



## Hillsborough CTST – August 28, 2024

Meeting started at 9:30 am

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Introductions were given. July 2024 minutes were approved.

### **II. Business Updates**

#### **Pedestrian/Bicycle/Motorcycle Safety Updates**

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): CUTR will be going to University of Tampa (UT) today to set up for University of Tampa's kickoff back to school event, educating the UT students about walking and bicycling and traffic safety. CUTR also hosted the motorcycle coalition last week.

Jim Reiser (LEL): The motorcycle coalition brings together the engineering side, the outreach side, the legislative side, the policy side, and law enforcement side to come up with solutions to improve motorcycle safety. Most of the agencies have received their funding letters for the High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) and education grants. Several agencies in the Tampa Bay area, including Tampa Police Department, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, and Temple Terrace Police Department will all receive funding this year for pedestrian and bicycle safety including on-street education and enforcement. Discussion followed.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): FDOT has tasked CUTR to conduct education around some new pedestrian hybrid beacons on South Dale Mabry Highway near MacDill Air Force Base. CUTR will do on-street education as well as giving pedestrian hybrid beacon literature to the surrounding businesses. Discussion followed.

George Edmiston (Benesch): There are two new devices in Tampa Bay – the midblock pedestrian signals and pedestrian hybrid beacons. Both are different, as one typically stays in the green phase and the other one is not eliminated until activated. Discussion followed.

#### **Education**

Lisa Silva (Hillsborough TPO): The Gulf Coast Safe Street Summit is a regional education event that is bringing together community partners to enhance designing and implementing safe and equitable transportation facilities for all modes of transportation. The Gulf Coast Safe Street Summit will be on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be an international speaker, Gil Penalosa. Mayor Castor will be doing the welcome, as well as Representative Kathy Castor for the closing. District One and District Seven secretaries were requested to do a safety spotlight for their districts. During the week of the Gulf Coast Safe Street Summit, there will be a community conversation on Thursday evening with free daycare and babysitting available that Plan Hillsborough and Walk Bike Tampa are sponsoring. They are flying in another companion speaker from Families for Safe Streets. The Downtown Partnership is borrowing Gil Penalosa for their monthly debriefing series on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, in the morning. It is also Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition is open to the public that week as well and will be on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon and ends at noon on Wednesday,



October 9<sup>th</sup>. Then at 1:00pm, the summit will begin. There will be a networking facility at the Tampa History Center. All of this will happen at Port Terminal Two. There are two optional mobile workshops as well to register for separately. Sponsorships are open now too if anyone would like to reserve a table.

### **Enforcement-Crash Statistics**

Demetrius German (TPD): TPD will have a traffic initiative going on throughout the Labor Day weekend. TPD will step up enforcement efforts to be on the lookout for aggressive driving and speeding. They will be making a video with the chief tomorrow morning for Labor Day.

Jacob Gonzalez (TPD): There were nine fatalities in the month of June. The month of July there were zero traffic fatalities. August has been below average for fatal crashes. In terms of enforcement, in July there were 115 DUI arrests compared to July of last year, with 109 DUI arrests. Year to date, there have been 1,237 DUI arrests, compared to 1,457 for all of 2023. So, they anticipate having a significant amount over last year's total DUI's. TPD attended a DUI education session at Freedom High School last week. This week TPD is going to Jefferson High School. This weekend is a multi-agency DUI saturation patrol planned with Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office on Saturday and Sunday for Labor Day.

Lori Palaio (JMT): Lori discussed the fatal crash maps. From January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, there have been 71 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, there were 51 fatal crashes. The 20 new fatal crashes include one rollover, one head-on, one bicycle, one right angle, one other, three rear end, three run off the road, three left turn, and six pedestrian fatal crashes. Pedestrian fatal crashes represent the highest fatality type. For the six new pedestrian fatal crashes: The first one was on Carter Street and West Julia Street, at the four-way intersection, in day, cloudy, and wet conditions. The second one was on East Bougainvillea Avenue and North Nebraska Avenue, at the four-way intersection in dark-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. The third was on North 40<sup>th</sup> Street and East Yukon Street, at a roundabout, in dark-lighted, clear and dry conditions. The fourth was on East Hillsborough Avenue and Orient Road, at the four-way intersection, in dark-lighted, clear, dry conditions. The fifth was on Orient Road and Lupine Drive at the t-intersection in dark, not-lighted, clear, dry conditions. And the sixth pedestrian fatal crash was on East Busch Boulevard and North Wick Place, at the four-way intersection in dark-lighted, rainy, wet conditions. There have been 71 fatal crashes through June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Same period in 2023, there were 92 fatal crashes, so Hillsborough County is down by 21 fatal crashes.

Abigail Flores (HC): As Lori mentioned, for pedestrians and bicyclists, a lot of fatal crashes were at intersections. Hillsborough County has studied this, and pedestrians and bicyclists do have problems at the signalized intersection. Hillsborough County is working to address those fatal crashes.

### **Engineering**

Lisa Silva (Hillsborough TPO): Emmeth Duran and Lisa Silva shared information about the CTST group to Tim Horst, the Vision Zero Engineer. He is on the invite list for future CTST meetings.

Fred Baxter (City of Plant City): Plant City is completing pedestrian upgrades in Downtown Plant City to include some new Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs). Fred is hoping for them to be up and



running by the end of this week or early next week. Plant City was recently approved for \$561,000 for the LA TAPS grant funding. They will be applying that funding to emergency vehicle preemption, traffic cabinets, and connected vehicle CVX RSU devices throughout the city. He is hoping it will go on the commission for execution on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. He is hoping to have purchase orders cut by the end of October. Plant City just completed two new school zones, new flashers, feedback signs, etc. for Wilson Elementary School and Lincoln Magnet School.

Discussion followed on school zone flashers and their timing. The Florida Statute states that flashers stay on 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after bell time. But, with early entry for breakfast at a lot of elementary schools, the 30 minutes before bell time is not sufficient. Forty-five minutes is a better timeframe. It creates an enforcement issue when the light is flashing, and a police officer pulls someone over during that time frame. Discussion followed on crossing guards being around longer before and after bell time. Plant City always ran their flashers 45 minutes in advance in the morning time.

Jim Reiser (LEL): Jim Reiser pulled up the Florida Statute. It states speed limit may be enforced only during those times 30 minutes before, during, and 30 minutes after periods of time when pupils are arriving or at a regularly scheduled breakfast program, or regularly scheduled school session and leaving a regular scheduled school session. It is in Florida State Statute 316-1895 and includes state uniform traffic control and school zones in the speeds. Discussion followed.

Fred Baxter (City of Plant City): There are some school line pickup issues that they are dealing with at Marshall Middle School right now. It pertains to the Park Road sign, which is Hillsborough County's segment. They are having issues with the condition of the roadway shoulder, as well as the pickup line for Marshall Middle School that is wrapping around Maryland Avenue down to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and all the way down to Park Road across the railroad tracks. This is occurring in the afternoon hours. Fred hopes to coordinate with Hillsborough County Engineering representatives to come up with a solution.

Abigail Flores (HC): Hillsborough County has a pedestrian corridor safety program where they identify segments of roadway to improve pedestrian access. They are working annually to do project development on six corridors for pedestrian corridor improvements. They follow the projects with tier one improvements, which include delineators, pavement markings, and signage. They are working on Sheldon Road, Bloomingdale Avenue, Gibsonton Drive, Manhattan Avenue, Boyette Road, and Fletcher Avenue. They completed work on Orient Road. Hillsborough County is being aggressive with slowing driver speed. Hillsborough County is working on their bicycle safety corridors and have identified Causeway Boulevard, Shell Point Road, and Tarpon Springs Road for bicycle access safety visibility. For Safe Access to Transit, Hillsborough County is working on Memorial Highway, Hanely Road, and Kelly Road to make them more friendly for walking and biking to access the bus.



### **School Transportation Items**

Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers): Sidewalk Stompers has 15 schools launched with walk to school programs for the year, and they are looking to partner with more. Sidewalk Stompers is working with several schools, primarily in the City of Tampa, on ways that the community can do some road treatments that they can fundraise for to improve the safety around their schools. National Walk to School Day will be on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Last year there were 33 schools that participated in Hillsborough County. The previous record was 16 schools, which means that this year we must increase the record over 33 schools. Sidewalk Stompers is partnering with Hillsborough County Council PTA to offer a reward for the school with the highest percentage of walkers participating on National Walk to School Day. Discussion followed.

### **HSIP Updates**

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): Mashid stated that she has received several applications. The requests include bright sticks, zipper style bike delineators, speed feedback signs, flashing stop signs, etc. If you are applying, the FDOT HSIP manual spells out the requirements of applying for funding. Please submit as much information as you can. There needs to be a presentation at a CTST meeting if applying for HSIP funding. Also, the CTST Mega Meeting is on September 12<sup>th</sup>, and one of the breakout sessions is engineering. Megan Arasteh will present on corridor management and safety related implementations by FDOT. There is a panel after the presentation – Abigail Flores is in the panel, as well as a representative from Pasco County and Pinellas County. Discussion followed.

### **Vision Zero Updates**

Lisa Silva (Hillsborough TPO): Hillsborough TPO wrapped up their Vision Zero study for Waters Avenue and Sligh Avenue. They are beginning scoping for a new corridor. They have been focused on replenishing some of their encouragement materials, including Vision Zero signs and school signs.

Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers): On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Walk Bike Tampa and the City of Tampa are sponsoring the second annual World Car Free Day. They are going to be holding the cities first kidical mass ride, with all kids. They will be riding from the Poe garage area in downtown along the Cass Street protected bike lane to Perry Harvey Sr. Park and then into the encore area where downtown Tampa partnership will be helping with an activation zone. It is about a half-mile route. Sidewalk Stompers is looking for some intersection monitors because they will be using the road properly, they are not blocking the road off. Discussion followed.

Abigail Flores (HC): Hillsborough County has been working on two Vision Zero corridors – 78<sup>th</sup> Street and Lynn Turner. The conceptual plans are complete. There will be speed reduction, raised crosswalks, midblock crossings, better lighting on the corridor, gateway treatments, etc.



### III. Calendar Updates / Activity Reports

Anne Rollyson (DUI Counterattack): Anne Rollyson introduced herself to the group. She is the executive director at DUI Counterattack, a DUI program that serves Hillsborough County. There are two corporations – one is called DUI Counterattack, and the other one is called PREP (Prevention Rehabilitation Education Program). They are looking to develop some new education type safety programs primarily around traffic, but also a significant amount of substance abuse. She is hoping to develop some new substance abuse courses and services and expand them beyond DUI themselves.

Alexandria Roeder (TGH): Alexandria Roeder introduced herself to the group. She works at Tampa General Hospital, and she is a nurse, as well as the injury prevention and outreach coordinator to help prevent traumatic injury. At TGH, their second and third top mechanism of injury is related to vehicles, with motor vehicle accidents as well as auto versus pedestrian accidents. Discussion followed.

### IV. Open Forum / Announcements

Ellen Snelling (Tampa Alcohol Coalition): Ellen stated her concern of the medical marijuana amendment which will be on the ballot in November. If it passes, she is afraid it will increase DUI under the influence of marijuana and DUI crashes and fatalities. Ellen put a couple of references in the chat for more information on a couple of organizations and groups that are opposing the amendment. If anyone is interested in either virtual or in-person presentations to correct the misinformation and misperceptions out there about marijuana, there are lots of references from other states like Colorado, New York, California, etc. to show how legalization can affect road safety. Discussion followed on Ellen giving a presentation on this topic at the in-person October CTST meeting.

Anne Rollyson (DUI Counterattack): The DUI school sees a remarkable number of people that after their DUI arrest, had defied that either they reported themselves that they had been high that day and that law enforcement was unable to identify that.

Michele Harris (AAA): For the Labor Day weekend, AAA has the Tow to Go program in operation. Tow to Go offers a free ride to impaired drivers. It is for them and their vehicles to go to a safe place. It is free and you do not need to be a member. It is for impaired driving prevention. It starts Friday night at 6:00 pm and goes to Tuesday morning at 6:00 am.

Lori Palaio (JMT): Lori asked the CTST where the group would like to host the October meeting as well as the November/December schedule for the holidays.

### V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 am.

### Next Meetings:

**September 12, 2024, 9:00 am – Mega CTST Meeting (No Hillsborough CTST Meeting)**

**October 23, 2024, 9:30 am – In-Person Meeting (Location TBD)**



**In attendance:** Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Alexandra Arvelaiz (HCSO), Fred Baxter (City of Plant City), Marcia Bento (HC), Susan Boda (Benesch), Ashley Cason (FDOT), George Edmiston (Benesch), Abigail Flores (HC), Demetrius German (TPD), Jacob Gonzalez (TPD), Michele Harris (AAA), Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers), Ameer Khawaja (City of Temple Terrace), Dawn Lewis (TGH), John Merine (), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Vanessa Navarro (HCSO), Melinda Nelson (Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office), Lori Palaio (JMT), Jim Reiser (LEL), Alexandria Roeder (TGH), Anne Rollyson (DUI Counterattack), Lisa Silva (Hillsborough TPO), James Snell (TPD), Ellen Snelling (Tampa Alcohol Coalition), Michael Tayler (Hillsborough County Emergency Medical Planning Council), Matthew Weaver (Element Engineering Group), Linda Wu (Burgess and Niple)