



West Central CTST – August 14, 2024

Meeting started 1:31pm

I. **Welcome and Introductions** were made.

II. **Minutes** were approved for July 2024.

III. **Old Business – Review of Problem Location Spreadsheet**

1. **Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail:** No update.
2. **Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard:** No update.
3. **Main Street (US 41) and Highland Boulevard, Inverness:** Jim McLean stated that Laura Anstead from Citrus County Sheriff's Office reviewed this intersection. Traffic signal timings have been adjusted. Jeffrey Hunter from Citrus County Sheriff's Office will reach out to Laura Anstead. There will be major improvements. *This will be moved to the long-term list.*
4. **Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing:** No update.
5. **County Line Road and Trillium Boulevard:** *This will be removed from the problem locations sheet.*
6. **Mariner Boulevard:** No update. Eric Henry of FDOT stated that JMT completed a safety study for this corridor, and it was submitted to the FDOT office. It is pending a review. Eric will follow up with FDOT to see its status.

Jim McLean (Citizen): At US 41 and CR 486, there was an issue with right turning vehicles not yielding to pedestrians. Jim visited the intersection yesterday and the signs are up for the yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. It looks like the intersection is fine, unless there are further complaints.

IV. **Calendar Updates/Activity Reports**

Jim McLean (Citizen): Jim stated that he is working on the Withlacoochee State Trail. There are two different projects going on – one at the south end, the lower 10 miles through Hernando, and Pasco County is being repaved by the Department of Environmental Protection. FDOT is working on sections from Fort Cooper Road by Fort Cooper Park, up toward Eden Drive for the first segment, and then north up to Apopka and then to CR 486. The projects will be scheduled out through the remaining part of this year and will hopefully be completed by November.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): The third round of the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program is still going on.

Eric Henry (FDOT): The Drive Sober Get Pulled Over campaign will run from August 16th to September 2nd. FDOT is in the process of planning another large-scale speed enforcement campaign that is going to run on US 19 from the Skyway Bridge all the way up to the Levy County Line. It is being coordinated by George Edmiston, of Benesch. Discussion followed on the Southern Slow Down event that was in July.



V. Fatal Crash Map

Lori Palaio (JMT): For Citrus County, from January 1st to May 25th, 2024, there have been 13 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to April 24th, 2024, there were 11 fatal crashes. The two new fatal crashes were run-off-road fatal crashes. The first run-off-road fatal crash was on April 23rd, 2024, at 4:55pm on West Fort Island Trail and North Seabreeze Point, not at the intersection in day, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was traveling west on West Fort Island Trail, west of Seabreeze Point. Vehicle one was negotiating a curve to the left and ran off the roadway to the right. Vehicle one's right side struck several trees and subsequently rolled over. The second run-off-road fatal crash was on May 5th, 2024, at 2:20am on North Forest Ridge Boulevard and West Pentstemon Court, at the T-intersection in dark-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was traveling northbound on North Forest Ridge Boulevard approaching a left-hand curve in the roadway that is just south of West Pentstemon Court. Vehicle one departed the right side of the roadway at the curve, striking the curb, then traveling through a pedestrian guardrail along the outside of the sidewalk. There are 13 fatal crashes through May 25th, 2024. Same period in 2023 there were nine fatal crashes. Citrus County is up by four fatal crashes in the same period. Also, Citrus County has 30 percent motorcycle related crashes, which is the second highest fatal crash mode of travel.

For Hernando County, from January 1st to May 25th, 2024, there have been 12 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to April 24th, 2024, there were 11 fatal crashes. The one new fatal crash was a run-off-road fatal crash. It occurred on May 13th, 2024, at 12:00pm on US 19 and Berkely Manor Boulevard, not at the intersection in day, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was traveling north on US 19, south of Berkeley Manor Boulevard, in the outside lane. Driver one was believed to have suffered from a medical episode, causing him to lose control of the vehicle. Vehicle one traveled off the roadway to the right and onto the east shoulder of US 19 where the vehicle collided with a culvert. There are 12 fatal crashes through May 25th, 2024. Same period in 2023 there were 17 fatal crashes. Hernando County is down by five fatal crashes in the same period. Also, Hernando County has 34 percent motorcycle related crashes, which is the second highest fatal crash mode of travel. There is a 60-day lag in the data due to the senate bill to protect personal identifying information.

VI. SRTS Update

None.

VII. HSIP Update

Eric Henry (FDOT): A few new applications came in for HSIP funding. If anybody has any HSIP requests, now is a good time to do so, as a new batch of funding has been assigned. If anybody has any questions, contact Eric Henry or Lori Palaio. HSIP is for low-cost safety countermeasures, such as lighted stop signs, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, etc.

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

Jeffrey Hunter (Citrus County Sheriff's Office): US 41 and Middle School Road near Inverness Middle School is currently undergoing widening from a two-lane to a four-lane road. Historically there has been a crossing guard there in the morning and afternoon. With the roadway becoming four lanes, that will no



longer be tenable. Jeffrey is looking to see what options are available for automated traffic control at that intersection. Eric Henry will look up the project number and find out who the Project Manager is to see if they have any existing plans to address that and if not, bring that up for them to look for potential solutions. Jeffrey Hunter stated that between 7:00am and 7:45am over the first two days of school, there has been an average of 296 vehicles coming in and out of the intersection of US 41 and Middle School Road. In the afternoon, between 2:00pm and 2:30pm, there was an average of 187 vehicles coming in and out of the intersection of US 41 and Middle School Road. There is a tremendous amount of cross traffic that is caused by parents going into the school to pick up and drop off their children. At the end of Middle School Road, is where all the buses are staged. The buses come directly out of Middle School Road and turn mostly south. There are over 30 buses coming through that intersection at once. Eric Henry will reach out to the project manager. Marilyn Farmer, the Director of Transportation with Citrus County Schools, stated that she is hoping to figure out a way to get a traffic signal installed with video activation. Discussion followed. Robert Esposito will reach out to FDOT. *US 41 and Middle School Road will be added to the problem locations sheet.*

IX. Open Forum/Announcements

Robert Esposito (MPO): FDOT is having a Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit on October 9th from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at Port Tampa Bay. The summit is trying to implement all modes of transportation and transit. The MPO is wrapping up their single biggest federal document, their 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. There will be an open house public hearing on August 22nd from 5:00pm to 6:30pm in Citrus County at the Inverness City Council Chambers. There will be a virtual and in-person option. There will also be one in Hernando County at the Planning Zone Training Room on August 22nd, from 2:00pm to 3:30pm, both virtual and in-person.

Eric Henry (FDOT): Next month there will not be a regularly scheduled West Central CTST meeting because there will be the CTST Mega Meeting on September 12th at the AAA facility on Henderson Road in Tampa. The event will be from 9:00am to 3:00pm. FDOT sent out a call for sponsorships. The final agenda should be released early next week with the program of speakers.

Lori Palaio (JMT): The October CTST meeting will also be in person. Lori asked the group if anyone would like to host the meeting. Eric Henry said he will check FDOT District 7, Brooksville Operations Center to see if a room is available. Lori asked for input from the group on accomplishments and successes from West Central CTST throughout the past year that Jim can mention in his presentation at the CTST Mega Meeting. Jim said to send him an email about good talking points.

X. Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings:

September 12, 2024 – CTST Mega Meeting

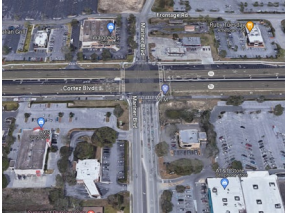
October 9, 2024, 1:30pm – In-Person – FDOT District 7, Brooksville Operations Center, 16411 Spring Hill Drive, Brooksville, FL 34604

Meeting adjourned at 2:07pm.




Attendees: Sgt. Jeff Andrews (Hernando County Sheriff's Office), Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Blaire Cope (Florida Council), Allison Cornelius (Citrus County Sheriff's Office), Bob Esposito (MPO), Marilyn Farmer (Citrus County Schools), Eric Henry (FDOT), Beverly Howard (Citizen), Jeffrey Hunter (Citrus County Sheriff's Office), Nicholas Inniss (Element Engineering Group), Ernie Lane (Hernando County), Jim McLean (Citizen), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Lori Palaio (JMT), Sgt. Mike Schade (St. Pete PD)




Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	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. No update. Lori Palaio, of JMT, stated that the report was submitted previously to FDOT.</p> <p>No update. Eric Henry of FDOT stated that JMT completed a safety study for this corridor, and it was submitted to the FDOT office. It is pending a review. Eric will follow up with FDOT to see its status.</p>



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
2	August 2024	<p>US 41 and Middle School Road</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/pm1so8aFjgXBWd9c7</p>	Jeffrey Hunter	August 2024		<p>US 41 and Middle School Road near Inverness Middle School is currently undergoing widening from a two-lane to a four-lane road. Historically there has been a crossing guard there in the morning and afternoon. With the roadway becoming four lanes, that will no longer be tenable. Jeffrey is looking to see what options are available for automated traffic control at that intersection. Eric Henry will look up the project number and find out who the project manager is to see if they have any existing plans to address that and if not, bring that up for them to look for potential solutions there. Jeffrey Hunter stated that between 7:00am and 7:45am over the first two days of school, there has been an average of 296 vehicles coming in and out of the intersection of US 41 and Middle School Road. In the afternoon, between 2:00pm and 2:30pm, there was an average of 187 vehicles coming in and out of the intersection of US 41 and Middle School Road. There is a tremendous amount of cross traffic that is caused by parents going into the school to pick up and drop off their children. At the end of Middle School Road, is where all the buses are staged. The buses come directly out of Middle School Road and turn mostly south. There are over 30 buses coming through that intersection at once. Eric Henry will reach out to the project manager. Marilyn Farmer, the Director of Transportation with Citrus County Schools, stated that she is hoping to figure out a way to get a traffic signal there with video activation. Discussion followed. Robert Esposito will reach out 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 - AUGUST 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. A sign board will be going in.</p> <p>No update.</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. No update.</p>



LONG TERM LISTING					
4	Sept 2023	Main Street (US 41) and Highland Boulevard, Inverness	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. 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> <p>Jim McLean stated that Laura Anstead from Citrus County Sheriff's Office reviewed this intersection. Traffic signal timings have been adjusted. Jeffrey Hunter from Citrus County Sheriff's Office will reach out to Laura Anstead. There will be major improvements. This will be moved to the long-term list.</p>
		 <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/x43dCWHK4owdaUFcA</p>			