



West Central CTST – April 10, 2024

Meeting started 1:33pm

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

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

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

1. **Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail:** No update.
2. **Mariner Boulevard and Northcliff Boulevard:** Sgt. Andrews, of Hernando County Sheriff's Office, stated that he drives through this area regularly and he hasn't seen any changes, so it should probably still on the list.
3. **Skip Lines at 41 and 486:** Jim McLean reached out after the last CTST meeting. Jim drove through this area, and they were replaced. *This will be removed from the problem locations sheet.*
4. **Main Street (US 41) and Highland Boulevard, Inverness:** Eric Henry, of FDOT, followed up with traffic operations after the last CTST meeting. Eric still hasn't heard back from them, so he will continue to try to follow up with them to see if there is anything that could be done.
5. **Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing:** No update.
6. **County Line Road and Trillium Boulevard:** No update.
7. **Mariner Boulevard:** George Edmiston, of Benesch, received the data from Sgt. Andrews, of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. George forwarded the crash data to the safety office and Emmeth assigned JMT to do the safety study.

IV. **Calendar Updates/Activity Reports**

Eric Henry (FDOT): Next week is Work Zone Awareness Week. FDOT will be sending out an e-blast sometime this week with some information about events. FDOT will be at an event next weekend on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the Quaker Steak and Lube in Clearwater. It is a motorcycle focused event. May is Motorcycle Awareness Month, and FDOT is gearing up for that as well.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): CUTR is doing a district wide work zone quiz by running a Facebook ad. They are promoting that and trying to get the citizens to understand some of the rules, laws, and safe behaviors for work zones.

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): May is Ride Like MADD the entire month.

Eric Henry (FDOT): Next Friday is the Walk like MADD event. This was rescheduled due to rain and it will be held in Tampa.

Bob Esposito (Hernando MPO): May 22 is a ribbon cutting for the Good Neighbor Trail at 10:00am at Tom Varn Park in Brooksville. Eric Henry will put that information in an e-blast.



V. Fatal Crash Map

Lori Palaio (JMT): Lori discussed the fatal crash maps. For Citrus County, from January 1, 2024, to January 29, 2024, there has been one fatal crash. It was a right-angle fatal crash on January 26, 2024, at 12:20pm on SR 44 and North Suncoast Boulevard (US 19). It occurred at the four-way intersection in day, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was traveling north on US 19 approaching the intersection of SR 44 in the right turn lane. Vehicle two was traveling west on SR 44 approaching the intersection of US 19 in the inside left turning lane. Vehicle three was traveling the same as vehicle two in the inside left turning lane. Vehicle two was in front of vehicle three. Vehicle one failed to negotiate a right turn to travel east on SR 44 and continued straight. Subsequently, vehicle one traveled over the cement median and collided with the left rear of vehicle two. After the initial collision with vehicle two, vehicle one then collided with the right front of vehicle three. Vehicle one succumbed to their injuries. It was a motorcycle fatality, and the motorcyclist was wearing a DOT compliant motorcycle helmet.

There is one fatal crash through January 29, 2024, for Citrus County. The same period in 2023, there was also one fatal crash.

For Hernando County, from January 1, 2024, to January 29, 2024, there have been five fatal crashes.

- The bicycle fatal crash was on January 1 at 6:45am, on US 301 and Running Pond Lane, not at the intersection, in dark, foggy, and dry conditions.
- The left turn fatal crash was motorcycle related and was on January 6 at 2:00am on Mariner Boulevard and Landover Boulevard, at the four-way intersection in dark-lighted, clear, dry conditions.
- The pedestrian fatal crash was January 11 at 7:10pm on Spring Hill Drive and Air Commerce Boulevard, not at the intersection, in dark-not lighted, rainy, wet conditions.
- The off-road fatal crash was on January 22 at 7:40am on Wiscon Road and Moblely Road, not at the intersection, in dawn, clear, and dry conditions.
- The unknown fatal crash was on January 23 at 8:30pm on Cortez Boulevard and Hartness Drive, not at the intersection, in dark-not lighted, clear, dry conditions.

There are five fatal crashes through January 29, 2024, for Hernando County. The same period in 2023 there were also five fatal crashes.

VI. SRTS Update

Jim McLean (Citizen): At the last MPO meeting, Jim received a draft copy of the tentative sidewalks. Hernando County at Eastside Elementary School is supposed to have construction start this year. Citrus County at Forest Ridge Elementary School, Phase Two construction is not due to start until 2026 for the sidewalks.



VII. HSIP Update

Eric Henry (FDOT): The portal is open. There is still some money available, so if anybody has any low-cost safety countermeasures, make a submission. Melissa, Lori, Mahshid, and Bill are happy to help anyway that is needed. Discussion followed.

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

Eric Henry (FDOT): FDOT had a citizen complaint at US 41 and East Brooks Lane in Citrus County. There is a restaurant on the corner there called Lollygaggers. Vehicles are parked in the parking spaces for the restaurant. The parking lot goes up to the right of way/into the right of way on US 41. It was obstructing the line of sight for the citizen. When vehicles try to turn left or right out of that side street, it is hard to see vehicles with the big trucks parked in the parking lot. FDOT went out and talked to the property owner. The property owner blacked out the spaces, but vehicles were still parking there. So, they gored the area off and stripped it out. The citizen reached back out and vehicles are now parking just on the other side of it. They closed these parking spaces off, but now vehicles are moving down and parking even further. The other side of the parking spaces is in the right of way. Eric is unsure if this is an enforcement issue. George Edmiston said to let Sergeant Anstead know about this. *US 41 and East Brooks Lane will be added to the problem locations sheet.*

IX. Open Forum/Announcements

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): The grant application is open. There are two more deadlines – May 16 is one deadline and then the final deadline is on August 29. There is a ton of research on the website as well as webinars. The information walks you through how to complete the safety action plan. There is a 20 percent local funding agency match/cost share. This may include cash and in-kind donations. Discussion followed. Emmeth Duran, of FDOT, stated there are two types of grants. There is one grant for studies and there is one grant for implementation. One agency could go for an implementation grant and another agency could go for a study type of grant. It does not have to be just one. Just because it is within the same jurisdiction, it does not mean that all of them are ruled out for anything with the Safe Streets for All (SS4A). Discussion followed.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin posted the latest edition of the FDOT D7 Safety Newsletter in the chat.

Emmeth Duran (FDOT): May is motorcycle month. If there is something that we want to do with the CTST, if there are any ideas or events, let FDOT know.


X. Adjourn

The next meeting will be May 8, 2024, at 1:30pm and will be virtual.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07pm.

Attendees: Sgt. Jeff Andrews (Hernando County Sheriff's Office), Allison Cornelius (Citrus County Sheriff's Office), Emmeth Duran (FDOT), George Edmiston (Benesch), Bob Esposito (Hernando MPO), Eric Henry (FDOT), Nicholas Inniss (Element Engineering); Jim McLean (Citizen), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Lori Palaio (JMT), Melissa Shepherd (JMT)



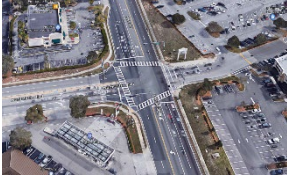
Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	Apr 2021	<p>Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail</p> <p><i>(This item was replaced with the Good Neighbor Trail - Preston Road and Weatherly Road – Good Neighbor Trail Stop Signs details were removed)</i></p>  <p>https://goo.gl/maps/gb6K4d1P9zpR4B41A</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>




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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. No update.</p>
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Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
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. 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. Sgt. Andrews, of Hernando County Sheriff's Office, stated that he drives through this area regularly and he hasn't seen any changes, so it should probably still on the list.</p>




Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
3	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, of FDOT, followed up with traffic operations after the last CTST meeting. Eric still hasn't heard back from them, so he will continue to try to follow up with them to see if there is anything that could be done.</p>

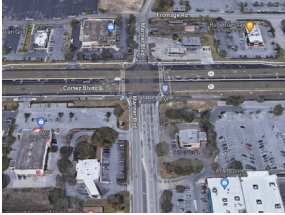



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4	Nov 2023	<p>Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/qNe3HyP4Xadk91j67</p>	Michael Attard (citizen)	Feb 2024		<p>The trail crossing along the Suncoast Trail is extremely busy, especially in the mornings. There is 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. Ernie is still waiting on this.</p> <p>No update.</p>



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5	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> <p>No update.</p>



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6	Nov 2023	Mariner Boulevard  https://maps.app.goo.gl/E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qi9	Sgt. Andrews	April 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> <p>George Edmiston, of Benesch, received the data from Sgt. Andrews, of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. George forwarded the crash data to the Safety Office and Emmeth assigned JMT to do the safety study.</p>
7	April 3, 2024	US 41 and East Brooks Lane, Citrus County  https://maps.app.goo.gl/WeqzL4kYPqiHw38y7	Eric Henry	April 2024		<p>FDOT had a citizen complaint at US 41 and East Brooks Lane in Citrus County. There is a restaurant on the corner there called Lollygaggers. Vehicles are parked in the parking spaces for the restaurant. The parking lot goes up to the right of way/into the right of way on US 41. It was obstructing the line of sight for the citizen. When vehicles try to turn left or right out of that side street, it is hard to see vehicles with the big trucks parked in the parking lot. FDOT went out and talked to the property owner. The property owner blacked out the spaces, but vehicles were still parking there. So, they gored the area off and stripped it out. The citizen reached back out and vehicles are now parking just on the other side of it. They closed these parking spaces off, but now vehicles are moving down and parking even further. The other side of the parking spaces is in the right of way. Eric is unsure if this is an enforcement issue. George Edmiston said to let Sergeant Anstead know about this.</p>