



University CTST – November 6, 2024

Meeting started at 3:02pm

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Business Updates – Problem Identification/Follow Up

1. **Lois Avenue Crossing to get to the HCC Campus:** No update.
2. **Lighting Issue at BBD and Holly Drive:** No update. Sean Jaquez-Taylor (USF PD) will reach out to Officer Marchesano.
3. **Kennedy Boulevard at Willow Avenue and Delaware Avenue:** Marty Sorrentino (UT), stated that just north of Kennedy Boulevard, Willow Avenue is blocked off. Katie Godwin (UT) stated that they are doing utility maintenance and the initial end date for that was October 31st, but it was pushed back. The rerouting of that has come through the UT campus so there is increased vehicle traffic on campus, but that should resolve once the area becomes less construction heavy.
4. **North Boulevard between Cass Street and Kennedy Boulevard:** Marty Sorrentino (UT) stated that the Unite Boulevard grant is being worked on. Eric Henry (FDOT) is trying to get Josh Blackman from the City of Tampa to present on the project.

III. Calendar Updates/Activity Reports

Law Enforcement Activity

Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith): The DUI grant from FDOT goes before the City Council on November 17th. Tampa Police Department is hoping to push to get that signed off on by the mayor and back to FDOT before Thanksgiving so that they could put some additional staffing out there for Blackout Wednesday. There is a business across from UT campus that is selling large bottles of nitrous oxide. Tampa Police Department is working to get a resolution on that. Discussion followed. Eric Henry (FDOT) stated that the main brand is called Galaxy Gas.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Reports

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Jason Jackman (USF) was at the INTO USF last Thursday on Halloween for a bike ped safety event. Brentin participated with a couple of different elementary schools on their rescheduled Walk to School Day events around Hillsborough County.



Brian Goercke (USF World): INTO USF changed their name to International Student Support. There were not many attendees at the Halloween event.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): There's a project on 50th Street between Holly Drive and Fletcher Avenue for some intersection improvements and the public can make comments. They are adding a new traffic signal at Holly Drive and 50th Street, and they are adding turn lanes at Fletcher Avenue and 50th Street. There is currently a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at that intersection for pedestrians to cross. They are going to replace the whole assembly with a signalized intersection.

Eric Henry (FDOT): The Great American Teach-In is this month on November 21st. FDOT can support with materials including comic books for kids, etc. MADD is hosting a walking event throughout this month, Step In' to a Safer Holiday, which is a virtual report of steps taken throughout the month. Their goal is 100 miles and there will be prizes. The holidays are coming up and is the worst season for impaired, distracted, and drunk driving.

Katie Godwin (UT): UT was notified in late October that they achieved the bronze designation of a bicycle friendly university through the league. There is a note in the press release on the UT website.

IV. Fatal Crash Maps

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): From January 1st to August 21st, 2024, there have been 14 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to July 17th, 2024, there were 12 fatal crashes. There have been two new fatal crashes since the last CTST, both within a one-mile proximity to the University of South Florida (USF) campus. It includes one pedestrian and one bicycle fatal crash.

For the pedestrian fatal crash (Report Number 26543724), the pedestrian fatal crash occurred on July 16th, 2024, at 9:41pm. The pedestrian fatal crash was on East Bearss Avenue and Seaford Court, not at the intersection in dark-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was traveling eastbound on East Bearss Avenue. The pedestrian was walking across East Bearss Ave from south to north, mid-block, not in a marked crosswalk. As the pedestrian walked into the inside lane, the vehicle struck the pedestrian.

For the bicycle fatal crash (Report Number 26544330), the bicycle fatal crash occurred on July 22nd, 2024, at 7:24am. The bicycle fatal crash was on Bruce B Downs Boulevard and East Bearss Avenue, at the t-intersection in day, clear, and dry conditions. It was a pedalcycle. The crash occurred because a bicyclist was improperly crossing the roadway against a red traffic light and a red pedestrian stop hand. Based on testimonial and physical evidence presented, the bicyclist was in violation of Florida State Statute (316.130 (1)) - " A pedestrian shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device specifically applicable to the pedestrian unless otherwise directed by a police officer".



There are 14 fatal crashes through August 21st, 2024. Same period in 2023, there were 7 fatal crashes. University CTST is up by 7 fatal crashes in the same period.

V. Open Forum | Announcements

Eric Henry (FDOT): The University CTST Chair, Kathleen Koviak, has stepped down as chair. Therefore, there is an opening for the position of a new interim chair. Marty Sorrentino is the new Interim Chair of the University CTST group.

Katie Godwin (UT): Katie Godwin asked the CTST group where the December in-person CTST meeting should be held. Kathleen Koviak (USF) will check with Officer Marchesano about the USF PD room. Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith) also suggested the Tampa Police Department District 2 office near Busch Gardens as a backup location, which has been used for the Tampa Alcohol Coalition.

Katie Godwin (UT): UT is in the middle of their budget cycle now that they have put a lot of effort into their pedestrian and bicycle friendly initiatives and they are doing an assessment of their campus infrastructure, parking garage, etc. There has been expressed interest in doing a traffic study with some sort of traffic safety component. Katie needs to put in an estimate in terms of budget for what that may be and needs recommendations for people who would do that, particularly on an urban university campus. Eric Henry (FDOT) stated that some of the engineers at FDOT can help.

Kathleen Koviak (USF): USF just had a successful National Alcohol Awareness Week. It was from October 21st through October 25th. They had their big mocktail mix-off event that they do every year on that Wednesday. MADD was there, as well as USF staff. They did field sobriety tests, Jeannine talked about MADD, as well as other alcohol safety activities. Close to 200 students participated. USF also did some Halloween safety outreach that week in the residence halls. This month, USF will be doing some additional messaging around Thanksgiving, including Black Out Wednesday, etc.


Brentin Mosher (CUTR): In the first week of December, MADD will host their Annual Candlelight Vigil at the Mission Hills Baptist Church in Temple Terrace. The event remembers the victims of impaired driving that year.

Next Meeting: December 4, 2024, 3:00pm – In-Person Meeting Location TBD

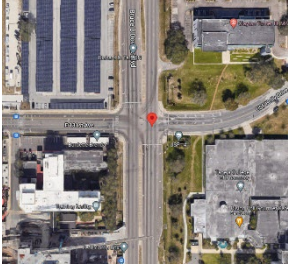
Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm

Attendees: Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Christina Fogt-Boulnois (Lochner), Anthony Chaumont (JMT), Katie Godwin (UT), Brian Goercke (USF World), Eric Henry (FDOT), Nicholas Inniss (Element Engineering Group), Kathleen Koviak (USF), David Liller (HCC), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Melissa Shepherd (JMT), Marty Sorrentino (UT), Sean Jaquez-Taylor (USF PD)




Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	May 2022	<p>Lois Avenue Crossing to get to the HCC Campus</p>  <p>https://goo.gl/maps/EuYbxcwQRL4EeCn36</p>	Joseph Bentrovato / Mike Zinn / Matthew Belmonte	July 2024		<p>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 is studying the whole area, including this crossing. Kelly met with the 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 improvements, to try and get the students to take a different route. Matthew Belmonte will have more to report on this next month. Paige sent an email stating that the crosswalk on Lois Avenue connecting the students in Hawks Landing to the campus is still being reviewed by the Drew Park CRA CAC. Paige, via email, said that they are continuing to work with the Drew Park CRA CAC. Paige, via email, stated that the Drew Park CRA CAC approved a mobility project earlier in April which would address installation of a crosswalk at Lois Avenue for the Hawks Residence students. There is no additional information regarding a timeframe for when this will be completed. Paige Niehaus stated that the City of Tampa approved the project. The earliest the crosswalk could be in, is in December. No update.</p>




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2	Oct 2022	<p>Lighting issues at Bruce B Downs and Holly Drive</p>  <p>https://goo.gl/maps/7VwSCs3xRYoEbFidA</p>	Nicole M. (USF PD)	Nov 2023		<p>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, asked 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, said to set this location aside for now until she could get some more information. Mike Zinn, of FDOT, told 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 Tetro. Nicole Marchesano, of USF PD, stated that she will get in contact with Hillsborough County engineers. No update. Sean Jaquez-Taylor (USF PD) will reach out to Officer Marchesano.</p>



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3	Jan 2023	<p>Kennedy Boulevard at Willow Avenue and Delaware Avenue</p>  <p>https://goo.gl/maps/tVevDzDBaGbTnFz59</p>	Marty Sorrentino	July 2024		<p>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. 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. 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 discussed two projects and the availability of adding inlets on one portion of Kennedy Boulevard. Marty stated that he received plans on two projects on the north side of Kennedy Blvd. There will be a repavement project on the north side of Kennedy Blvd from Woodlynne Ave to Brevard Ave. The second project will be redoing the railroad crossing on Kennedy Blvd at Willow St. It does not appear that there are any stormwater inlets, but Marty will finish his review of those plans and send an email to FDOT regarding the stormwater improvements. Marty stated that he received confirmation from FDOT that there are no storm water inlets as part of the two projects. 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 yet from the drainage department. Marty stated that the railroad project has finished, and the project could not get the stormwater inlets incorporated. Marty reached out to the stormwater department at FDOT and spoke to Melissa Mulvaney. He provided her with storm water inlet exhibits. Marty hopes to develop a project for the inlets. Marty stated that every time he sees a build-up of water, he will let the drainage department know. Marty stated that just north of Kennedy Boulevard, Willow Avenue is blocked off. Katie Godwin (UT) stated that they are doing utility maintenance and the initial end date for that was October 31st, but it was pushed back. The rerouting of that has come through the UT campus so there is increased vehicle traffic on campus, but that should resolve once the area becomes less construction heavy.</p>



PROBLEM LOCATIONS – NOVEMBER 2024

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
4	April 2024	<p>North Boulevard between Cass Street and Kennedy Boulevard</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/t83DaQWkyusev4Ee6</p>	Marty Sorrentino	October 2024		<p>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. Marty Sorrentino attended grant training. He believes he could obtain funding for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant under the political subdivision of a state. The documents do not show that universities are eligible for the grant, but the training Marty attended stated that state colleges or universities created under state law could apply. There is a planning and demonstration grant and the implementation grant. The planning grant is due August 29th, but there is a lot of funding until 2026. Marty hopes to get a high-level buy-in/support. There is approximately three billion dollars left. Marty stated that for federal funding, FDOT will provide 80 percent funding with a 20 percent match requirement. Katie Godwin (UT) stated that she was approached by the city’s mobility area a couple weeks ago. The city is working on applying for the Unite Boulevard grant, which is supposed to reconnect displaced communities through transportation. Josh Blackman (City of Tampa) stated that the Unite Boulevard grant application was submitted yesterday, and the project limits are from Ross Avenue to Swann Avenue. Discussion followed if Safe Streets for All funding could be applied as well, which will be investigated.</p> <p>Marty Sorrentino (UT) stated that the Unite Boulevard grant is being worked on. Eric Henry (FDOT) is trying to get Josh Blackman from the City of Tampa to present on the project.</p>