

Pinellas CTST – June 6, 2024

Meeting started at 10:03 am

I. General Meeting

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

II. Committee Reports

Enforcement

Blaine Loring (PCSO): Last week their ECHO unit and their community policing deputies conducted an initiative in a couple different locations, one of which was on Gandy Boulevard. They were trying to focus on racing and traffic enforcement. They made 25 traffic stops and had one DUI arrest. It was a one-day event with at least eight members participating. This week six members are in the IPTM Traffic Symposium in Orlando. PCSO is working on speed grants right now and several deputies are doing that every day. The week leading up to Memorial Day, they had 12 details for speed. That has been ongoing since November of last year and it wraps up September of this year. HVE is starting next month. Next Month is also the DUI Wolfpack.

Jim Reiser (LEL): They wrapped up their Click It or Ticket Program on June 2nd, so agencies are reporting their involvement now. Future programs coming up include Operation Southern Slowdown from July 15th to July 19th, which is a speed focused initiative. Any agencies that have a speed and aggressive grant will be participating in that as part of their grant protocols. Coming up towards Labor Day is the Drive Sober Get Pulled Over campaign. There will be a press conference at District Seven for Operation Southern Slowdown where they will ask agencies to participate and have a presence in that on June 15th at 10:00am.

Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian

Eric Henry (FDOT): FDOT just completed a speed study on SR 586, Curlew Road, which went from west of Bogie Lane to east of Sequoia Terrace. As a result of that speed study, they are making a recommendation to lower the speed limit from 45 mph to 40 mph. FDOT just participated in a walk audit in Oldsmar with a lot of participation. They walked a few corridors in the Oldsmar area including SR 580. They also did a Walk to Beach Day in Treasure Island. This was in place of their Walk to School Day because they do not have schools in that district. They were out there talking to people, fit a couple helmets, handed out some safety items, helped people cross the road, etc. FDOT has a ton of banners that they are hoping to give out to people; 20 buckle up banners. Cheryl Stacks, from City of St. Pete, sent Eric an email with an update stating that they are working with FHWA on their funding agreement on their Safe Streets and Roads for All Program. They will have the City update their Complete Streets Implementation Plan. The City expects to be under agreement later this summer and undergo solicitation this fall for consultant support to update the plan. They are also continuing to work with FDOT on their HSIP grant for bike zippers. The City is also working to evaluate a reduced speed school zone for the new Mangrove Bay Middle School. They are working with developers and PCS on determination of whether traffic control devices, such as crosswalks will support the campus. Finally, the City is working with Forward Pinellas and the City of Gulfport to wrap up a safe streets study on 49th Street from 1st Avenue to 24th Avenue South. It is expected to be finalized

later this summer and adopted by both cities and Forward Pinellas. Once completed, they will be working on advancing their recommendations which is likely to include a feasibility study for lane repurposing.

John Rieman (Pinellas County): Pinellas County has a signal cabinet wrap program and seven out of the eight for this year have been wrapped. John displayed photos in the chat during the meeting.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): CUTR just wrapped up another year of their driver's education tuition reimbursement program. They have three new certified drivers' education teachers in Pinellas County. This is funded through an FDOT grant, so the school district pays for the tuition, and then they are reimbursed through the grant. CUTR is also working on launching a geofencing education campaign about the midblock pedestrian signals that are coming to 4th Street.

Sheila Rainey (John's Hopkins): Sheila is a trainer for helmet fitters. If anybody is interested, Sheila will be doing a class with St. Pete PD coming up soon. If anybody else needs any training, she can do those to get people trained to be helmet fitters.

Education and EMS

Sheila Rainey (John's Hopkins): Sheila has been going to Pinellas County Schools during the school year. She has been to Blanton Elementary School, Seminole Elementary School, Fairmount Park Elementary School, James B. Sanderlin K-8, and a couple other schools to do helmet fittings for kids and training for teachers. She has trained some teachers to be helmet fitters for their schools, as well as done some bike rodeos. They also did bike rodeo training in Pinellas at their hospital location and had 15 people there. Recently, they also did a bike poster safety contest. Pinellas County had two entries, both from Fairmount Park Elementary School. The artwork from one of the entries will be used for reproduction and marketing materials.

Rick Adams (Nations Traffic Safety School): Nations Traffic Safety School just finished up their biannual mailing to all the judges and hearing officers in the state of Florida. It is requested to review their procedures and what they are doing in court. The latest statistics show that less than 15 percent of the people going to court on a traffic citation are being issued a defensive driving school course.

III. Old Business

Problem Locations

1. **Passing School Busses:** No update. Joe Camera left the District and Autumn Westermann is taking his spot.
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): Mahshid received an application form from the City of St. Pete for zipper style bike delineators. They received some codes, so they are reviewing that on 1st Avenue North, east of 20th Street North. They are also working on the rest of the requests and applications. The

FDOT HSIP manual spells out the requirements for applying for this funding. There is a requirement to attend the CTST meetings and make a presentation.

Brandy Howard (Suncoast Safety Council): Suncoast Safety Council has reinstated their live basic driver improvement traffic school class. For a long time, they had it online, but post COVID it hasn't been reinstated as a live classroom course until this month. That is something new they are offering to meet demand.

High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map

Blaine Loring (PCSO): As of May 29th, there have been 48 crashes involving 50 fatalities. At the same point last year there were 49 crashes involving 52 fatalities.

IV. New Business

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): The Safe Streets for All Grant is still open. It is open until August 29th and that is the final deadline for submitting applications for the planning and demonstration grants. Valerie Brookens, of Forward Pinellas, stated they did their application for the May Cycle. They want to update the Safe Streets Pinellas, which is their Vision Zero Action Plan. The data is a little older now, so they want to redo the high injury network as well as expend some of the stuff they did last time.

George Edmiston (Benesch): June 18th at 10:00 am, at Pinellas Operations, will be the kickoff meeting for the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement Program 3 for Pinellas law enforcement agencies to attend. They added some additional portions to the program, including an educational component. They also added some new equipment and ways law enforcement agencies and emergency first responders can earn points.

Kathy Gademer (City of Dunedin): City of Dunedin received a spot speed study evaluation report for Curlew Road from 251 feet west of Bogie Lane to 428 feet east of Sequoia Terrace. It has been approved that the reduction in speed will be from 45 mph to 40 mph. Discussion followed.


Upcoming Meetings: July 11th, 2024, 10:00 am – In-Person Meeting - Location is TBD

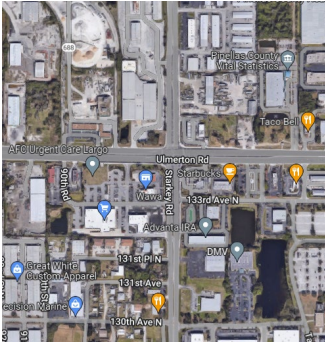
Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am

Attendees: Rick Adams (Nations Traffic Safety School); Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants); Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas); Emmeth Duran (FDOT District 7); George Edmiston (Benesch); Kathy Gademer (City of Dunedin); Richard Hartman (City of Clearwater); Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering); Eric Henry (FDOT District 7); Brandy Howard (Suncoast Safety Council); Peter Hsu (FDOT); Deputy Blaine Loring (PCSO); Robyn Morton (MADD); Brentin Mosher (CUTR); Lori Palaio (JMT); Sheila Rainey (John's Hopkins); Jim Reiser (LEL); Joan Rice (Pinellas County); John Rieman (Pinellas County); Melissa Shepherd (JMT); Autumn Westermann (Pinellas County Schools); Mike Zinn (FDOT); Isabel Zuluaga (FDOT)

PROBLEM LOCATIONS - JUNE 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. 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. No update.</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. This project is still in design. Joan Rice will find out more information.</p> <p>No update.</p>