

Pinellas CTST – November 7, 2024

Meeting started at 10:09am

I. General Meeting

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

II. Committee Reports

Enforcement

Jason Levey (City of St. Pete PD): He stated that they started the High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) this month and were approved for a motorcycle safety grant.

Larry Kolbicka (Pinellas Park PD): PPPD has gone through their grant and is awaiting the new one. Discussion followed.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): He stated that PCSO has been focusing on the two storms that occurred. Many of the resources were sent to the beaches to deal with unlicensed contracting/looting, etc. The biggest item they're dealing with is illegal dumping. Not much has been going on traffic-wise since we met last month. The city traffic units have been participating in the ELEE. This past Monday at the Crescent Oaks Golf Course, MADD held its first Golf like MADD event which was very successful and will be held again next year. The Florida Impaired Driving Coalition meeting will be held on November 19th -20th in Orlando.

Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric mentioned the Sun Trail program and that they are currently taking requests for funding (existing trails or trail connections). The deadline is December 19th. If anyone has any questions, he asked the group to please contact him, Eric, for more details.

A member of group asked Eric what the start date for the Alternate 19 RRR project was. Eric stated he would check with the PM on the details and let the group know.

David Hegarty (City of St. Petersburg): He stated that the City has one specific intersection with a high volume of red-light running crashes/collisions - 5th Avenue North (Alt. 19) and 8th Street North (two one-way streets). They had had 26 confirmed red-light running crashes in the westbound direction over the past five years. The City is looking at this to see if there is something that can be done to improve the intersection and bring the number of crashes down. Also, since the storm, they have noticed a bit of an increase in pedestrian/bicycling fatalities; they are monitoring this.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): CUTR is about to start an outreach project on 5th Avenue, between 4th Street and 66th Street. The Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program is picking back up again.

Education and EMS

Autumn Westermann (Pinellas County Schools): She stated that PCS is dealing with a lot of late drivers and driver call-outs which equate to late buses. They are hiring bus drivers. People are still passing stopped buses with stop arms out.

Mark Eastty played a video that PPPD added to their social media of Larry speaking to someone he had pulled over, on northbound US 19, for passing a stopped school bus. The person stated they “didn’t see the bus.” Larry mentioned that their three-person traffic team has issued over 200+ traffic tickets for school bus violations to date. Discussion followed.

Brandy Howard (Suncoast Safety Council): *She was not in attendance but sent Mark some information that he read during the meeting.* The remainder of the funds, \$532.45 dollars, were sent to the Suncoast PBA office. The Suncoast PBA sent a nice letter stating their appreciation for the donation. The Suncoast PBA has been assisting those who were affected by the storms with purchasing supplies, food, etc. They were very appreciative of the Pinellas CTST for the donation.

The Great American Teach-in is occurring on December 13th.

Eric Henry mentioned that MADD has their virtual walking challenge until the end of the month.

Mark Eastty stated that the MADD candlelight vigil will be held on December 5th at the Mission Hills Church in Temple Terrace.

III. Old Business

Problem Locations

1. **Passing School Busses:** This was discussed earlier. Autumn will reach out to her drivers to ensure they are doing what they need to do.
2. **Signal @ Starkey Road north at Willow Road:** No update.
3. **5th Avenue North (Alt. 19) and 8th Street North:** This project will be added to the problem location tracking sheet.

HSIP and SRTS Projects

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): She stated they have been receiving some HSIP applications. She is available to assist however she can with the application process.

High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map

Mark Eastty (PCSO): From January 1st to October 31st, 2024, there have been 78 fatal crashes and 83 fatalities. At this point last year, there were 84 fatal crashes and 89 fatalities.

He discussed a pedestrian/bicycle crash investigation course he recently presented in Jacksonville and displayed a video of a mannequin being hit by a car for the point of impact.

IV. New Business

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Mark is trying to get Jim Reiser, our new LEL, to come and speak to the group at the next in-person meeting. Discussion regarding speakers followed. Mahshid mentioned Pinellas County as the next CTST meeting location and have Deneta to discuss traffic/lessons learned. Mahshid will follow-up with Deneta.



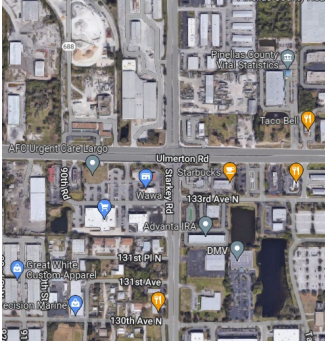
MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 2024

Upcoming Meeting: December 5, 2024 – Virtual Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am

Attendees: Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Susan Boda (Benesch), Mark Eastty (PCSO), Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering Group), David Hegarty (City of St. Petersburg), Eric Henry (FDOT), Larry Kolbicka (Pinellas Park PD), Jason Levey (City of St. Pete PD), Blaine Loring (PCSO), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), Melissa Shepherd (JMT), Autumn Westermann (Pinellas County Schools)

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	11/4/21	Passing School Buses	Deputy Miller, Joe Camera	10/3/24		<p>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. This is a districtwide problem. Everyone forgets and more education and enforcement is needed. 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. Vehicles are not paying attention to bus stop arms. Daniel Negersmith stated that on Belcher Road by Oak Grove Drive, vehicles are constantly running past the bus stop arms. It is a 40mph zone. There is a transfer where buses pick up other students from other schools at that school, so many buses are coming and going. Daniel Negersmith if there is any way they can make that a school zone to slow down people during those times. John Rieman will investigate this location. Discussion followed. Autumn will reach out to her drivers to ensure they are doing what they need to do.</p>

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/Withdrawn	Comments
2	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. A traffic light will be put in at Starkey Road and Willow Road. It is currently in design now.</p> <p>No update.</p>

PROBLEM LOCATIONS - NOVEMBER 2024

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/Withdrawn	Comments
3	11/7/2024	5th Avenue North (Alt. 19) and 8th Street North	David Hegarty (COSP)			<p>He stated that the City has one specific intersection with a high volume of red-light running crashes/collisions - 5th Avenue North (Alt. 19) and 8th Street North (two one-way streets). They had had 26 confirmed red-light running crashes in the westbound direction over the past five years. The City is looking at this to see if there is something that can be done to improve the intersection and bring the number of crashes down. This could be a line-of-sight issue.</p>