

Pinellas CTST – May 2, 2024

Meeting started at 10:02 am

I. General Meeting

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

II. Committee Reports

Enforcement

Mike Schade (St. Pete PD): St. Pete PD will have their monthly traffic operations in May. St. Pete PD is working 38th Avenue North and 66th Street doing a red-light violation. It is the number one crash intersection for the City, so law enforcement is out working that this morning.

Larry Kolbicka (Pinellas Park PD): Pinellas Park PD had two DUI details last month. This month Pinellas Park PD is doing Click it or Ticket. They are doing 10, 10 hour details from May 20th to May 31st in the City. There is a DUI detail next Friday.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Pinellas County hosted the IPTM pedestrian bicycle crash class. There were 19 students in the class: some from local agencies, and six from Canada. April 24th, Mark attended a meeting with MADD, called the MADD Young Adult Round Table Discussion. They discussed the demographic between the ages of 18 and 25. There were a couple of individuals from MADD and a couple local law enforcement representatives there that talked about how to prevent the age demographic from getting a DUI. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office did a motorcycle detail in April.

Blaine Loring (PCSO): For the motorcycle detail in April, it was the 17th from 7:00 pm to 12:00 am. It was a multi-agency detail with 124 traffic stops, eight felonies, six motorcycles, five DUI's, 12 misdemeanor crimes, 56 citations, and 60 warnings.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): For the month of May, IPTM is hosting their DRE drug recognition expert class. Clearwater PD will be hosting it. It will be from May 6th to May 17th. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is hosting the event data recorder class at the sheriff's office from May 13th to May 17th. There are currently 15 students there and it is free training. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office will be participating in Click it or Ticket as well. The DUI symposium is June 3rd through June 6th in Orlando. Golf Like MADD will be on October 14th at Crescent Oaks Golf Club.

Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian

Cherly Stacks (City of St. Pete): The City of St. Pete is working on regrouping for their safe streets and roads for all submittal for this cycle. They are also working with federal highways for their funding agreement for the last round to update their complete streets implementation plan. They sent the draft back to USDOT yesterday. They are going to have a consultant help update their complete streets implementation plan, which includes a comprehensive traffic safety analysis.

George Edmiston (Benesch): The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, FHP, Clearwater PD, Largo PD, and Pinellas Park PD participated in the motorcycle detail. Before the detail, they did two educational events,

including motorcycle enforcement night at Quaker Steak and Lube and Orange County Choppers. There was a lot of educational information that went out prior to the enforcement night and the enforcement followed up afterwards.

Joan Rice (Pinellas County): Pinellas County and Forward Pinellas are working on the Safe Streets and Roads for All project on 49th Street from 40th Avenue to 62nd Avenue. Pinellas County has a walk audit coming up on May 16th in the morning. If there is somebody from Pinellas County Sheriff's Office or FHP that would like to be invited to the walk audit, let her know. Pinellas County participated in the April 20th Spring Family Festival in Tarpon Springs. It was a nice event, and they gave out helmets and other safety equipment. There was a bicycle giveaway, they were teaching CPR, there was a magic show, etc.

Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas): Forward Pinellas just wrapped up Dunedin this week with the City Commission with some recommendations for Beltrées Street. They will be scheduling a walk audit in Oldsmar in mid-June. There was a successful walk audit in Largo and that project is moving along. There is also the project with St. Pete and Gulfport. Forward Pinellas will be going for the safe streets next round but will try to get an application in either May or August. They want to update the Safe Streets Pinellas, which is their Vision Zero plan. John's Hopkins is doing a training for helmet fittings and a bike rodeo. There may be a couple seats left if anyone is interested. It will be held May 21st. The Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit will be on October 9th.

Eric Henry (FDOT): The whole month of May will be motorcycle safety awareness month. FDOT is pursuing motorcycle safety. If anyone has anything motorcycle related that they are doing such as events, outreach, campaigns, etc., let Eric know. FDOT has a lot of yard signs that read, "Watch out for Motorcycles" if anyone needs any. The pedestrian trail on the Courtney Campbell Causeway will temporarily close on May 6th at 7:00 am. It will be closed for about two weeks, weather permitting. There will be no impact expected for drivers. At the end of the month, FDOT is participating in a Walk to Beach Day in Treasure Island. The Walk to Beach Day will engage the community with people stationed out along Gulf Boulevard to talk about traffic safety. FDOT will also be at the Transportation Planning Exchange next week, May 7th through May 9th in St. Petersburg. FDOT will have a Target Zero table at the Transportation Planning Exchange.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): The Gateway is open and there is one more day to use it for free. Discussion followed.

Cherly Stacks (City of St. Pete): Cheryl saw a crash at the express lanes on I-275 where it drops into St. Petersburg. Cheryl has been seeing a lot of queue jumping. The left lane gets congested and then there is a long merge lane, which is needed, but needs more arrows. Some people are jumping out of the left lane into the merge lane and then jumping back, cutting in front of people, just south of the Gandy area. Cheryl is going to talk to FDOT about adding additional merge arrows to remind motorists that the lane is going to end. There was a crash yesterday morning over there. Richard Hartman, City of Clearwater, stated there is congestion along the dedicated express lane. In the merge lane, vehicles are flying into very slow moving or stopped traffic at the same time.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): North Shore Elementary School had their Walk Bike to School Day on April 1st. CUTR handed out safety items to several kids. CUTR was also out on the Pinellas Trail with Forward

Pinellas doing some education and outreach at the Saturday market in St. Pete along the trail on Saturday, April 9th. For education, they are wrapping up a districtwide work zone safety campaign.

Education and EMS

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): For education, CUTR is wrapping up a districtwide work zone safety campaign. CUTR has been doing social media ads, where they invite people to take a safety quiz, ask about perceptions and behaviors about work zones, etc. CUTR will have those results soon. CUTR is wrapping up their tuition reimbursement program for drivers' education teachers. There are a few Pinellas County teachers that will be getting reimbursed for their driver's education tuition so that they could continue to have a robust drivers education program in the county.

Brandy Howard (Suncoast Safety Council): Suncoast Safety Council has been providing some professional development opportunities to their DUI evaluators via court observations. They have observed several judges and several traffic courtrooms, which has been insightful for them, considering they are able to see other aspects of the DUI case other than just what their role is. MADD allowed them to do some observations as part of their court monitoring program, which is a pilot program in Hillsborough County.

Joe Camera (Pinellas School Board): Schools are ending on May 29th. Summer bridge will be opening right after that on June 3rd. Joe has been working with FDOT on 2nd Street North and South Frontage Road. The school board used to have a bus stop where the PSTA was located. They had to move the stop further north. The growing problem he has had is that people that are still able to come off that merge are blowing through the yield sign. His bus is about 150 feet further up on that right turn lane. The bus is on the inside to pick up students going to Sawgrass Elementary School and Meadowlawn Middle School.

Robyn Morton (MADD): MADD had a lot of events as well as middle school and high school presentations. April 19th was Tampa Bay Walk like MADD. Golf like MADD will be on October 14th. Robyn just created a PowerPoint for school bus transportation to get involved with MADD. Discussion followed.

Jennifer Hall (Nations Traffic Safety School): It is National Mental Health Awareness Month, which is becoming more of a conversation with traffic safety. The spark initiative is having a conference for National Well Being and Resilience Alliance from October 9th to 11th. The conference is mainly focused towards schools, counselors, and nonprofits dealing with juvenile in the adult justice systems.

Liz Graham (Palm Harbor Fire Rescue): Liz stated she is worried about an intersection in the East Lake area. There was a woman on a bicycle off Bryan Lane that was struck by a vehicle. On Bryan Lane, there are a lot of speeders. There are no sidewalks on the north side of Bryan Lane. Bryan Lane is very close to East Lake High School. Students are walking back and forth in the morning. Liz is wanting to add speed humps and sidewalk. Mark Easty, PSCO, stated he will get some deputies on Bryan Lane to do some speed enforcement. Joan Rice, Pinellas County, stated she will pass Liz's request on speed humps and sidewalks to different people in public works. Liz said as far as enforcement is concerned, there are always deputies down there. Deputy Blaine Loring will go out on Bryan Lane and assess it. We will reconvene next month to see if it needs to be on the problem locations sheet or not.

III. Old Business

Problem Locations

1. **Passing School Busses:** School buses will take a break soon once school ends.
2. **Light at Tarpon Mall:** No update.
3. **Signal @ Starkey Road north at Willow Road:** No update. This project is still in design. Joan Rice will find out more information.

HSIP and SRTS Projects

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): Mahshid has been waiting for a code for the zipper style delineators for St. Pete, and the code is finally available. It's at 1st Avenue North and 20th Street. Mahshid is still waiting on some applications from Pinellas County as well as City of Clearwater for an RRFB. If you put in an application for an RRFB, there needs to be an engineering study associated with it following Traffic Engineering Manual (TEM) 5.2. There also needs to be a presentation and CTST attendance to qualify for HSIP funds.

High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map

Mark Eastty (PCSO): From January 1st to April 23rd, 2024, there have been 32 fatal crashes with 37 fatalities. At the same period last year, there were 41 fatal crashes and 44 fatalities. Pedestrians are the highest fatalities, followed by vehicles and motorcycles.

IV. New Business

Mark Eastty (PCSO): June 6th will be the virtual meeting and July 11th will be the in-person meeting. Deputy Blaine Loring will take Mark's place for the virtual meeting. The Florida Law Enforcement Liaison (LEL) program selected their District 7 LEL. Jim Reiser will be the new LEL who is a former Tampa PD motor sergeant. Jim Reiser will come to the in-person meeting, introduce himself and talk about the LEL program as well.

Mercedes Nelson-Palmer (Treasure Island Fire Rescue): The Walk to Beach Day event will be on May 24th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in Treasure Island along Gulf Boulevard. They do each intersection and give out materials for safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, water safety, etc.

Upcoming Meetings: June 6th, 2024, 10:00 am – Virtual Meeting; July 11th, 2024, 10:00 am – In-Person Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 am

Attendees: Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants); Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas); Joseph Camera (Pinellas School Board); Jon Dobson (Pinellas County Sheriff's Office); Raymond Dresch (City of Clearwater); Emmeth Duran (FDOT District 7); Mark Eastty (PCSO); George Edmiston (Benesch); Kathy Gademer (City of Dunedin); Liz Graham (Palm Harbor Fire Rescue); Jennifer Hall (Nations Traffic Safety School); Richard Hartman (City of Clearwater); Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering); David Hegarty (City of




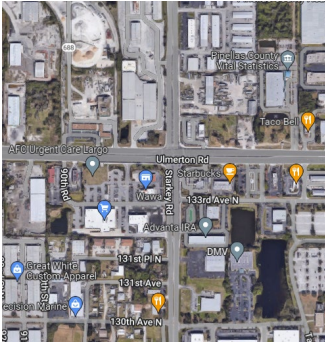
MEETING MINUTES - MAY 2024

St. Pete); Eric Henry (FDOT District 7); Brandy Howard (Suncoast Safety Council); Larry Kolbicka (Pinellas Park PD); Deputy Blaine Loring (PCSO); Robyn Morton (MADD); Brentin Mosher (CUTR); Lori Palaio (JMT); Mercedes Nelson-Palmer (Treasure Island Fire Rescue); Joan Rice (Pinellas County); Mike Schade (St. Pete PD); Cheryl Stacks (City of St. Pete); Isabel Zuluaga (FDOT)

PROBLEM LOCATIONS - MAY 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. The City of St. Pete suggested a billboard campaign. The new school buses have lights that are a lot brighter, than previous buses. Deputy Loring and other agencies are working on passing school bus enforcement. Joe 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 mentioned. Tampa Road was discussed. Deputy 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. Deputy 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 Deputy Loring is unavailable. School buses will take a break soon once school ends.</p>

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/Withdrawn	Comments
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. The State is working with the County to offset the cost of lights and fixtures.</p> <p>No update. This project is still in design. Joan Rice will find out more information.</p>