



West Central CTST – March 13, 2024

Meeting started 1:36pm

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

II. **Minutes** were approved for February 2024.

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

1. **Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail:** Ernie Lane, of Hernando County, said that they are starting to replace the ADA mats.
2. **Mariner Boulevard and Northcliff Boulevard:** Ernie Lane said that he is still waiting for an update from Traffic Operations.
3. **Skip Lines at 41 and 486:** Eric Henry, of FDOT, said that the skip lines are supposed to be put in by now. Eric will reach back out to Vicki to confirm.
4. **Main Street (US 41) and Highland Boulevard, Inverness:** Eric Henry stated that he passed on a message to have this checked out and will follow up.
5. **Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing:** Ernie Lane said that he is still waiting on this.
6. **County Line Road and Trillium Boulevard:** Eric Henry said that they want to extend the LPI. Ernie Lane stated that the current LPI is approximately 3.4 to 3.6 seconds long. They want to add a couple more seconds to the LPI. Ernie will investigate this. This will stay on the problem locations sheet.
7. **Mariner Boulevard:** There have been no major crashes recently. Discussion followed about having a possible RSA at this location. Sgt. Andrews will pull five-year crash data for a stretch of roadway on Mariner Boulevard.

IV. **Calendar Updates/Activity Reports**

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin discussed bicycle month and the efforts they have made in Hillsborough and Pinellas. Next week is the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) event. At the event, Citrus County Sheriff's Office will be awarded a couple speed feedback trailers for their enforcement efforts on state roads.

George Edmiston (Benesch): George discussed school presentations and getting into the schools.

V. **Fatal Crash Map**

Lori Palaio (JMT): Lori discussed the fatal crash maps. For Citrus County, from January 1, 2023, to December 26, 2023, there have been 22 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1, 2023, to December 6, 2023, there were also 22 fatal crashes. There was one new fatal crash because one fatal crash was removed due to being a non-traffic related fatality and one was added. The new fatal crash was on December 9, 2023, at 6:55pm and was a head-on fatal crash on Citrus Avenue and Marquette Lane, not at the intersection.



There are 22 fatal crashes in Citrus County through December 26, 2023. The same period in 2022 there were 23 fatal crashes, so Citrus County is down by one fatal crash.

For Hernando County, from January 1, 2023, to December 26, 2023, there have been 43 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1, 2023, to December 6, 2023, there were 40 fatal crashes. The three new fatal crashes were one other and two run off the road fatal crashes.

- The other fatal crash was on December 22, 2023, at 10:10pm on Powell Road and La Vista Street, not at the intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, dry conditions. The vehicle was traveling east on Powell Road approaching La Vista Street. The driver failed to negotiate a left-hand curve as he approached the intersection. As a result, the vehicle traveled off the roadway to the right and entered the south shoulder. It was a motorcyclist fatality, and the motorcyclist was not wearing a helmet.
- The first off-road fatal crash was on December 9, 2023, at 11:01am at Cart Path and Meeting House Lane, not at the intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was westbound on a cart path approaching the entrance onto Meeting House Lane. This was a Clover Leaf Forest RV Resort. For unknown reasons, the driver failed to maintain control of the vehicle and left the roadway to the right. The front of the vehicle struck a tree.
- The second off-road fatal crash was on December 26, 2023, at 3:10pm on Cortez Boulevard and Grove Road, not at the intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was traveling east on Cortez Boulevard, west of Grove Road. The driver was believed to have suffered from a medical issue, causing him to lose control. As a result, the vehicle left the roadway to the right and onto a property and collided with a building. The driver wore a seatbelt.

There are 43 fatal crashes in Hernando County through December 26, 2023. The same period in 2022 there were 42 fatal crashes, so Hernando County is up by one fatal crash.

Jim McLean (Citizen): Jim discussed the 2024 crash statistics for Citrus County from January 1st to March 2nd. There have been 243 total crashes so far in Citrus County. There were two fatal crashes. There were nine bicycle crashes with zero fatalities; 11 motorcycle crashes with one fatality; 43 hit and run crashes with 13 hit and run injuries. Citrus County is ranked number one in district driving crashes, second in aging road user crashes, third in occupant protection/no seat belt crashes, and fourth in pedestrian and bicycle crashes.

VI. SRTS Update

None.

VII. HSIP Update

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): There are no applications yet for Citrus or Hernando. The system is up and running to apply for HSIP funding. Discussion followed.



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

Jim McLean (Citizen): Jim followed up on Laura Anstead's discussion from last month's CTST on a request on signal timing at the light at Rock Crusher Road and Highway 44. There were some complaints in reference to the traffic in the early hours in the morning being stopped when the light is turning red on Highway 44 and having to stop even though there is no traffic coming off Rock Crusher Road. Jim passed it along to Traffic Operations. This will be taken care of and does not need to go on the problem locations sheet.

IX. Open Forum/Announcements

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. Discussion followed.

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 4th, May 16th, and August 29th are deadlines. The implementation grant deadline is May 16th. August 29th the entire grant cycle period closes. Melissa will send out an e-blast to let everybody know it is open. She will put in some good resources, including webinars. There are three webinars coming up. March 7th is a webinar on how to develop an action plan. March 8th is a webinar on supplemental planning and demonstration grants. March 13th there is a webinar on how to apply for an implementation grant. Melissa discussed the required 20 percent local match. Discussion followed.

George Edmiston (Benesch): For the third ELEE, there will be more money available. The program will start again before summer. There will be additional incentives to earn equipment.

X. Adjourn


The next meeting will be April 10, 2024, at 1:30pm and will be virtual.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58pm.

Attendees: Sgt. Jeff Andrews (Hernando County Sheriff's Office), George Edmiston (Benesch), Eric Henry (FDOT), Ernie Lane (Hernando County), Jim McLean (Citizen), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Lori Palaio (JMT), Melissa Shepherd (JMT)



PROBLEM LOCATIONS - MARCH 2024

| 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 | March 2024 | | <p>Harry stated that on the Good Neighbor Trail (GNT), where it crosses Preston Rd, 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 Rd, 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 NB 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 Rd, 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 Rd, as requested. One spot on Preston Rd, 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. For the line of sight, Ernie showed the locations to a new traffic engineer; both **continued on next page**</p> |

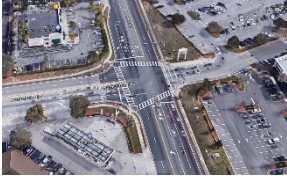


PROBLEM LOCATIONS - MARCH 2024


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| | | | | | | <p>himself and the traffic engineer do not see any issues with the line of sight. Jim said that Preston Rd 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 Rd and the GNT are not an issue. Jim asked if there are trail head crossing signs on Preston Rd and Weatherly Rd 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 Rd and Weatherly Rd. 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 GNT recently and said the stop signs that that are supposed to be relocated for the trail users have not been relocated yet. Laura Borges, 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 GNT. 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 GNT. 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. Ernie Lane said that they are working on replacing all the ADA mats and he is unsure if that has been completed yet. Robert Esposito, of the MPO, said that he received a text message from FDOT yesterday that they are looking to do a ribbon cutting for the Good Neighbor Trail sometime in April. Ernie said they are starting to replace the ADA mats.</p> |
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PROBLEM LOCATIONS - MARCH 2024

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|------|---------------|--|-----------|-------------|--------------------------|--|
| 2 | Jan 2022 | Mariner Boulevard and Northcliff Boulevard  https://goo.gl/maps/oqJoiXfvBxeksW1T9 | HC / Todd | Feb 2024 | | <p>David suggested there needs to be guide skips at Mariner Blvd and Northcliff Blvd. 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 Blvd. 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 NB onto Mariner Blvd. 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 SB 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 was 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. Ernie said that this had not been made to the top of the list yet. Ernie said that he sent out an email to Traffic Operations trying to get a status on the skip lines. He has been telling Traffic Operations for the past couple of years that they need skip lines put in on Northcliffe Boulevard and North Mariner Boulevard. Waiting on update.</p> |




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| 3 | Feb 2023 | <p>Skip Lines at 41 and 486</p>  <p>https://goo.gl/maps/34enAdqTB4EJeMWv9</p> | Jim McLean | Feb 2024 | | <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. 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. The lines for the left turn traffic are not there. Eric Henry, of FDOT, will contact Vicki Hines, as she oversees asset management. Eric Henry reached out to Vicki and 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 reached back out to Vicki and the project manager. The project manager said that they would look at this location again. Eric Henry reached back out to Vicki and the project manager. They confirmed that they were thinking of the wrong skip lines, but they stated a couple of weeks ago that they would be going out sometime in the next couple of weeks to repaint them. So those should be done hopefully by the end of this week if they are not completed already.</p> <p>Eric Henry, of FDOT, said that the skip lines are supposed to be put in by now. Eric will reach back out to Vicki to confirm.</p> |





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| 4 | Sept 2023 | <p>Main Street (US 41) and Highland Boulevard, Inverness</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/x43dCWHK4owdaUFcA</p> | Laura Anstead (CCSO) | Feb 2024 | | <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>Eric Henry stated that the timing was adjusted; five seconds added to the northbound left turn lane. Laura Anstead said that the way the phases are divided, the southbound traffic cannot get through the intersection because the people waiting to turn left on Highland Boulevard are backing that lane up. The idea she had was to have the eastbound and westbound arrows go and then open the northbound and southbound approaches. Eric Henry will follow up.</p> <p>Eric Henry stated that he passed on a message to have this checked out and will follow up.</p> |



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| 5 | Nov 2023 | <p>Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/qNe3HyP4Xadk91j67</p> | Michael Attard (citizen) | Feb 2024 | | <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>Ernie Lane said that they have requested funding for this location, and he doesn't know if it has been approved yet. As soon as they get funding for this location, they can go out and put it on the contract.</p> <p>Ernie is still waiting on this. No update.</p> |



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| 6 | Nov 2023 | <p>County Line Road and Trillium Boulevard</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/BdyMCbj65ZR3FDor5</p> | Michael Attard (citizen) | March 2024 | | <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. Sgt. Andrews has not seen any crashes documented here. A citizen, Michael Attard, wanted the function of light to change. Sgt. Andrews doesn't think that this could be changed. Eric Henry said that they want to extend the LPI. Ernie Lane stated that the current LPI is approximately 3.4 to 3.6 seconds long. They want to add a couple more seconds to the LPI. Ernie will investigate this. This will stay on the problem locations sheet.</p> |
| 7 | Nov 2023 | <p>Mariner Boulevard</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qi9</p> | Sgt. Andrews | Feb 2024 | | <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. For the 2023 totals so far, minus the sixty-day delay, Mariner Boulevard had 343 crashes, six fatal crashes, with seven fatalities. Three of the six fatal crashes were south of Mariner Boulevard closer to County Line Road, south of Spring Hill Drive. Sgt. Andrews will get with Ernie Lane and go over these crashes and see what options are available to address safety concerns. People are losing control of the vehicles and not wearing their seatbelts. There have been no major crashes recently. Discussion followed about having a possible RSA at this location. Sgt. Andrews will pull five-year crash data for a stretch of roadway on Mariner Boulevard.</p> |