



## MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 2024

### Pasco CTST – March 26, 2024

Meeting started at 1:30pm

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

#### **II. Meeting Dedication**

Tina Russo (Pasco MPO): Tina discussed fatalities in Pasco County due to drivers not wearing seatbelts. There have been 67 fatalities due to no seatbelts, 13 were alcohol related and 54 were non-alcohol related. The alcohol numbers are not always accurate because drug/alcohol testing isn't always completed. Tina dedicated the meeting to someone who hit a tree and didn't wear a seatbelt which resulted in a fatality. Tina stated that if people wore helmets and seatbelts it would decrease the fatality rate by 50 percent.

#### **III. Minutes Approved**

- February minutes were approved.

#### **IV. Old Business**

1. **US 19 and Bay Boulevard** – No update.
2. **US 301 and Chancey Road** – No update.
3. **Daughtery Road and US 301** – None update.
4. **Seven Springs Boulevard** – Tina Russo, of Pasco MPO, discussed tree issues and possible signal installation. Discussion followed.

Discussion followed on what a flashing red light means on a midblock pedestrian signal. Midblock pedestrian signals are being installed on US 19 at high crash locations. An example is at US 19 and Elizabeth Avenue.

#### **V. New Business**

##### *Education*

Renisa Martinez (John's Hopkins All Children's Hospital): Renisa discussed the Battle of the Belts campaign this year. It is a peer-to-peer lead campaign with the high schools. A vaping component is added to the campaign this year as a pilot. There will be anonymous behavior sheets given out on vaping. The campaign will be from April 15<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup>. Six to seven schools will be participating in this campaign in Pasco County. Renisa also discussed the statewide safe sleep initiative. The state will give free pack and plays and educate people on unsafe sleep for children. There will also be safe sleep bags with onesies for toddlers that say, "this side up." Free door alarms will be given out as well. Discussion followed.

Discussion also followed on marijuana vaping in schools and its causing safety issues on the roadways.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): FDOT helmet fitting will be this Friday.

Tina Russo (Pasco MPO): A helmet fitting was done at USF recently. A week ago, there was a fitting that had 34 crossing guards and teachers at Starkey Park. Many helmets can be ordered for free if it is to fit someone. The helmet fittings allow engagement with the public to teach them about bicycle safety.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): On March 9<sup>th</sup> there was an outdoor expo with 181 parents and children. CUTR passed out safety items. The Slow Roll event is Thursday.

Discussion followed on outreach opportunities. Discussion also followed on the safety action plan and funds for projects. SR 52 from Bellamy Brothers Boulevard to Ehren Cutoff is a stretch of roadway with safety issues and minimal enforcement.

### *Enforcement*

George Edmiston (Benesch): The Enhance Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program was a success. Twenty-five of the 27 law enforcement agencies in the district participated. From Pasco County, FHP Pasco, New Port Richey PD, Port Richey PD, and Dade City PD participated in ELEE. Over 400 thousand dollars in equipment was handed out to all the agencies for conducting enforcement on state roads. The awards lunch was held at the Wellington on County Line Road in Spring Hill last Thursday.

### *Engineering*

Tina Russo (Pasco MPO): Tina discussed the Long-Range Transportation Plan. There will be a stakeholder meeting in April. They are looking to do projects for five years to 20 years out.

### *Crash Statistics*

Lori Palaio (JMT): She stated from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, there were 91 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1 to December 14, 2023, there were 85 fatal crashes. There have been six new fatal crashes since the last CTST meeting. Those include one rear end, two run-off roads, one left turn, and two pedestrian fatal crashes.

- The first pedestrian fatal crash was on December 23, 2023, at 9:36pm at Chancey Road and Bellmeade Court in dark not-lighted conditions. The vehicle was traveling west on Chancey Road approaching the intersection of Bellmeade Court. The pedestrian was walking south across the westbound lanes in the crosswalk located at the intersection. The vehicle failed to observe the pedestrian crossing the roadway.
- The second fatal crash was on December 25, 2023, at midnight at US 19 and Grand Boulevard in dark-lighted conditions. The vehicle was traveling northbound on US 19 approaching Grand Boulevard. Pedestrians one and two were crossing US 19 going eastbound from Circle K. Pedestrians one and two were approximately 218 feet south of the crosswalk at US 19 and Grand Boulevard. The vehicle struck pedestrian two and then pedestrian one. It resulted in one fatality.

There have been 91 fatal crashes in 2023. In 2022 there were 99 fatal crashes, so Pasco County is down by nine fatal crashes from the previous year.

Tina Russo (Pasco MPO): There has been 92 fatal crashes in 2023. This is a 10 percent reduction from 2022.

Discussion followed on obtaining a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DHSMV to obtain crash data less than 60 days old.

### **VI. Calendar Updates / Activity Reports**

None.

### **VII. Fatality Tracking**

None.

### **VIII. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Updates**

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): The HSIP portal is up and running. Amy Davis from Pasco County asked about school zones. Melissa stated that school zones are not eligible for HSIP. Discussion followed.

### **IX. Open Forum/Announcements**

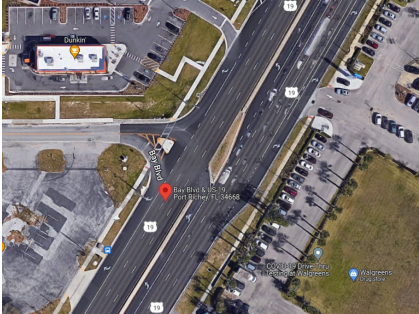
David Peterson (PSO): David Peterson from Pasco Sheriff's Office gave a presentation on the Pasco School Crossing Guard program. The Pasco Sheriff's Office does a Preschool Pedestrian Safety Program, called PPSP. The program was introduced in 2021. The training is for preschoolers aged four or older. It is voluntary pre-kindergarten education where they communicate crosswalk procedures through the time-honored mechanisms of show and tell and dress up. During the 2022-2023 school year, the program was presented 35 times to approximately 900 students. The goals of the program are to raise awareness of the importance of safety crossings, develop positive relations with Pasco County youth, etc. The content includes scripted presentations, students engaging with members, demonstrations and walk-thru's, as well as school crossing guard and traffic control officer roles. David Peterson gave a mock dress-up and show and tell demo to the CTST group.


**Next Meeting: April 24, 2024, 1:30 PM – Virtual Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 3:27pm.

**Meeting Attendees:** Ashley Cason (FDOT); Kristie Copp (JHACH Early Steps); Amy Davis (Pasco County); Isabella Discepolo (Bayonet Point Hospital Trauma Center); George Edmiston (Benesch); Eric Henry (FDOT); Nicholas Inniss (Element Engineering); John Koors (MPO); Renisa Martinez (John's Hopkins All Children's Hospital); Brentin Mosher (CUTR); Lori Palaio (JMT); David Peterson (PSO); Tina Russo (MPO); Melissa Shepherd (JMT)

## STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM LOCATIONS

Location	Date	Original Request	Who Initiated Request?	Responsible Staff or Agency
US 19 and Bay Boulevard  <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/qqWNcVRBzQ9GmPV3A">https://goo.gl/maps/qqWNcVRBzQ9GmPV3A</a>	Aug 2022	At US 19 and Bay Blvd, there are also a lot of left turn crashes. This location has lighting issues; it is unlit.		Venkat V. / Jeffrey M. (PC)
	<b>Comments</b> The group mentioned shutting down the left turn lane. Discussion followed about the traffic jam that occurs at this location. The radius of the left turn onto Bay Blvd is the problem. Others brought up possibly changing the configuration of the intersection; they used to have the old type delineators on top of the porkchop and they came in and added the newer ones. The people trying to turn onto Bay Blvd, they are trying to beat the light coming off Ridge Rd. The average age of drivers is in the mid-teens. They are going to see what they can do with the signalization. 26 crashes were aging road users, eight of them were teen drivers, seven lane departures, etc.			
<b>Emphasis Area: Signal Four</b>	Intersection Improvements			
<b>Action Item / Countermeasure</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Update</b>		<b>Status</b>
Mike mentioned adding guide skips at this area.	9/2022	Mike Zinn spoke to Traffic Ops to add guide skips from the pork chop all the way around to the island.		
Venkat said he would do a field visit.		There is nothing that can be done on the County's side since it's a state road. Venkat asked FDOT if someone from FDOT can meet him in the field to see what can be done.		Pending
Tina stated she will look at the crash reports.		Since 2018, there have been 73 crashes at this intersection. At the intersection itself, there has been zero fatalities and two severe injuries.		Complete
Tina will update us on what FDOT is planning to do here.		This is on the list for FDOT to make some modifications.		Complete
Mike Zinn asked Venkat to send an email to see who is available to meet for the field visit.		A field visit will be set up with FDOT and county staff before the next meeting.		Complete
[name] from FDOT to coordinate field review that will include County Staff.		FDOT still working on it		Pending
Tina Russo will send Venkat and Joellen an email and ask how best to proceed on this location or not to proceed.	10/25/23	Tina passed this on again to Mike and they are looking at it. She is waiting for FDOT to get back with her on what they can and cannot do.		Pending
	2/28/24	This is being followed up by FDOT. On US 19, south of Gulf Drive, delineators were put up to eliminate the left turn phase. If you're going northbound, it's the left turn into Wells Fargo and Publix. There were a lot of crashes there and Port Richey PD mentioned that problem location. After several months they were able to get the left turn closed off.		Pending

Location	Date	Original Request	Who Initiated Request?	Responsible Staff or Agency
US 301 and Chancey Road  <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/CPJs6mRe1fdyi3Hp9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/CPJs6mRe1fdyi3Hp9</a>	Dec 2023	On the south side of US 301 near Chancey Road, there are safety issues.		Tina Russo (MPO)
<b>Comments</b>				
Tina discussed doing engagement on Zephyrhills on US 301. On the south side of US 301 near Chancey Road, there are safety issues. There are a lot of homeless people, as well as construction in the area. Matt Weaver, Element Engineering Group, stated there is a resurfacing project being done around US 301 and Chancey Road. They are channelizing the left turn and doing development, along with other safety countermeasures. Discussion followed. Tina said near US 301 and Chancey Road there is a railroad track nearby. The right-of-way preservation program protects right of way issues during widening.				
<b>Emphasis Area: Signal Four</b>		Safety Issues		
<b>Action Item / Countermeasure</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Update</b>		<b>Status</b>
Tina discussed doing engagement on Zephyrhills on US 301.	12/13/23			Pending

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<p>Daughterly Road and US 301</p> <p><a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/zAzDSbTWJofgRkKkN9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/zAzDSbTWJofgRkKkN9</a></p>	Dec 2023	At Daughterly Road and US 301, there are crashes at the signalized intersection. Daughterly Road is between two shopping centers.		Tina Russo (MPO)																
<p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>There is a hill and overall poor visibility. The issues are westbound, coming off Daughterly Road. The crashes are typically elderly people.</p>																				
<p><b>Emphasis Area: Signal Four</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Action Item / Countermeasure</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Update</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Venkat, of Pasco County, will investigate this area.</td> <td>12/13/23</td> <td></td> <td>Pending</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tina reached out to someone on this and will go back through her emails to see what was discussed. Tina will follow up, but this one got pushed forward to the next step to see what can or cannot be done.</td> <td>1/24/24</td> <td></td> <td>Pending</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tina said she must look at this location with Venkat's help.</td> <td>2/28/24</td> <td></td> <td>Pending</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Action Item / Countermeasure	Date	Update	Status	Venkat, of Pasco County, will investigate this area.	12/13/23		Pending	Tina reached out to someone on this and will go back through her emails to see what was discussed. Tina will follow up, but this one got pushed forward to the next step to see what can or cannot be done.	1/24/24		Pending	Tina said she must look at this location with Venkat's help.	2/28/24		Pending
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## LOCAL ROADS PROBLEM LOCATIONS

Location	Date	Original Request	Who Initiated Request?	Responsible Staff or Agency
<p>Seven Springs Boulevard</p> <p><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/2NcLpPi2pxVoqYpJA">https://goo.gl/maps/2NcLpPi2pxVoqYpJA</a></p>	Apr 2023	Seven Springs Boulevard may be an area that comes up around next year, along with a couple other intersections that they are looking at within Pasco County. The sidewalk on Perrine Ranch Road to Grand Boulevard is in disarray. Some of the guardrails are not in good shape as well. A possible road diet may help with a lot of the issues on Seven Springs Boulevard.		Tina Russo (MPO) / Mike Zinn
<p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>There are a couple of schools on Seven Springs Boulevard that are being looked at.</p>				
<b>Emphasis Area: Signal Four</b>		Speeding and Aggressive Driving Improvements		
<b>Action Item / Countermeasure</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Update</b>	<b>Status</b>	
[name] Forward request to maintenance to evaluate and repair sidewalk. forward request to maintenance to evaluate guardrail.				
[name] forward request to traffic ops / safety to evaluate for potential road diet.	10/25/23	Mike mentioned there needs to be a road diet. Tina will look at Seven Springs Boulevard from SR 54 to Perrine Ranch Road and go from there.	Closed	
	12/13/23	Mike Zinn brought up this location. Counts and speeds have been collected and Seven Springs is on the top 12 list. A road diet cannot be done due to existing traffic volumes. There are crashes on the cross streets due to vehicles pulling out and there is poor visibility due to the trees.	Closed	
Tina said that that she is working with Pinellas County on a stakeholder meeting for the long-range transportation plan. Tina will get more information on this location after the meeting.	12/13/23		Pending	
Tina will follow up, but this one got pushed forward to the next step to see what can or cannot be done.	1/24/24		Pending	
Tina Russo, of Pasco MPO, discussed tree issues and possible signal installation.	3/26/24		Pending	



## CHALLENGING LOCATIONS - MARCH 2024

### LOCAL ROADS CONTACTS

Michael	Bunk	Pasco County	mbunk@pascocountyfl.net
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Daniel	Villano	FHP	danielvillano@flhsmv.gov
Michael	Zinn	FDOT District 7	michael.zinn@dot.state.fl.us