

Pinellas CTST – April 4, 2024

Meeting started at 10:00 am

I. General Meeting

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

II. Committee Reports

Enforcement

Daniel Negersmith (Clearwater PD): The DUI Wolfpack was last month.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): On March 8th, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office did the Wolfpack for St. Patrick's Day. March 23rd PCSO attended the FDOT awards.

Blaine Loring (PCSO): At the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) awards, PCSO received a lot of equipment. They received lasers, tint meters, etc.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): The law enforcement agency statistics were due end of March for the law enforcement liaison Law Enforcement Challenge Awards. The award ceremony will be at the end of July. Next week is IPTM's Pedestrian and Bicycle Crash Investigation class at the Sheriff's Building on Ulmerton Road. There is a level two course from April 22nd to April 26th. Both courses are free. The Traffic Reconstruction, Level Two course will be from April 29th to May 5th and is a weeklong class and also free.

Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Last month was the Forward Pinellas, Bike Your City Event in St. Petersburg. This Saturday, CUTR is joining Forward Pinellas and law enforcement agencies for the Trail Etiquette Day, talking to users about riding safely on the trail, crossing safely, passing out safety items, etc. Walk Like MADD, which is at Tampa and USF campuses is April 19th.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Pinellas County is doing a Golf Like MADD this year. It is going to be held at Crescent Oaks Golf Club in Tarpon Springs. The tentative date will be October 14th. Larry Coggins from MADD is in the process of getting the contracts drawn up.

Cheryl Stacks (City of St. Pete): The City of St. Pete is working towards developing a new Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant application. They are targeting an August submittal for that grant opportunity. The City is still working on getting a quote from the provider for the zippers for the bike lane buffers that was presented a couple of months ago. The City of St. Pete is getting a new Neighborhood Transportation Coordinator named David Haggerty. He will be joining the St. Pete staff on April 22nd.

John Rieman (Pinellas County): Pinellas County is working with Forward Pinellas in developing a Corridor Safety Study on 49th Street and runs from 40th Avenue North to 140th Avenue North. There are two specific focus areas, including 40th Avenue North to 62nd Avenue North and Ulmerton Road and Roosevelt Boulevard. The County is looking for stakeholders.

David Lutz (City of Clearwater): The City of Clearwater received a couple of pedestrian detection devices that they are about to install in the next couple weeks on some of the key roads within the City of Clearwater. They are going to do a pilot project and get those up and running and then they will see how the results turn out.

John Rieman (Pinellas County): Pinellas County has the High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) this weekend on the trail. There are a bunch of law enforcement agencies and other organizations involved. It will be held this Saturday in Dunedin.

Education and EMS

Joe Camera (Pinellas School Board): On Tampa Road and 19th Street, Joe received a complaint from the Unity Church, where the pastor said that people are parking on the shoulder and dropping off their kids. Also, parents are going into the bus circle early in the morning and the School Resource Officer (SRO) is aware of that. Joe worked with Palm Harbor Middle School and the principal has no problems with people parking in the visitor parking spots, as they are designated areas. But the pastor of Unity Church does not want to see people in the parking area anymore. Sgt. Daniel Negersmith was working on Sunset Point Road with the buses in the afternoon trying to make a left turn. Daniel said he does not really see too much resistance there as far as the buses waiting. Deputy Loring has been working at Tampa Road/Palm Harbor Middle School almost every day, so he will look at the parking issue as well.

Brandy Howard (Suncoast Safety Council): The St. Pete office has resumed full operations. The McConnell family vehicle that was involved in the DUI fatality back in 2010 is available for anyone's use. This week and next week the car is at Countryside High School for their prom awareness campaign. The Suncoast Safety Council will be at the VA Stand Down for Homeless Veterans this Saturday. They plan to participate/provide resources and allow access for registration at their DUI program or traffic school at no cost to participants that have that need.

III. Old Business

Problem Locations

- 1. Passing School Busses:** Blaine Loring will be taking care of the issues at US 19 and Highland Acres. This area backs up traffic for six to eight miles. Joe spoke to the driver, and she is going to try to open the yellow a little bit further back to give them more warning. Blaine Loring created a directive patrol for that as well and he is trying to include some of the patrol deputies and make them aware of it and enforce it when Blaine Loring is unavailable.
- 2. Light at Tarpon Mall:** No update.
- 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 codes and funding right now. They are working on the zipper style bike delineators code from Florida Transcor. Mahshid is waiting on an

application from Pinellas County on some ped heads and the City of Clearwater for RRFB's. For RRFB's, there needs to be a signed and sealed engineering report per Traffic Engineering Manual 5.2

High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map

Mark Eastty (PCSO): As of the end of March, there have been 28 fatal crashes with a total of 30 fatalities. This time last year in 2023, there were 29 crashes with 31 fatalities. Pedestrian fatals are down significantly but the motorcycle fatals went up. There have been eight this year so far, as opposed to three last year. The bicycles are down and the vehicle fatals are the same. The bike trial counting for the Pinellas Trail has been missing from the agenda.

Cheryl Stacks (City of St. Pete): For the bike trail counting, there has been issues with the counters. They require a lot of maintenance. It is possible that the quality of the data, so that might be why Valerie Brookens is not providing the data. Discussion followed.

IV. New Business

Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering Group): FDOT and the County were working on the roundabout at Florida Avenue and Alt 19 with the consistent knocking down of the RRFB that was on the northeast corner. Jim was wondering if there has been any progress on the replacement of that, as it is still not up yet. Joan Rice, Pinellas County, stated that Florida Avenue and Alt 19, FDOT did all the utility locates to be able to move it back. They should be pouring in a new base soon and then Pinellas County will be putting back the RRB. Jim Hartwell, Element Engineering Group, said at Alt 19, north of the roundabout, Jim is getting information of people consistently using the two-way left turn to pass and exceeding that 35-mph speed limit. He asked if there could be focus done to try and curb that. He knows that it will probably be taken care of after the RRR project that is due to start at some point this year. But in the meantime, people are doing the passing in the two-way left turn lane, which is causing some people at locations to almost be in a head on collision. Blaine Loring, PCSO, will investigate the issue at Alt 19. Yesterday, south of the roundabout, one of the cars ended up hitting another car and crashed. Deputy Blaine Loring works at that location almost every day.

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): Peter Hsu from FDOT put in the new Spring 2024 Safety newsletter and will be sent out via eblast shortly. Also, there are some new girls at the FDOT Safety Office and Peter put a Charlie's Angels, "The Safety Angels," photo in the chat. Peter Hsu also put in some information in the chat about fatalities in the US and road crashes, which declined last year for NHTSA.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): The International Association of Chiefs of Police published a magazine called the Chief's Magazine and last August when Mark was out there teaching the traffic supervision class, they selected his course to be published in their magazine. The article will be coming out in their April edition.

The next meeting is May 2nd, 2024, at 10:00 am and will be virtual.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 am

Attendees: Rick Adams (Nations Traffic); Basit Ali (Kimley Horn); Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants); Joseph Camera (Pinellas School Board); Ashely Cason (FDOT); Jill Cox (St. Pete PD);




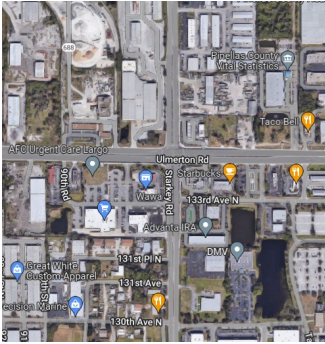
MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 2024

Raymond Dresch (City of Clearwater); Mark Eastty (PCSO); Modesto Gonzalez (City of Clearwater); Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering); Brandy Howard (Suncoast Safety Council); Peter Hsu (FDOT); Annabella Hullen (City of Clearwater); Rich Interrante (PCSA); Jacob Johnson (City of Clearwater); Sara Lindres (Wey Engineering); Deputy Blaine Loring (PCSO); David Lutz (City of Clearwater); Ted Mellis (City of Clearwater); Brentin Mosher (CUTR); Daniel Negersmith (Clearwater PD); Lori Palaio (JMT); Jim Reiser (Gresham Smith); Joan Rice (Pinellas County); John Rieman (Pinellas County); Melissa Shepherd (JMT); Cheryl Stacks (City of St. Pete); Charlie Stephenson (City of Clearwater); Autumn Westermann (Pinellas County Schools); Isabel Zuluga (FDOT)

PROBLEM LOCATIONS - APRIL 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. 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. 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. 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 Rd and Lancaster Dr, 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. Mark Eastty will make sure there is directed patrol in the areas Joe Camera mentioned. Tampa Road was discussed. Blaine Loring will be taking care of the issues at US 19 and Highland Acres. This area backs up traffic for six to eight miles. Joe spoke to the driver, and she is going to try to open the yellow a little bit further back to give them more warning. Blaine Loring created a directive patrol for that as well and he is trying to include some of the patrol deputies and make them aware of it and enforce it when Blaine Loring is unavailable.</p>

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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.</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. The State is working with the County to offset the cost of lights and fixtures.</p>