# THE TAMPA BAY AREA UNIVERSITY CTST

## **MEETING MINUTES - JULY 2024**

### <u>University CTST – July 9, 2024</u>

Meeting started at 3:01 pm

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions were given by the group. The June meeting minutes were approved.

#### II. Business Updates – Problem Identification/Follow Up

- 1. **Lois Avenue Crossing to get to the HCC Campus:** Paige Niehaus, of HCC, stated that the City of Tampa approved the project. The earliest the crosswalk could be in, is in December.
- 2. Lighting Issue at BBD and Holly Drive: No update.
- 3. Kennedy Boulevard at Willow Avenue and Delaware Avenue: Marty Sorrentino, of UT, stated that he received confirmation from FDOT that there are no storm water inlets as part of the two projects the resurfacing project or the railroad crossing project. The Drainage Department at FDOT asked Marty to provide some exhibits on proposed stormwater inlets and Marty provided them back on June 17th. Marty has not heard back from them yet.
- 4. **North Boulevard between Cass Street and Kennedy Boulevard:** No update, other than just looking for opportunities for further funding.

#### III. Calendar Updates/Activity Reports

Law Enforcement Activity

Michael White (TPD): In 2023, at this time last year there were 16 fatalities, and so far in 2024, there have been 29 fatalities, which is an 81 percent increase from last year. For DUI's, this time last year, there was one DUI related fatality, and this year there have been 12 DUI related fatalities, which is a 1,100 percent increase from last year. In 2023, three of the fatalities were in the university areas, and in 2024, five of the fatalities were in the university areas. One of the five fatalities was a double fatality on McKinely Drive by Fowler Avenue. For June this year, there have been four fatalities, one of which was DUI related. One of the fatalities was right on the border of the university on South Dale Mabry Highway, which was a criminal case which had to do with racing. TPD is still doing DUI education, as well as summer schools. TPD has also been going to MacDill Airforce Base, targeting military people and their families.

Jacob Gonzalez (TPD): TPD conducts group operations, specifically targeting seat belts and car seat related issues. In the university areas, TPD conducts monthly operations specifically on Fowler Avenue and Kennedy Boulevard. In June, there were 451 seat belt related traffic stops. Last time TPD did a seat belt study to determine what percentage of car riders and drivers are using their seatbelts around UT on Kennedy Boulevard, the usage rate was 88 percent. In the area of USF on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the usage rate was 78

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percent. The state average is 89.4 percent, so both areas are below the state average. There were two unrestrained fatalities in June. Year to date in 2024, there have been 13 unrestrained fatalities. Same time frame in 2023, there were ten, so we are up by three fatalities. TPD just recently certified six more child passenger safety technicians. They are broadening their occupant protection efforts.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): The Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program started their third round of the program. This program allows law enforcement partners to conduct details on state roadways. Law enforcement agencies will be conducting two- or three-hour details along state roadways for the next nine months. USF PD joined the ELEE program this year. CUTR is in talks with USF St. Petersburg PD since they have jurisdiction over 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Keith Pippin (USF PD): There is an increase in USF police officers off Fowler Avenue and Bruce B. Downs Boulevard conducting enforcement. USF PD is hoping to pick up at least a few hours every day of enforcement.

#### Bicycle/Pedestrian Reports

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): CUTR is working with USF World on a safety event later this month. It will be on July 25<sup>th</sup> and CUTR will be talking to the international students about walk, bike and drive safety. CUTR was invited to HCC's kickoff week the first three days of school in August to help do some safety education.

Eric Henry (FDOT): FDOT's Central Office released a dashboard tracking all the non-motorized traffic monitoring devices. It is available to the public and it contains all the registered continuous non-motorized count devices. There are filters for district, year, etc. There is a form in Microsoft to request new locations for non-motorized count stations. Eric discussed the new TRAIL-GO program that was created in the last legislative session. It's related to municipalities that maintain trails on the Florida greenways and trail system. It allows them to apply for up to \$200,000 for equipment for maintaining the trails. The grant application cycle will begin next month.

#### IV. Fatal Crash Maps

Lori Palaio (JMT): From January 1st to April 24th, 2024, there have been eight fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to March 23rd there were six fatal crashes. There are three new fatal crashes this month, because one being removed last month – a non-traffic related fatality. Of the three new fatal crashes, two were at USF and one was at UT.

For the USF fatal crashes: The first fatal crash was a head-on fatal crash that occurred on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:20am on East Fletcher Avenue and North 52<sup>nd</sup> Street at the t-intersection in day, cloudy, and dry conditions. This fatal crash was motorcycle related and the motorcyclist was wearing a DOT compliant



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helmet. The second fatal crash was a pedestrian fatal crash that occurred on April 24th, 2024, at 10:38pm on East Fletcher Avenue and Revere Landings Drive, not at the intersection, in dark-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. The pedestrian was not crossing in a crosswalk. For the UT fatal crash: The fatal crash was a pedestrian fatal crash that occurred on February 14th, 2024, at 6:29am on North Armenia Avenue and South Armenia Avenue, at the four-way intersection in dawn, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was traveling south on North Armenia Avenue approaching West Kennedy Boulevard in the right turn lane. The pedestrian was crossing North Armenia Avenue from west to east on the north side of the intersection. There have been eight fatal crashes through April 24th, 2024. Same period in 2023 there were three fatal crashes. University CTST is up by five fatal crashes in the same period.

### V. Open Forum | Announcements

Susan Boda (Benesch): The CTST Mega Meeting will be held on September 12<sup>th</sup>. More information to come soon.

Paige Niehaus (HCC): This Thursday and Friday, Raymond James Stadium has a concert, so traffic will be crazy. The campus closes at 3:30pm on each of those days.

Ellen Snelling (Tampa Alcohol Coalition): The Tampa Alcohol Coalition meeting is next week on Tuesday, July 16th, at 3:00pm. Meg Ross will speak about the first responder helpline.

Next Meeting: August 7, 2024, 3:00 PM – In Person Meeting – Location TBD

Meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm

Attendees: Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Susan Boda (Benesch), Colin Gardner (FDOT District 7), Brian Goercke (USF World International Student Support Team), Jacob Gonzalez (TPD), Eric Henry (FDOT District 7), Nicholas Inniss (Element Engineering Group), Kathleen Koviak (USF), Nicole Marchesano (USF PD), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Paige Niehaus (HCC), Lori Palaio (JMT), Keith Pippin (USF PD), Melissa Shepherd (JMT), Ellen Snelling (Tampa Alcohol Coalition), Marty Sorrentino (UT), Michael White (TPD), Lt. James Wright (HCC)



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	May 2022	Lois Avenue Crossing to get to the HCC Campus  https://goo.gl/maps/EuYbx cwQRL4EeCn36	Joseph Bentrovato / Mike Zinn / Matthew Belmonte	July 2024		Joseph said that their biggest intersection is near Tampa Bay Blvd and Dale Mabry Hwy; there are lights and crosswalks. The problematic location that students have addressed on campus is on Lois Ave. There are student apartments (Hawk's Landing) across the street from the campus on Lois Ave and students must cross Lois Ave with no crosswalk. Just west of there is a traffic circle. Mike Zinn mentioned that in the Drew Park area they are doing Vision Zero. He said he would check to see if complete streets are being studied in the area that Joseph mentioned. Joseph does not know if it is normal to put a crosswalk at a roundabout. Kelly, with the City of Tampa, has been working with the CRA on this location. Mike said that students are crossing at the entrance of the parking lot. They do not go down to the roundabout to cross. Paige Niehaus sits in on the Drew Park CAC. They are in the process of having a contractor look at all the crosswalks and review Drew Park. Hopefully within the next few months, they will get a response from the contractor as to where there are safety issues. Hawks Landing is at capacity, and they currently have a wait list. They will have over 400 students that will be crossing that walkway to and from the campus multiple times throughout the day. They are in the process of having the consultants on board to review the Drew Park area and provide recommendations to the CAC for the Drew Park CRA. Paige anticipates that that crosswalk would be a part of their recommendations. There hasn't been any concerns or issues regarding the endangerment of students, but it is not a safe crossing. Mike will reach out to the City to see if he can get an update on this. Mike has not heard back from the City on this item. Kelly said the Drew Park CRA and the CRA kicked off their streetscape transportation study. There will be an update next month when the CRA gets further into finishing their study. Crosswalk locations will be prioritized. Internally, things are being redone on campus, including crosswalk imp



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2	Oct 2022	Lighting issues at Bruce B Downs and Holly Drive  https://goo.gl/maps/7VwS Cs3xRYoEbFidA	Nicole M. (USF PD)	Nov 2023		Nicole mentioned that there were two recent car crashes at Bruce B. Downs and Holly Drive. There have been a lot of night crashes. It is very dark in that area. Crashes are on the border of the campus. Nicole Marchesano, with USF PD said that she put a work order in to update the lighting there, as it is dark. Someone is assigned to it, and they are working on it. Nicole does not have an update right now. Kathleen Koviak from USF said she will make a note to send a message to Officer Marchesano. She was working on a light work order a couple months ago. Kathleen Koviak, USF, spoke to Officer Marchesano and the request is still pending. There has been no further communication, and the status continues to be checked on. Brentin Mosher, of CUTR, said that the buffered bicycle lanes are complete. The traffic signals are not active yet. Officer Marchesano, of the USF Police Department, said this is still pending. She filled out a space impact form. There is also another form online to bring ideas directly to Facilities Management, so Officer Marchesano sent the request there as well. Someone is currently reviewing it, but there are no current updates. Brentin Mosher, of CUTR, said that the traffic signals are on, and they are operable. The second traffic signal southbound is a U-turn with a flashing yellow arrow. Nicole Marchesano, of USF PD, said that the street lighting is bad. This is still ongoing. George Edmiston, of Benesch, suggested a portable light tower. Officer Nicole Marchesano, of USF PD, saked who in the County oversees the area and who she could speak to about the lighting at the intersection. Officer Marchesano will get information from someone in the County at the Hillsborough County CTST. Officer Nicole Marchesano, of USF PD to reach out to Bob Campbell at Hillsborough County. The lights are being worked on, but it is being pushed back with other concerns on campus. Melissa Shepherd, of JMT, will send Officer Marchesano Hillsborough County contact information including Abigail Flores and Megan Tetr



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3	Jan 2023	Kennedy Boulevard at Willow Avenue and Delaware Avenue  https://goo.gl/maps/tVevDzDBaGbTnFz59	Marty Sorrentino	July 2024		There is no storm water inlet on the north side of Kennedy between Willow Ave and Delaware Ave, where TGH was built. Every time it rains, the right westbound lane fills with water. They are doing a resurfacing project on both sides of Kennedy Blvd. He is looking to see if anything is going to be addressed about the stormwater issue. He has not gotten an answer back from construction yet. Marty spoke to the SWFWMD; the project will be driven by the potable water drinking project. Marty said that the city council approved the contract amendment with their contractor who is doing the water line work along the Kennedy Blvd area. They will finish up the water line work on North Blvd and then they will start the water line replacement work on Kennedy Blvd. Katie received a notice from the City's PR team that they have commissioned a project to replace all the water mains underneath Kennedy Blvd. It will impact westward traffic from the eastern edge of Plant Park towards Westshore Blvd. It will start in the middle of October and will extend through the end of 2024. Kennedy Blvd floods when it rains, and it adds some safety complications for students walking on the sidewalk, along with bicyclists and vehicles. The construction is running from University Dr westward to North Blvd, which is the southern border of the UT campus. Katie said that they are still doing a lot of construction. UT hopes that the traffic will dissipate shortly and as the holiday comes through. Katie is unsure if this project is fixing the concern that Marty initially brought up, which is the stormwater inlets. Marty stated the water lines are finished on Kennedy Blvd. He stated that North Blvd from Kennedy Blvd to Cass St is having issues with safety at crosswalks. The students do not use the sidewalk, there are no flashers at crosswalks, etc. Martin said that he met with the City's Mobility Group. There is an application process that he would have to go through to get it going. Martin will be looking for other possible funding sources. Marty sug



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4	April 2024	North Boulevard between Cass Street and Kennedy Boulevard  https://maps.app.goo.gl/t8  3DaQWkyusev4Ee6	Marty Sorrentino	April 2024		The new problem location Martin wants to add are crosswalk safety issues on North Boulevard by West Garage. Cal Hardie, at the City, gave three options to look at including speed humps before the crosswalk, a raised crosswalk with a flashing beacon, or concrete bulb outs to narrow the lanes, which would require moving the curb. They would need a right-of-way permit as well as a plan in place. This project could be a springboard to get more work done on North Boulevard, including adding sidewalks, etc. For this project, there needs to be an application with the City's Mobility Group with a scope and design. There is traction to get this area financed.  No update, other than just looking for opportunities for further funding.