



West Central CTST – January 10, 2024

Meeting started 1:32pm

I. **Welcome and Introductions** were made.

II. **Minutes** were approved for December 2023.

III. **Old Business – Review of Problem Location Spreadsheet**

1. **Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail:** Ernie Lane, of Hernando County, spoke to the county engineer about this project. He is working on a game plan to maintain areas that will be maintained for the city of Brooksville because it will be connected into the Good Neighbor Trail. Once that is done, they will look for what they want to do for the long-term fix. They already started replacing a lot of the ADA mats.
2. **Mariner Boulevard and Northcliff Boulevard:** Ernie Lane said that this had not been made to the top of the list yet.
3. **Skip Lines at 41 and 486:** Eric Henry, of FDOT, reached back out to Vicki and the project manager. The project manager said that they would look at this location again.
4. **Main Street (US 41) and Highland Boulevard, Inverness:** No update.
5. **Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing:** No update.
6. **County Line Road and Trillium Boulevard:** No update.

IV. **Calendar Updates/Activity Reports**

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): The Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) enforcement period is complete. Brentin is calculating the points, and the statistics will be available next meeting. Brentin also attended the Transportation Research Board conference in Washington, DC, over the weekend. He presented a poster on FDOT's project on geofencing. Emmeth Duran, of FDOT, was also there.

Bob Esposito (MPO): FL 44 from US 41 to Sumter will be resurfaced. FDOT is funding the traffic signal at Gospel Island Road and FL 44 intersection as well. The project will not kick off until at least this summer.

Jim McLean (Citizen): When Jim was in Nashville, he saw some information that the entire United States may be switching away from right turn on reds.

V. **Fatal Crash Map**

Lori Palaio (JMT): Lori discussed the fatal crash maps. For Citrus County, the maps run from January 1, 2023, to October 28, 2023. There have been 19 fatal crashes in that time from January 1 to October 28. At the last CTST from January 1, 2023, to October 2, 2023, there were 18 fatal crashes. The one new fatal crash was a run-off the road fatal crash, which occurred on October 17 at US 41 and North Citrus Springs Boulevard. It did not occur at the intersection in dark, not-lighted, clear, dry conditions. The vehicle was traveling south on US 41, north of North Citrus Springs Boulevard negotiating a curve in the roadway. For unknown reasons, the driver lost control of their vehicle. As a result, the vehicle ran off the roadway onto the west grass shoulder of US 41.



There are currently 19 fatal crashes through October 28. At the same time in 2022 there were 23 fatal crashes, so Citrus County is down by four fatal crashes.

For Hernando County, the maps run from January 1, 2023, to October 28, 2023. There have been 35 fatal crashes in that time frame from January 1 to October 28. At the last CTST from January 1, 2023, to October 2, 2023, there were 28 fatal crashes. The seven new fatal crashes include:

- Three run-off the road fatal crashes: These three crashes occurred at Mariner Boulevard and Quality Drive, Spring Hill Drive and 14391 Spring Hill Drive, Mondon Hill Road and SR 50.
- One right angle fatal crash: This crash occurred at East Avenue and Fort Dade Avenue.
- One left turn fatal crash: This crash occurred at Cortez Boulevard and Devlin Street.
- Two pedestrian fatal crashes:
 - US 41 and Spring Hill Drive – This fatal crash occurred on October 9 at a four-way intersection in dark, not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. A vehicle was traveling northbound on US 41, in the outside lane, south of Spring Hill Drive. The pedestrian was walking eastbound across US 41, from Spring Hill Drive, towards Highbury Boulevard. As the vehicle approached the intersection, it had the right of way, as indicated by a green traffic light. The pedestrian failed to yield to the right of way.
 - Jacqueline Road and Mariner Boulevard – This fatal crash occurred on October 16, at a t-intersection in dark, not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was traveling east in the eastbound lane of Jacqueline Road, approaching Mariner Boulevard. The pedestrian was walking east while pushing a shopping cart in the eastbound travel lane of Jacqueline Road approaching Mariner Boulevard. The front right of the vehicle collided with the back of the pedestrian.

There are currently 35 fatal crashes through October 28. At the same time in 2022 there were 37 fatal crashes, so Hernando County is down by two fatal crashes.

Ernie Lane (Hernando County): Ernie asked about getting access again to crash reports prior to the 60 days. Peter Hsu, of FDOT, discussed the CDMS removal. Florida Statute passed a law prohibiting crash data that is sixty-days old or less. Internally, Tallahassee made a deal with the DHSMV for the people working FDOT can access crash reports less than sixty-days old. But only FDOT can use the crash reports and it cannot be released to anybody outside of FDOT.

VI. SRTS Update

None.

VII. HSIP Update

Eric Henry (FDOT): The HSIP portal is open. FDOT is still accepting applications for HSIP funding. FDOT is also working on implementing some new functionalities if you are requesting specifically a project to be



funded by HSIP instead of just equipment. There is still money available, so you can work with Melissa and FDOT if there are any low-cost safety improvements you want to implement. It is also grant season, and grant deadlines end in February. If you are looking for grants now is the time to get some concept papers written and submitted. Discussion followed.

VIII. New Business – Submittal of requests to review new Problem Areas

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): Melissa presented slides on the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program. This is a discretionary program established through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It is five billion dollars appropriated over five years. It funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The applications for the next round of funding are expected to open in February of 2024. It requires at least 20 percent of the total project funding to come from non-federal sources and may include cash and in-kind contributions. Counties, cities, towns, transit agencies, and other special districts that are political subdivisions of the state are eligible for the grant, as well as MPOs. State level agencies are not eligible, such as FDOT, as well as political subdivisions, non-profit organizations, and private-sector entities. Melissa discussed the different grant types, including action plan, supplemental action plan, demonstration activity, and implementation. District Seven has been awarded many of the action plans and implementation grants from this bipartisan grant. Lastly, she discussed some successful win themes for crafting the grant application, such as education and outreach, equity, complete streets, lighting, partnerships etc. For those interested in applying for the safe streets for all grant applications, we can help you apply with the amount of funding that has been given out and partner with other successful entities to see how they were successful. E-blasts will be sent out soon with more information on these grants. Discussion followed on who will get involved in this from the CTST group.

IX. Open Forum/Announcements

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): If anyone has an in with any of the local schools, FDOT and CUTR and still trying to do education to the schools up in the northern counties. Neither of the two counties have a driver's education program, so they usually do HOPE and PE classes. If anyone has anything, let Brentin know.

Jim McLean (Citizen): Jim thanked the staff on doing the FDOT District Seven newsletter.


George Edmiston (Benesch): The ELEE program has just finished up for its second year in a row. George is meeting with the agencies and Brentin is compiling all the data and making sure that all the agencies get the equipment they worked hard for. They are looking to move forward to continue this program.

X. Adjourn

The next meeting will be February 14, 2024, at 1:30pm and will be virtual. Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.

Attendees: Sgt. Laura Anstead (Citrus County Sheriff's Office), Lt. Bergen (Citrus County Sheriff's Office), Bob Esposito (MPO), George Edmiston (Benesch), Bev Howard (Citizen), Eric Henry (FDOT), Peter Hsu (FDOT), Nicholas Inniss (Element Engineering Group), Ernie Lane (Hernando County), Jim McLean (Citizen), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Lori Palaio (JMT), Jim Rieser (Gresham Smith), Melissa Shepherd (JMT), Mike Zinn (FDOT)



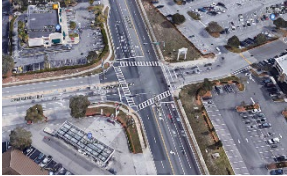
Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	Apr 2021	<p>Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail</p> <p><i>(This item was replaced with the Good Neighbor Trail - Preston Road and Weatherly Road – Good Neighbor Trail Stop Signs details were removed)</i></p>  <p>https://goo.gl/maps/gb6K4d1P9zpR4B41A</p>	Ernie Lane	Jan 2024		<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 R/W 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). Ernie stated the service request has been entered to clean a site distance area. Ernie stated he did site visits/studies on both locations, and he put in a service request to have the R/W cleaned up, which will improve the site distance. Ernie spoke to Dan about trimming the R/W. He brought up a driveway issue that has been out there for a while, across the street from the problem area. The R/W has been trimmed; he will try to visit the site on Friday and check the status of the driveway also. Mike said that the ADA mats have not been corrected. The only way to fix the mats is to use the liquid truncated domes or pull up the asphalt, put concrete down and then put the tiles on it. They are on the repair list. Mike said that the ADA mats have not been corrected. It is becoming a trip hazard because many are crumbled. Ernie stated the County cleared the R/W on Preston Road, as requested. One spot on Preston Road, the County will speak to the property owner to see about clearing that section. Ernie talked to Stephen Stack about the ADA mats on the section that the County maintains. They are going to do a service request - to start changing them all out now. In a couple of years, they are going to come up with a program to change the ADA mats to stamped concrete. They will see how much these cost to replace and then add to the CIP to get funded. Ernie stated this was moved to a service request to have the ones that need to be addressed now to be fixed. A CIP project will be done in the next couple years to have all the mats pulled up and replaced with concrete ones.</p> <p>**continued on next page**</p>




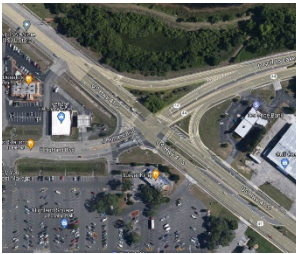
PROBLEM LOCATIONS – JANUARY 2024

						<p>For the line of sight, Ernie showed the locations to a new traffic engineer; both himself and the traffic engineer do not see any issues with the line of sight. Mike and Ernie think this location should be removed from the problem location sheet. Jim said that Preston Road has a user line of sight issue for the trail users with forest growth on private property on the NW corner. There is no issue on the NE corner. The sight lines at Weatherly Road and the Good Neighbor Trail are not an issue. Jim asked if there are trail head crossing signs on Preston Road and Weatherly Road to warn the motorists; if there are not, they may want to add them. There are delineator posts missing on the trail and some were broken off. The post bases are about an inch high and could be a hazard to users. Several of the intersections have broken posts. Ernie will check them out and replace them. Jim said that some No Motor Vehicle Signs or Yield Signs are missing for the driveways between Preston Road and Weatherly Road. Ernie did the sight distance at both intersections for the vehicular movement. There were no issues with the line of sight, except for the forest growth on the private property on the northwest corner. Ernie received permission to relocate the three stop signs that were in question for the fire trails. Mike received an email from Ernie stating that this item is still pending and hopes they will try to get it complete by next month. This location will stay on the problem location sheet until the HC says what they are going to do. Jim was at the Good Neighbor Trail recently and said the stop signs that that are supposed to be relocated for the trail users have not been relocated yet. Laura Borgesi, of HC, said that she knows that ADA mats are being put down in several locations, but she was unaware of the stop signs, so she will follow up with Traffic Operations. Jim McLean will email Laura. Bob Esposito, Hernando and Citrus MPO, said that Michael Dolan wants pavement repair where the asphalt is not in good shape. This is separate from the initial request/improvements on the Good Neighbor Trail. They have already discovered that the ADA mats are bad, so those will be replaced. The stop signs are on forestry property versus the HC section that they maintain. Ernie Lane was told that the PO's were cut and that it should start being worked on soon. Ernie Lane spoke to the county engineer about this project. He is working on a game plan to maintain areas that will be maintained for the city of Brooksville because it will be connected into the Good Neighbor Trail. Once that is done, they will look for what they want to do for the long-term fix. They already started replacing a lot of the ADA mats.</p>
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Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
2	Jan 2022	Mariner Boulevard and Northcliff Boulevard  https://goo.gl/maps/oqJoiXfvBxeksW1T9	HC / Todd	Dec 2023		<p>David suggested there needs to be guide skips at Mariner Boulevard and Northcliff Boulevard. David stated there are no guide skips at the dual left turns. Ernie said he will look into this and let us know at the next meeting. Ernie stated this project is in progress, but there are other projects ahead of it. David stated that there have been no changes and does not recommend taking it off the list until the project is complete. This item will not be removed until the paint has been put down. Ernie has an email from traffic operations to see where the contract is for the striping. It is on the list to be completed, but he does not know where it falls on the priority list. Ernie spoke to David about the guide skips. Tuesday, David said that they should be complete. Ernie has not had a chance to drive there to look but he will go out tomorrow and check. Ernie went two days ago to look at the guide skips. There are skip bars at the Publix Plaza on Mariner Boulevard. The guide skips are not correct, as they are white instead of yellow. David mentioned that there are no skips at the dual left turn gong off Northcliffe northbound onto Mariner Boulevard. The guide skips have not been completed yet; they are in the process of redoing all PO's but it is on the list to be corrected. David said that he was out yesterday and the guide skips that are there from the shopping center moving to the southbound on Northcliffe are the correct color. The first time David saw it he was under the impression that it was moving from a yellow line to a yellow line. He thought it was the wrong color. It is going from a white line to an existing white skip line. The color is correct on those skips. Ernie stated the purchase orders have been issued and now they are waiting for the contractor to get the work completed. David stated he went through that intersection yesterday and nothing has done. Ashley said there have been accidents there. Ernie requested this to be done. He does not know where the striping contract is at in terms of a timeline, but he's hoping it will be done soon. David stated that nothing has been done, as of last Thursday when he was over there. Laura Borgesi stated it looks like the skip lines coming out of the Publix are too wide of a turn. She will get with the striping people to have them eradicated. Laura will also speak with Traffic/Technology to find out if the signalization is such that the two left turns are not taking place at the same time. In addition, she will also have a conversation with Traffic Operations about having the double skips for the dual turn lanes put in at the same time the skips for Publix are being removed and replaced appropriately. Sgt. Andrews, of HCSO, said he doesn't think the skip lines are done yet. Ernie Lane was told that all the PO's will be redone. It is number four on the list and hopefully it will be done before next month's meeting.</p> <p>cErnie Lane said that this had not been made to the top of the list yet.</p>




Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/Withdrawn	Comments
3	Feb 2023	<p>Skip Lines at 41 and 486</p>  <p>https://goo.gl/maps/34enAdqTB4EJeMWv9</p>	Jim McLean	Dec 2023		<p>Jim noticed the skip lines at 41 and 486 are pretty much gone in Hernando. The skip lines need to be freshened up. Mike said that this area is going to be under construction, but right now it's still in design. That whole section coming from Arlington Street up to 200 is going to become a four-lane road. Jim said it is going to be a while before that, so they should put skip lines in there for the next five years. Mike will find out what the asset management contract can do on this. No update. Emmeth Duran will follow up with Mike. Nothing has been completed yet at this location. Mike sent a request to the contract manager to get the whole intersection done. Sgt. Laura Anstead, of CCSO, said they have not replaced them yet. The request will be sent to the contract manager. No update. The lines for the left turn traffic are not there. Eric Henry from FDOT will contact Vicki Hines, as she oversees asset management. Eric Henry, of FDOT, reached out to Vicki. She said it was completed in March. Jim McLean said that this has not been done yet, and it's completed at a different section of the corridor. Eric Henry will reach back out to Vicki to confirm. Eric Henry, of FDOT, reached back out to Vicki and the project manager. The project manager said that they would look at this location again.</p>
4	Sept 2023	<p>Main Street (US 41) and Highland Boulevard, Inverness</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/x43dCWHK4owdaUFcA</p>	Laura Anstead (CCSO)	Dec 2023		<p>This location is a four-way, signalized intersection. Vehicles try to get into the left turn lane traveling westbound on US 41 to go onto Highland Boulevard, but the left-turn lane gets backed up. This causes issues in the through lane, as the through vehicles cannot get around the vehicles waiting to get into the left turn lane from the through lane. Eric Henry, of FDOT, will talk to Julie from Traffic Operations. The population in Citrus County has gone up three thousand people. There is a lot of traffic. Eric Henry measured the left turn lane, and it is about 350 feet. Sgt. Laura Anstead suggested adjusting the signal timing. Eric reached out to traffic ops. Traffic ops said they would look at it. Traffic ops want clarification if it is at specific hours of the day that the lane is being backed up. Sgt. Laura Anstead said it is primarily during the morning work rush, between 7:00am and 9:00am. Eric Henry confirmed with Citrus County that issues exist here. FDOT Traffic ops passed this issue on to the signal timing consultants.</p> <p>No update.</p>



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
5	Nov 2023	<p>Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/qNe3HyP4Xadk91j67</p>	Michael Attard (citizen)	Dec 2023		<p>The trail crossing along the Suncoast Trail is extremely busy, especially in the mornings. There is a lot of traffic and speeding. He suggested better signage in this area. Coming up on this trail crossing there is some bicycle signage. There are no flashing lights or rumble strips to alert people that people are coming up on the trail and to slow down. There is a lot of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, due to Silverthorn, Powell Middle School, and residential communities. Ernie was out there six weeks ago putting down counters on both the north and south side of the trail. The data came back, and it is a well-used area. Hernando County is looking to see what they could do. They cannot put RRFB's out because of the speed limit exceeding 35 mph. He does not know if FDOT has approved the other type of signal system yet. Michael stated that at the trail crossing, people must stop in the middle of the crosswalk and wait for an opening to cross the other side of the roadway. This is unsafe because a car can go over the curb easily and hit the pedestrian or bicyclist. Jim said the trail crossing pavement markings could also use some updating, as they are worn out. Michael said there are rows of emergency markers on the Suncoast Trail. All the markers are worn off, faded, and many are falling off. He suggested adding this to the request. Ernie Lane is waiting for a decision on what overhead beacon to use. Hernando County is going out for funding on this.</p> <p>No update.</p>
6	Nov 2023	<p>County Line Road and Trillium Boulevard</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/BdyMCbj65ZR3FDor5</p>	Michael Attard (citizen)	Nov 2023		<p>There is the new Ayers Road extension through here that goes up to US 41. At the crossings on Trillium Boulevard and County Line Road, when the crossing signal activates, even though it says it is ok to cross, after about five seconds, the left turn lane has a flashing yellow light allowing people to turn if it's safe to do so. Vehicles make a left turn while pedestrians and bicyclists are in the middle of the crosswalk, and there have been some near misses. Michael has noticed the same thing for both Trillium Boulevard crossings. Ernie said they added in Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPI's) back a few months ago to get pedestrians to start walking out into the crosswalks to get them visible before the left turn movement can go. Sgt. Andrews, of Hernando County Sheriff's Office, has not seen anything, but he will double check.</p> <p>No update.</p>



PROBLEM LOCATIONS – JANUARY 2024

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7	12/31/23	<p>Mariner Boulevard</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qj9</p>	Sgt. Andrews	Dec 2023		<p>Sgt. Andrews asked for an update on a Roadway Safety Audit (RSA) on Mariner Boulevard. There are some serious issues out on Mariner Boulevard, with four of the six fatal crashes in the area being on Mariner Boulevard. Drivers are also going the wrong way at turn lanes at various locations along Mariner Boulevard. He suggested adding delineators, like at Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard. Sgt. Laura Anstead suggested to Sgt. Andrews to write papers for grants for funding. She said that the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program and FDOT grants have helped her and her team a lot.</p> <p>No update.</p>