

### Pinellas CTST – March 7, 2024

Meeting started at 10:03 am

#### I. General Meeting

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

#### II. Committee Reports

##### *Enforcement*

Thomas Boyle (Pinellas Park PD): Thomas Boyle, of Pinellas Park PD, discussed their daytime details.

Christopher Keeler (Largo PD): Largo PD is down 33 percent of their unit staff currently. Largo PD is participating in the DUI wolfpack. They will also be at the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) ceremony at the end of March. They are also doing a speed measuring device course from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup> at Largo PD. It is for laser certification, and it is a 40-hour course.

Jill Cox (St. Pete PD): St. Pete PD is doing “Move Over” operations on the Gandy Bridge. They gave out 160 move over violations.

Blaine Loring (PCSO): PCSO hosted the MIDDLE and advanced MIDDLE course. They will also attend the ELEE ceremony, as well as participate in the DUI wolfpack. Mark Easty will be at the career fair on March 25<sup>th</sup> for criminal justice.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): March 21<sup>st</sup> is the ELEE ceremony in Spring Hill. The ELEE program targeted eight months of enforcement on state roads. Indian Shores PD and Treasure Island PD will receive speed trailers. St. Pete PD will receive a light tower.

George Edmiston (Benesch): George read the statistics from the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) fatalities. Pinellas is down 40 percent in fatalities. Of the motorcycle fatalities, many are due to driver error and speed related. FHP has been having concerns about games motorcyclists are playing on the roadway causing unsafe conditions. Motorcyclists are driving on the wrong side of the roadway and aren't following the rules of the road. There will be educational outreach on March 29<sup>th</sup> with Orange County Choppers (OCC) at 5:30pm, with a tent, a seized motorcycle, etc. CUTR will provide safety materials, at the event, including reflective driving suits, watch out for motorcycle stickers, tread meters, etc. April 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a motorcycle night at Quaker Steak and Lube from 6pm to 11pm. It will be focused on corridors northbound and southbound on US 19 and 49<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

John Rieman (Pinellas County): John Rieman discussed the Bike Your City event in St. Pete. On I-275 southbound, John saw a motorcycle crash where a motorcyclist was trapped in a guardrail.

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): Cheryl could not attend the meeting but sent information which Melissa read aloud at the meeting for her. For the Safe Streets for All Grant, Cheryl Stacks is waiting on TransCore for the next steps.

John Reiman (Pinellas County): They finished the draft for the 49<sup>th</sup> Street RSA and it is currently in review.

Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas): Valerie is using the information from the SS4A grant for a section of 49<sup>th</sup> Street, between Largo and Seminole Boulevard. They want to put count cameras out at several locations.

Christopher Keeler (Largo PD): Christopher discussed the Seminole Boulevard RSA on the tentative date of April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The RSA will be from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Ulmerton Road. Right now, they are looking at crash data and the existing conditions for the RSA.

Richard Hartman (City of Clearwater): The City of Clearwater wants to improve sidewalks on Osceola Avenue and North Fort Harrison Avenue. The improvements are in the design stage.

Autumn Westermann (Pinellas County Schools): Drivers are running bus stop arms on US 19 and Highland Acres Drive, Seminole Boulevard, 142<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, and Belcher Road. They are also increasing the number of drivers for buses. Discussion followed.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): CUTR is continuing their in-person Pinellas County school education. They are also partnering with Northshore Elementary School on Bike to School Day on April 1<sup>st</sup> which will start at Crisp Park. CUTR is also planning a multi-county geofence campaign for work zone awareness month in April.

George Edmiston (Benesch): George discussed work zone awareness month. He said there should be safety information on the variable message boards for work zone awareness month. Speed limits have been reduced to 60 mph in work zones within District 7.

### *Education and EMS*

None

### III. Old Business

### *Problem Locations*

1. **Passing School Busses:** Tampa Road was discussed.
2. **Light at Tarpon Mall:** No update.
3. **Signal @ Starkey Road north at Willow Road:** The State is working with the County to offset the cost of lights and fixtures.

### *HSIP and SRTS Projects*

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): The HSIP portal is up and running and cities and counties have been submitting applications. The City of St. Pete are requesting zipper style bike lane delineators. They are working with vendors. John Reiman will ask about pedestrian headlights for HSIP.

### *High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map*

Blaine Loring (PCSO): Blaine discussed the fatal crash map. Pinellas County is ahead of where Pinellas was this same time last year. Discussion followed on e-scooters.

Jim Reiser (Gresham Smith): There is a push on the legislative side on rider education for scooters. There are a lot of issues with licensing for scooters and many scooter riders do not have protective gear, license, or a tag.

George Edmiston (Benesch): ELEE number three will start around late April. They are still working on the scope. ELEE will change a little bit where there will be more ways for agencies to earn points, as well as additional funding.

#### IV. New Business

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): The grant application period has opened. There are several deadlines to be cognizant of. For the planning and demonstration phase of the grant, April 4<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, and August 29<sup>th</sup> are deadlines. The implementation grant deadline is May 16<sup>th</sup>. August 29<sup>th</sup> the entire grant cycle period closes. Melissa will send out an e-blast to let everybody know it is open. In the eblast, she will add some good resources, including webinars. There are three webinars coming up. March 7<sup>th</sup> is a webinar on how to develop an action plan. March 8<sup>th</sup> is a webinar on supplemental planning and demonstration grants. March 13<sup>th</sup> there is a webinar on how to apply for an implementation grant.

Lori Palaio (JMT): Lori from JMT gave a presentation on the University of Florida's Signal Four Analytics (S4) Database. She went over what Signal Four is, what the crash data is used for, where the data comes from, how the public dashboard works, how to create a Signal Four account, features within Signal Four to download the data and perform data driven analyses, crash report usage limitations, how to get under sixty-day access to the crash data and crash reports, crash data responsibilities, links to useful webinars, and the CMDS access removal action plan.

The next meeting is April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 am and will be virtual.


Meeting adjourned at 10:53 am

**Attendees:** Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants); Theo Bakomihalis (PSTA); Thomas Boyle (Pinellas Park PD); Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas); Joseph Camera (Pinellas School Board); Jill Cox (St. Pete PD); George Edmiston (Benesch); Travis Gennell (Pinellas County Public Works); Laura Hamilton (Bayfront Health); Richard Hartman (City of Clearwater); Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering Group); Jimmy Henson (Pinellas County Public Works); Eric Henry (FDOT); Christopher Keeler (Largo PD); Michael Kloepfer (Pinellas Park PD); Deputy Blaine Loring (PCSO); Brentin Mosher (CUTR); Lori Palaio (JMT); Jim Reiser (Gresham Smith); John Rieman (Pinellas County); Melissa Shepherd (JMT); Autumn Westermann (Pinellas County Schools)

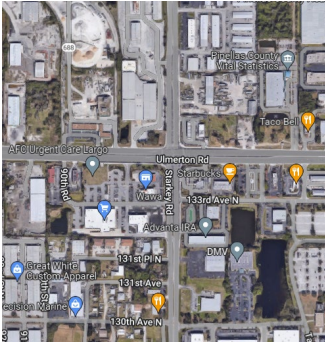
## PROBLEM LOCATIONS - MARCH 2024

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 Pessararo, 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 10<sup>th</sup>. Passing school buses will always be an issue. Mark Eastty will make sure there is directed patrol in the areas Joe Camera mentioned.</p> <p><b>No update. Tampa Road was discussed.</b></p>

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2	12/2/21	<p>Light at Tarpon Mall</p>  <p><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/RNwqUTnPLqxd4rwp6">https://goo.gl/maps/RNwqUTnPLqxd4rwp6</a></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><b>No update.</b></p>



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/Withdrawn	Comments
3	7/8/22	Signal @ Starkey Road north at Willow Avenue  <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/mP4aTReBBao4HLwn6">https://goo.gl/maps/mP4aTReBBao4HLwn6</a>	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><b>No update. The State is working with the County to offset the cost of lights and fixtures.</b></p>