



West Central CTST – July 10, 2024

Meeting started 1:33pm

I. Welcome and Introductions were made.

II. Minutes were approved for June 2024 as is with the following note. Chris Croft, of Hernando County Sheriff's Office, attended the previous CTST meeting.

III. Old Business – Review of Problem Location Spreadsheet

1. **Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail:** No update.
2. **Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard:** Ernie Lane recommended moving this location to the long-term list.
3. **Main Street (US 41) and Highland Boulevard, Inverness:** Jim McLean stated that there are going to be major improvements at the intersection. There will be some double left turn lanes, as well as other improvements.
4. **Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing:** No update. A sign board will be going in.
5. **County Line Road and Trillium Boulevard:** The LPI was adjusted at the crossing.
6. **Mariner Boulevard:** No update. Lori Palaio, of JMT, stated that the report was submitted previously to FDOT.

IV. Calendar Updates/Activity Reports

Eric Henry (FDOT): FDOT released a non-motorized traffic monitoring dashboard. All the continuous pedestrian and bicycle counting devices that FDOT has across the state, they now have in a dashboard. There are filters for districts, trail networks, etc. As a part of the dashboard, there is a form to fill out for areas where there should be non-motorized counting stations. The Central Office will then determine if the recommended areas fits in with their statewide program to see if they can get a permanent counter at the recommended location. FDOT just announced a statewide grant program, the TRAIL GO Grant. If you are a government entity that operates or maintains a trail that is on the Florida Greenway Trail System, you are eligible to apply for this grant for up to \$200,000 dollars for equipment and maintenance.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): The third round of the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program just launched. All the Citrus County law enforcement agencies, FHP divisions, Citrus County Sheriff's Office, and Hernando County Sheriff's Office, are participating. This program will be running for nine months, and the program ends at the end of March. CUTR has also handed off their teen traffic safety education to law enforcement agencies and the agencies will be working with FDOT to provide education throughout the District. They also opened it up to other first responder agencies such as fire departments that want to conduct education as well.

Jeannine Laurence (MADD): The statewide Law Enforcement Recognition event is coming up the weekend of August 2nd in Fort Myers. Nominations are already closed, but there are also trainings. MADD has their continuing impaired driving and underage substance use prevention programs that they do for middle



schools and high schools. They have two new programs this year. MADD will be piloting a homecoming themed presentation. MADD is also starting up a prom themed presentation for the spring as well.

V. Fatal Crash Map

Lori Palaio (JMT): For Citrus County, from January 1st to April 24th, 2024, there have been 11 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to March 23rd, 2024, there were 10 fatal crashes. The one new fatal crash was an other fatal crash on March 27th, 2024, at 12:20am on Fort Island Trail and Audubon Lane, not at the intersection, in dark-lighted, clear, dry conditions. Vehicle one was traveling eastbound on Fort Island Trail, east of Audubon Lane. Vehicle two was traveling eastbound on Fort Island Trail, in front of vehicle one. Vehicle one then attempted to pass vehicle two. In doing so, the right side of vehicle one collided with the left side of vehicle two. The driver was wearing a seatbelt. Currently there are 11 fatal crashes for Citrus County through April 24th, 2024. Same period in 2023, there were nine fatal crashes. Citrus County is up by two fatal crashes in the same period.

For Hernando County, from January 1st to April 24th, 2024, there have been 11 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to March 23rd, 2024, there were seven fatal crashes. The four new fatal crashes include one sideswipe, one head on, and two left turn fatal crashes. The sideswipe fatal crash was on March 15th, 2024, at 3:56pm on Spring Hill Drive and Godfrey Avenue, not at the intersection in day, clear, and dry conditions. It was motorcycle related. The head on fatal crash was on March 31st, 2024, at 10:07pm on US 19 and Knuckey Road, not at the intersection in dark not-lighted, clear, dry conditions. The first left turn fatal crash was on March 24th, 2024, at 1:07pm on Spring Hill Drive and Cobblestone Drive, at the t-intersection in day, clear, and dry conditions. It was motorcycle related. The second left turn fatal crash was on March 30th, 2024, at 1:27pm on Spring Hill Drive and Kass Circle, at the t-intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. There have been 11 fatal crashes through April 24th, 2024. Same period in 2023, there were 12 fatal crashes. Hernando County is down by one fatal crash same period. Motorcycle fatal crashes represent 36 percent of all fatal crashes in Hernando County. It is the second highest mode of travel fatality.

VI. SRTS Update

None.

VII. HSIP Update

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): The portal is open and there are several pending applications. JMT and FDOT are available to walk you step-by-step through the application and help you get your items into the system. Eric Henry stated that it is a new fiscal year, so there is a new pot of money for HSIP. Any applications that have been in the works that haven't had a chance to have funding assigned, will be included in the new fiscal year.

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

Jim McLean (Citizen): At the US 41 and CR 486 intersection, Jim checked out the intersection a couple different times and it looks like the LPI is working. Some vehicles were still rolling the red light and were not stopping though. Lori Palaio, of JMT, stated that Megan Arasteh from the TSM&O department at FDOT



sent an email that stated that the department will conduct a field review to observe the signal operation, review the signal timing, and provide a response by July 17th, 2024.

IX. Open Forum/Announcements

Jim McLean (Citizen): A trail rehab project on Withlacoochee State Trail will begin July 16th in the Inverness area and then will move up to Hernando on the bike trail.

Jim Reiser (LEL): Operation Southern Slowdown will start July 15th and will end July 20th. It is a speed reduction campaign. They will be doing the Labor Day Drive Sober Get Pulled Over DUI initiative.

Eric Henry (FDOT): The newest edition of the safety newsletter is out. Also, everyone from CTST should have received an email with a link to take a survey. It has some general questions about the CTST, to gather some feedback, as well as some feedback about the upcoming CTST Mega Meeting.

Sgt. Jeff Andrews (Hernando County Sheriff's Office): Discussion followed on a company called Urban SDK to collect traffic data.

Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith): Matthew Belmonte stated that he just started working at Gresham Smith. He also works for Tampa Police Department. He will become a regular at the West Central CTST meetings.


X. Adjourn

Next Meeting: August 14, 2024, 1:30pm – Virtual Meeting


Meeting adjourned at 2:12pm.

Attendees: Sgt. Jeff Andrews (Hernando County Sheriff's Office), Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Ashley Cason (FDOT), Allison Cornelius (Citrus County Sheriff's Office), Bob Esposito (MPO), Eric Henry (FDOT), Nicholas Inniss (Element Engineering Group), Ernie Lane (Hernando County), Jeannine Laurence (MADD), Jim McLean (Citizen), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Lori Palaio (JMT), James Reiser (D7 LEL), Melissa Shepherd (JMT), Isabel Zuluaga (FDOT)

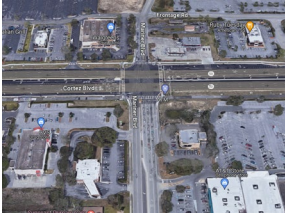


Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	Sept 2023	<p>Main Street (US 41) and Highland Boulevard, Inverness</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/x43dCWHK4owdaUFcA</p>	Laura Anstead (CCSO)	Feb 2024		<p>This location is a four-way, signalized intersection. Vehicles 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. 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. No update. Laura will update the group at the next meeting. This also may be removed in July, TBD.</p> <p>Jim McLean stated that there are going to be major improvements at the intersection. There will be some double left turn lanes, as well as other improvements.</p>




Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
2	Nov 2023	<p>County Line Road and Trillium Boulevard</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/BdyMCbj65ZR3FDor5</p>	Michael Attard (citizen)	May 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. Michael Attard reached out to Eric Henry yesterday morning. Michael did not notice any additional seconds added to the LPI at either crossing and wanted to recommend lengthening the LPIs at this intersection because he had had a couple of close calls. Ernie Lane said there is an LPI out there and they extended the LPI last month. Eric Henry will follow up with Michael Attard. This location will be monitored for another month or so and then the group will determine how to proceed.</p> <p>The LPI was adjusted at the crossing.</p>



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3	Nov 2023	<p>Mariner Boulevard</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qj9</p>	Sgt. Andrews	May 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. 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. JMT is working on the safety study. Ernie said they restriped and installed RPMs. The group also wanted to know if there was an update from the JMT engineers and Melissa stated she would have an update at the next meeting.</p> <p>No update. Lori Palaio, of JMT, stated that the report was submitted previously to FDOT.</p>




Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
LONG TERM LISTING						
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. 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. 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>




PROBLEM LOCATIONS - JULY 2024

						<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
LONG TERM LISTING						
2	Nov 2023	Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing  https://maps.app.goo.gl/qNe3HyP4Xadk91j67	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. 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. A sign board will be going in.</p>



LONG TERM LISTING					
3	Jan 2022	<p>Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard</p>  <p>https://goo.gl/maps/oqJoiXfvBxeksW1T9</p>	HC / Todd	Feb 2024	<p>David suggested there needs to be guide skips at Mariner Blvd and Northcliffe Blvd. David stated there are no guide skips at the dual left turns. Ernie said he will investigate this and let us know at the next meeting. Ernie stated this project is in progress, but there are other projects ahead of it. This item will not be removed until the paint has been put down. Ernie has an email from traffic ops 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 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 going 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. No update. This will be on the long-term list.</p>