael Kloepfor (Pinellas Park PD): The PPPD conducted New Year's Eve DUI details. They are also doing daytime traffic details. Currently, they are working on their speed enforcement and pedestrian grant. Corporal Huff was promoted to sergeant.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Stated that it was his last week in the DUI unit. He is going to start in child protective investigations. He will continue as the chair of CTST and stay involved in the Florida Impaired Driving Coalition.

Wes Casebar (Largo PD): The LPD conducted a successful holiday DUI enforcement. They are continuing with pedestrian and speed enforcement details. A wolfpack is coming up.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): They are doing the countywide DUI wolfpack and it will be beach themed. The PCSO will be hosting many upcoming classes, including the DRE school, and DUI instructor. There will also be a free SFST/ARIDE classes class on March 6th – March 12th.

##### *Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian*

Frances Leong Sharp (City of Dunedin): She discussed the fatality at Marina and inquired about the what the short term improvements are, from FDOT, for this area. She also brought up with the group some close calls.

Joan Rice (Pinellas County): She mentioned that Pinellas County is working with the FDOT on signage. Most of the signage has been put up. Duke Energy is changing out some streetlights.

Blaine Loring (PCSO): He discussed a citizen complaint they received at east of US 19 at Pepperwood Lane, there is a large pothole in the road. The road is a private road, even though it isn't gated. The pothole is not being repaired. The pothole is located around the curve and has been there for over a year. Citizens have put cones out.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): March 10<sup>th</sup> is Bike Your City with Forward Pinellas. March 24<sup>th</sup> there will be an event on the Dunedin Trail.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Mark Eastty spoke in Denise McAllister's absence. MADD is having a Ride Like MADD Tour De Florida. Everyone from CTST can apply. The website to register is [www.madd.org/rmf](http://www.madd.org/rmf). The event runs through May and is a 47-mile ride.

Kyle Simpson (Forward Pinellas): Kyle discussed the Pinellas County Trail maps he creates for the group/CTST. They received the grant back in 2016. Currently, they have eight permanent counters on the Pinellas County Trail. The counters can differentiate between people walking or biking. Dunedin usually has the highest trail usage. The map shows trends during time of day, as well as month and year. Forward Pinellas is working with the Pinellas County Trail Rangers. They also use the data internally for planning out new facilities; they look at areas with the highest usage. Forward Pinellas wants to use the traffic count data for adjustment factors to figure out exposure. An example of this is the number of crashes per 100,000 miles. The adjustment factors will help address when counters go offline, causing gaps in the data. They would like funding for additional permanent and temporary counters every eight miles.

### *Education and EMS*

Joe Camera (Pinellas County Schools): Law enforcement is doing a fantastic job and responding immediately to requests. The schools are shorthanded with bus drivers.

Sgt. Giles (PCSO): He discussed rerouting the bus that goes to the Palms at Countryside apartment complex at 25350 US 19 North. Blaine Loring, PCSO, stated it was more about the apartment complex. He said the bus can take an alternative route and it would only add about 45 seconds to their route. This bus stop location is a speed issue, and that people are going 70 mph.

### III. Old Business

#### *Problem Locations*

1. **US 19/298/297:** Sgt. Giles said this is still a problem. People in the right-hand lane don't want to go right, so they cut right into someone. There were two crashes recently. In the morning, there are not many crashes. Most of the crashes are in the afternoon or evening. They will continue to do enforcement there.
2. **School Zones – Tampa Road and 19<sup>th</sup> Street, West of US 19:** No update.
3. **Passing School Busses:** There have not been any complaints.
4. **Light at Tarpon Mall:** This area is under construction.
5. **East Lake Road at Tarpon Woods Boulevard:** People cross over the delineators. The delineators were originally bright orange in the express lane and now they are black. They will continue to do enforcement there.
6. **RRFB @ Starkey Road north of Ulmerton Road:** There will be a signal at Willow. It is currently in the design phase.

#### *HSIP and SRTS Projects*

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): The portal is now being worked on by JMT. Material requests are under review.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): There is 26 days left for FDOT funding for pedestrian and bicycle, speed enforcement, etc. Reach out to Janice Martinez for the matrix or questions.

### *High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map*

Mark Eastty (PCSO): It is Sandra Knoebel's last day. He discussed the fatal map. The map will be more of an area (segment), rather than just a dot on the map. Last year there were 114 fatal crashes with 121 fatalities (7 doubles). This is an improvement from 2021. In 2021, there was 156 fatal crashes. This year isn't off to a good start with 10 fatalities. Discussion about racing on the Gandy Bridge and the associated fatalities followed. Mark said to get with Ariane Martins for anything in the table highlighted in yellow. She will be the new Sandra.

Doug Hansen: Doug asked about the crash involving an SUV and motorcycle and who was at fault. The group stated there was a young driver who went in front of a motorcycle. Discussion followed.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Next meeting the map will show 2023 fatal crashes. Right now, there are ten fatalities.

### IV. New Business

Doug Hansen: There are some traffic signals where there is a vertical red arrow which is illegal per MUTCD. You can have a 45-degree left turn arrow. If anyone sees the vertical red through arrow, contact your local jurisdiction to investigate that. Sgt. Giles, PCSO, said that Congo River Golf has a green through arrow, but that is allowed. Discussion followed.

Susan Boda (Benesch): Planning has started for the CTST Mega Meeting. It will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup>. They need ideas for sessions and speakers. The event will be 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and lunch will be provided. Location of event is to be determined.

The next meeting is March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, at 10:00 am and it will be virtual.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am

**Attendees:** Mahshid Arasteh, Susan Boda, Joe Camera, Wes Casabar, James Cunningham, Kathy Gademen, Sgt. Giles, Doug Hansen, Gina Harvey, Brandy Howard, David Knoph, Blaine Loring, Sean McCullough, Ariane Martins, Brentin Mosher, Brian Pessaro, Michael Kloeppfer, Sandra Knoebel Peoples, Lori Palaio, Joan Rice, Kyle Simpson, Frances Leong Sharp, Melissa Shepherd

| Item | Date Reported | Description   | Staff   | Last Update | Date Resolved/<br>Withdrawn | Comments  |
|------|---------------|---|---|-------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1    | 8/5/2021      | US 19 / 298 / 297<br><br><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/Y5Frg2nNDMe8DEoR8">https://goo.gl/maps/Y5Frg2nNDMe8DEoR8</a> | Deputy Miller,<br>Deputy Pierce,<br>Peter Hsu, Mike<br>Zinn | 2/2/22      |                             | <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. 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. The traffic seems to be flowing a little better. The peak time where traffic backs up is about 8:00 am to 8:30 am. It is for only a short amount of time and then it moves on. The past month there has not been many crashes in the "suicide lane." This area is a constant program. There was a department vehicle crash south of Curlew Road. Since Mark has worked the traffic details, there haven't been many crashes from people cutting over during rush hour traffic. Mike said that whole corridor is going under construction in the near future, and everything is going to change. It seems like the general population has been educated that the delineators are there. They are going to continue working details there.</p> <p><b>**continued next page**</b></p> |

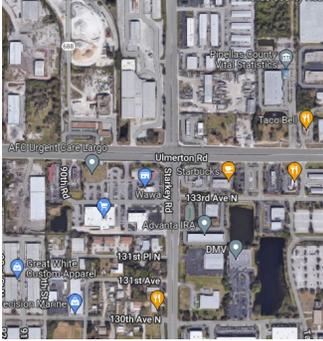
## PROBLEM LOCATIONS - FEBRUARY 2023

| Item | Date Reported | Description  | Staff         | Last Update | Date Resolved/<br>Withdrawn | Comments  |
|------|---------------|--|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---|
|      |               |  |               |             |                             | <b>Sgt. Giles said this is still a problem. People in the right-hand lane don't want to go right, so they cut right into someone. There were two crashes recently. In the morning, there are not many crashes. Most of the crashes are in the afternoon or evening. They will continue to do enforcement there.</b>   |
| 2    | 11/4/2021     | School Zones - Tampa Road and 19 <sup>th</sup> Street, West of US 19<br><br><br><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/qAzk7C9v1SpZbc388">https://goo.gl/maps/qAzk7C9v1SpZbc388</a> | Deputy Miller | 12/1/22     |                             | <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. 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. 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. People still speed through there and do not know how to read school zone signs. Eastbound and westbound there are crosswalks that are fully</p> |

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|      |               |                      |                                 |             |                          | <p>actuated and signs on both sides.</p> <p><b>No update.</b></p>   |
| 3    | 11/4/2021     | Passing School Buses | Deputy Miller,<br>Joseph Camera | 12/1/22     |                          | <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. 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. They must identify their high problem areas, such as Gandy, 4th Street, 114th Avenue, etc. They will keep this on the problem locations sheet and add specific locations if need be. Brian Pessarò, City of St. Pete, suggested a billboard campaign. The new school busses have lights that are a lot brighter, than previous busses.</p> <p><b>No update. There have not been any complaints.</b></p> |
| 4    | 12/2/2021     | Light at Tarpon Mall | COTS PD<br>(Boone)              | 12/1/22     |                          | <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</p>  |

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|      |               | <br><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/RNwqUTnPLqxd4rwp6">https://goo.gl/maps/RNwqUTnPLqxd4rwp6</a>  |       |             |                          | <p>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. 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. This area is under construction. The traffic lights will change.</p> <p><b>No update. This area is under construction. The whole thing will be rebuilt.</b></p>  |
| 5    | 6/2/2022      | <p>East Lake Road at Tarpon Woods Boulevard</p> <br><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/CzzzPzYvzTTEHNSA">https://goo.gl/maps/CzzzPzYvzTTEHNSA</a> |       | 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. 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. They will keep monitoring this location. No update. It is more of an enforcement issue, but at the same time people cut over at the last minute and hit the delineators.</p> <p><b>People cross over the delineators. The delineators were originally bright orange in the express lane and now they are black. They will continue to do enforcement there.</b></p> |

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| 6    | 7/8/2022      | RRFB @ Starkey Road north of Ulmerton Road<br><br><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/mP4aTReBBao4HLwn6">https://goo.gl/maps/mP4aTReBBao4HLwn6</a> | 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. 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. No update. They will continue checking up on it throughout the school year. They are not putting an RRFB. They will be putting a traffic light up at Willow. This will stay on problem location sheet until traffic light is put up.</p> <p>No update. They will be putting a traffic light up at Willow and is currently going through design. This will stay on problem location sheet until traffic light is put up.</p> <p><b>There will be a signal at Willow. It is currently in the design phase.</b></p> |