

Pinellas CTST – February 1, 2024

Meeting started at 10:02 am

I. General Meeting

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

II. Committee Reports

Enforcement

Sgt. Kloepfer (PPPD): Pinellas Park PD still has both of their grants active and running. They conducted a New Year's Eve DUI detail that was successful. This February there will be a Super Bowl DUI detail. There have been a couple of vacancies within the traffic unit; they were able to fill one daytime traffic unit spot and one DUI traffic DUI unit spot.

Daniel Negersmith (Clearwater PD): Clearwater PD will be doing a wolfpack enforcement in the next month or so. They did DUI enforcement on New Year's Eve. This month there have been four fatalities. Clearwater PD is finishing up crash reconstruction. They will be doing spring break details as well. They will be focusing on Memorial Causeway and Court Street.

Jason Level (SPPD): St. Pete PD did a scooter operation downtown last month. They are continuing to do the scooter operations monthly. There have been issues downtown with micromobility devices. They are doing move operations next week during the day on Gandy Boulevard. There was a fatality yesterday morning involving a bicyclist.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Pinellas County Sheriff's Office did a New Year's Eve detail. On January 16th and January 17th, Mark went up with the Executive Director of MADD, Larry Coggins, to North Charleston for a NHTSA MADD Impaired Driving Summit. Mark got back yesterday from teaching a DUI Manslaughter seminar in Lake Mary which was hosted by TSRP. There is a MIDDLE class coming up on February 12th and February 13th. Mark will be teaching an IPTM class in April at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office did a Bayside Bridge detail last month with a helicopter and stopped numerous cars. There was one car going over 100 mph.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): The Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program has ended. All the details are in, and all the equipment orders have been finalized. The ceremony will be in Brooksville on Thursday, March 21st. Indian Shores and Treasure Island will be getting large speed feedback trailers to use on Gulf Boulevard.

Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian

Cheryl Stacks (City of St. Pete): The City of St. Pete has been working with USDOT because they are receiving a Safe Streets for All grant. When the City of St. Pete updates their complete streets implementation plan, it will include a vision zero element and a comprehensive traffic safety analysis that wasn't included in the original complete streets plan. It will have a significant comprehensive traffic safety analysis looking at all modes of traffic and vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian crashes. It will be a one-year effort to update the complete streets plan. There is also some resurfacing going on in the city right now.

Contractors are doing some work and resurfacing on 40th Avenue and Pinellas Point Drive. When they do these resurfacing projects, there are sometimes changes to the bicycle infrastructure. They are adding some green paint on Pinellas Point Drive, as well as relocating the bicycle infrastructure on 40th Avenue. The City of St. Pete is also continuing to work with FDOT partners on the HSIP grant.

Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas): Forward Pinellas participated in a walk audit on 49th Street with St. Pete and Gulfport. They received good feedback, and they will be putting the feedback into a plan and making recommendations.

George Edmiston (Benesch): St. Pete's light tower came in yesterday for ELEE. The third ELEE program will start in mid-April. He met with most of the agencies to give them an idea of where the program is going from there. There will be a lot more multi-jurisdictional details coming as well.

George Edmiston (Benesch): There was a roadway safety audit off-system to assist Pinellas County with 49th Street to encompass the Bayside Bridge all the way up to SR 688. Some things that were addressed included: relocating transit locations, adding additional crosswalks, adding a third leg to signalized intersections, some recommendations for cleaning up some of the sidewalks, speed feedback signs coming off the Bayside Bridge, and some intersections as well. There will be a lot of low-cost countermeasures. JMT is preparing a report on this. Discussion followed.

Joan Rice (Pinellas County): The 49th Street project will also include the Lowman area, which was included in the Safe Streets for All grant.

Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas): With Safe Streets for All, they will be looking at Seminole Boulevard for a walk audit. They will also be kicking off one with Oldsmar soon.

Education and EMS

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Saturday, February 27th, CUTR is working with Forward Pinellas to do some trail safety education etiquette outreach. Some law enforcement agencies will be partnering on that as well and they will be focusing on motorists. There will be two table spots set up for that in Dunedin and St. Petersburg with safety information, lights, visibility items, etc. On Saturday, March 2nd, St. Petersburg, and Forward Pinellas will be hosting the next Bike Your City Ride, which will start at Child's Park.

Joe Camera (Pinellas School Board): Joe asked when Harn Boulevard Overpass will be opened. The gates are still up on both sides of the overpass. Discussion followed. At Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy and Coachman compound, they put delineators in the middle of the road before the compound and bus entrance was finished. Joe wants them to be taken out since trucks are going through there and the turn going southbound is tight. Also, on US 19 North and Tampa Road, the right turn lane, he suggested putting delineators put in there to stop people from cutting over. Mark Eastty will reach out to the North County sergeant and will put a directive patrol in for that area. Lastly, on US 19 North and Highland Avenue, Joe has a wheelchair stop near the cycle shop. A lot of vehicles go through the stop bars and will not stop in the morning.

Eric Henry (FDOT): FDOT is continuing to support their FDOT partners, including USF, tabling events, etc.

Jennifer Hall (Nations Traffic Safety School): February 12th and 13th is the Teen Safe Driver Coalition in Orlando. They will also be updating on the statewide first annual Battle of the Belts; more information will follow. Jennifer received some numbers with the DHSMV, as well as coinciding with Signal Four and FIRES looking for number of collisions since 2005, compared to number of course completions. With course completions, they are looking at the four-hour basic driver improvement classes, for elections and basic tickets, as well as the 12-hour advanced driver improvement classes for point suspensions, court orders, habitual traffic offenders, etc. In 2005, the collision numbers were about 265,000 and the course completions were roughly 655,000. As of 2022, the collision numbers were 700,000 and the course completions were completely opposite at roughly 264,000. Jennifer discussed the importance of education on collision numbers vs. course completions. Discussion followed.

Robyn Morton (MADD): MADD is participating in a fit 5K in St. Petersburg on Saturday, doing tabling events for them. MADD is also doing a lot of outreach with different sheriff's departments for the teen driving challenge. They are also doing middle and high school presentations with drivers' education. Robyn will be doing some outreach with the school bus transportation departments. She will speak with them and get them involved with the mission of keeping impaired drivers off the roads.

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric sent a message to the PM for the Harn Boulevard Overpass. It looks like it will open mid-February.

Joe Camera (Pinellas School Board): Joe discussed the car fit program. There is a program going on at Gannon University in Ruskin on February 12th, between 8:20 and 10:20 a.m. Discussion followed.

Jennifer Hall (Nations Traffic Safety School): If anyone has any events that are happening, Nations Traffic Safety School is producing a newsletter out to the students that have come to their courses to help with educating the students when laws change or events going on in the community.

III. Old Business

Problem Locations

1. **Passing School Busses:** Mark Eastty will make sure there is directed patrol in the areas Joe Camera mentioned.
2. **Light at Tarpon Mall:** Mark Eastty spoke with Officer Gaskin and they are still working on this.
3. **Signal @ Starkey Road north at Willow Road:** No update.

HSIP and SRTS Projects

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): The HSIP portal is up and running and cities and counties have been submitting applications. They are working on application codes and getting some numbers to request for materials. The City of St. Pete made a presentation on zipper style bike lane delineators, and they are working on getting codes on that as well. If the material that is requested is on the FDOT approved product list, it is much easier to find the code.

High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map

Mark Eastty (PCSO): There have been five crashes with a total of six fatalities. At this point last year there were 11 crashes with 12 fatalities. There have been more fatal crashes since the map was created, probably closer to 14 fatal crashes. Discussion followed.

IV. New Business

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Discussion followed about where the next CTST in-person meeting will be.

Kathy Gademer (City of Dunedin): On February 20th, with Forward Pinellas, they will be presenting to the city commission a review and recommendation draft report for the Beltrees Street Safe Streets for All grant. This would be the first step in getting their recommendations approved and then they can go ahead in the future and get grants for implementation.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Doug Hansen stepped down from attending CTST.


The next meeting is March 7th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. and will be in-person.

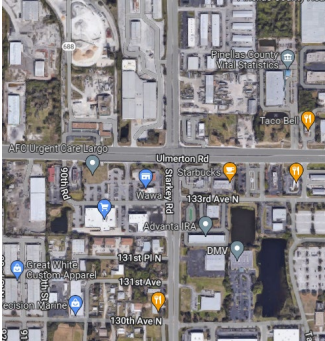
Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Attendees: Basit Ali (Kimley Horn), Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas), Joe Camera (Pinellas School Board), Emmeth Duran (FDOT), Mark Eastty (PCSO), George Edmiston (Benesch), Kathy Gademer (City of Dunedin), Jennifer Hall (Nations Traffic Safety School), Eric Henry (FDOT), Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering), Sgt. Michael Kloepfer (Pinellas Park PD), Jason Levey (SPPD), Sara Linares (Wey Engineering), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), Robyn Morton (MADD), Daniel Negersmith (Clearwater PD), Lori Palaio (JMT), John Rieman (Pinellas County), Joan Rice (Pinellas County), Melissa Shepherd (JMT), Cheryl Stacks (City of St. Pete)

PROBLEM LOCATIONS – FEBRUARY 2024

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	11/4/21	Passing School Buses	Deputy Miller, Joseph Camera	7/6/23		<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. Brian Pessaro, City of St. Pete, suggested a billboard campaign. The new school busses have lights that are a lot brighter, than previous busses. No update. Deputy Loring and other agencies are working on passing school bus enforcement. Joe Camera reached out to Sgt. Caseber, of Largo PD for assistance. Joe stated when parents have their kids getting on the bus in the morning near Belcher Road and Lancaster Drive, the students jump in the middle of the median. The citizens want a law enforcement presence back out at this location. School starts August 10th. Passing school buses will always be an issue.</p> <p>No update. Mark Eastty will make sure there is directed patrol in the areas Joe Camera mentioned.</p>

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/Withdrawn	Comments
2	12/2/21	<p>Light at Tarpon Mall</p>  <p>https://goo.gl/maps/RNwqUTnPLqxd4rwp6</p>	Steven Gassen (Tarpon Springs PD)	7/6/23		<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. 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. Mark spoke with Officer Gaskin with Tarpon Springs. It is still under construction. This will stay on the problem locations sheet until the construction is completed. Officer Steve Gassen said the whole project is complete and there has been a significant reduction in crashes since the lights have been put up. They are still looking for a no U-turn sign to be added at the western end of the new median, along with a fence to reduce pedestrian traffic. This will stay on the problem locations sheet until the improvements are made.</p> <p>No update. Mark Eastty will make sure there is directed patrol in the areas Joe Camera mentioned.</p>

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
3	7/8/22	Signal @ Starkey Road north at Willow Avenue  https://goo.gl/maps/mP4aTReBBao4HLwn6	Joe Camera, PCSB	9/7/23		<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. 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. 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. They will continue checking up on it throughout the school year. They will be putting a traffic light up at Willow. They will be putting a traffic light up at Willow Avenue and is currently going through design. This will stay on problem location sheet until traffic light is put up. There will be a signal at Willow. It is currently in the design phase. Joan Rice asked if Melissa could get rid of the RRFB comment on the problem locations sheet. It will not be an RRFB, it will be a full signal at Willow Avenue. The signal is in the design phase right now. There is a study for the traffic signal. This is for a signal at Starkey Road, north of Willow Avenue. Waiting on the new signal to be installed. Joan Rice, of Pinellas County, mentioned this is almost finished. The sidewalk is almost complete and then the signal will be installed after.</p> <p>No update.</p>