



## West Central CTST – December 11, 2024

Meeting started at 1:38pm

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

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

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

1. **Mariner Boulevard:** Eric Henry (FDOT) will follow up with Emmeth Duran to see if we can get an update at the next meeting.
2. **US 41 and Middle School Road:** Eric Henry (FDOT) stated that he passed on the information for the traffic operations people to be aware of, but he hasn't heard anything further.
3. **Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail:** No update.
4. **Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing:** No update.
5. **Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard:** No update.

### IV. **Calendar Updates/Activity Reports**

Jim McLean (Citizen): Jim stated that the projected date for completion of the Withlacoochee State Trail rehabilitation project is December 18<sup>th</sup>. Discussion followed on the Sun Trail application.

Eric Henry (FDOT): January is Move Over Month, so keep that in mind as you are working on outreach strategies and messaging strategies through after the holidays.

Sgt. Jeff Andrews (Hernando County Sheriff's Office): Hernando County Sheriff's Office is doing some holiday programs as well as participating in the Christmas Parade this weekend.

Eric Henry (FDOT): FDOT will have some staff in the Brooksville Christmas Parade. Brooksville Operations will be handing out some safety goodies at the parade.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): The Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program is planning on doing a multi-jurisdictional detail along US 19 on December 18<sup>th</sup>. It will run from the Skyway Bridge all the way up to the Levy County Line. It will be from 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Jim Reiser (LEL): The Drive Sober Get Pulled Over campaign starts on Friday and runs through January 1<sup>st</sup> and agencies will be participating in DUI initiatives.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): In terms of the multi-jurisdictional detail along US 19, Brentin Mosher stated that they typically have a press conference before they conduct their enforcement multi-jurisdictional details, but he will double check with George Edmiston from Benesch.

### V. **Fatal Crash Map**

Lori Palaio (JMT): For Citrus County, from January 1<sup>st</sup> through September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, there have been 21 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1<sup>st</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, there were 20 fatal crashes. The one new fatal crash was a right-angle fatal crash, and it was motorcycle related. The right-angle fatal crash



occurred on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 1:12pm (Report Number 26328169) and was on US 19 and Dixieland Street at the t-intersection in day, clear, and dry conditions. While vehicle one was traveling on Dixieland Street, driver one attempted to proceed forward from a traffic control stop sign. Driver one failing to ensure the desired path of travel was free and clear proceeded forward. As a result, vehicle two collided into the left of vehicle one.

There are 21 fatal crashes through September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Same period in 2023, there were 18 fatal crashes, so Citrus County is up by three fatal crashes same period. Motorcycle fatal crashes is the second highest model of travel for fatal crashes in Citrus County.

For Hernando County, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, there have been 24 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1<sup>st</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, there were 22 fatal crashes. The two new fatal crashes include one run off the road and one left turn. The run off the road fatal crash was on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at 6:20pm (Report Number 26346028) and was on Commercial Way and Cortez Boulevard, not at the intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. For unknown reasons, vehicle one proceeded to abruptly leave the roadway to the right driving through the grass shoulder/embankment. Vehicle one then struck the embankment of the private driveway located at 7016 Commercial Way before continuing through the ravine traveling north. The driver then struck a power pole.

The left turn fatal crash was on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 3:41pm (Report Number 26365446) on US 19 and SR 50, at the t-intersection in day, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was stopped for a stop sign at the exit to the parking lot of 6292 Commercial Way (US 19). Vehicle two was northbound in the outside lane of US 19 approaching the driveway of 6292 Commercial Way. Driver one attempted to make a left turn to head south on US 19 and crossed into the direct path of vehicle two, violating driver two's right of way.

There are 24 fatal crashes through September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Same period in 2023, there were 29 fatal crashes, so Hernando County is down by five fatal crashes same period.

#### **VI. SRTS Update**

None.

#### **VII. HSIP Update**

Lori Palaio (JMT): An application for bright sticks in Hernando County was submitted. FDOT is currently reviewing the HSIP applications. If anyone still wants to apply for HSIP funding, applications are still open and there is still some funding available. Eric Henry hopes to see these start getting pushed out in the new year.

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

None.

#### **IX. Open Forum/Announcements**

Jim McLean (Citizen): For future meetings, Jim hopes to have meeting locations where members of the public can attend. Eric Henry stated that the January meeting will be at Citrus County Sheriff's Office. Eric



stated that we can have a discussion at the January meeting if anybody has some ideas for new meeting locations. Jim stated that he has been to a meeting previously at Citrus County Transit building. Discussion followed.

Bob Esposito (MPO): County Line Road, which is a priority in Hernando County, has been added to their regional priorities list. FDOT views this as an asset to their network, as it is a great east-west connection that connects US 19, Suncoast Parkway, and US 41. If they ever decide to build it out to I-75, that could be another connection. There will be another meeting coming up on this in late January. FDOT asked the MPO to look for small projects that they can do. FDOT is looking into some signal dedicated left turns on US 41 and County Road 491. FDOT has a resurfacing project coming up on US 41 and they will add dedicated right turn lanes coming off Ayers Road onto US 41. Bob is asking FDOT to look into some intersection improvements on SR 44 and Turkey Oak Drive in June or July of next year.

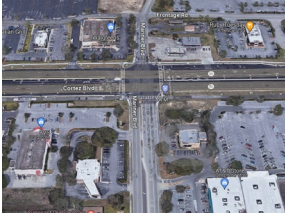
#### **X. Adjourn**

**Upcoming Meeting: January 8, 2025, 1:30pm – Citrus County Sheriff's Office, 3549 Saunders Way, Room #140, Lecanto, FL, 34461**


Meeting adjourned at 2:04pm.

**Attendees:** Sgt. Jeff Andrews (Hernando County Sheriff's Office), Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Bob Esposito (MPO), Eric Henry (FDOT), Nicholas Inniss (Element Engineering Group), Jim McLean (Citizen), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Lori Palaio (JMT), Jim Reiser (LEL)




Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	Nov 2023	<p>Mariner Boulevard</p>  <p><a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qj9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qj9</a></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. 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. Emmeth Duran (FDOT) stated that FDOT coordinated with traffic operations on some of the safety recommendations from the JMT report. It is pretty much wrapped up, but Emmeth will follow up on this.</p> <p><b>Eric Henry (FDOT) will follow up with Emmeth to see if we can get an update at the next meeting.</b></p>



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
2	August 2024	<p>US 41 and Middle School Road</p>  <p><a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/pm1so8aFjgXBWd9c7">https://maps.app.goo.gl/pm1so8aFjgXBWd9c7</a></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. Bob Esposito (MPO) stated that FDOT is looking into doing traffic counts. Bob reached out to the PIO this morning, but no current updates. Laura Anstead (Citrus County Sheriff's Office) stated that buses come out the front entrance, so all the vehicles use the back entrance. So, if they are doing traffic counts around the school and they only count the vehicles at the front entrance that are physically traveling on Middle School Road they are missing all the vehicles that are coming in off Turner Camp Road. Eric Henry will check with FDOT on how previous counts were collected and make sure they collect new counts on the correct side.</p> <p><b>Eric Henry (FDOT) stated that he passed on the information for the traffic operations people to be aware of, but he hasn't heard anything further.</b></p>



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
<b>LONG TERM LISTING</b>						
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><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/gb6K4d1P9zpR4B41A">https://goo.gl/maps/gb6K4d1P9zpR4B41A</a></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 <b>**continued on next page**</b></p>






## PROBLEM LOCATIONS – DECEMBER 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. <b>No update.</b></p>
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Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
<b>LONG TERM LISTING</b>						
2	Nov 2023	<p>Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing</p>  <p><a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/qNe3HyP4Xadk91j67">https://maps.app.goo.gl/qNe3HyP4Xadk91j67</a></p>	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><b>No update.</b></p>





LONG TERM LISTING					
3	Jan 2022	<p>Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard</p>  <p><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/oqJoiXfvBxeksW1T9">https://goo.gl/maps/oqJoiXfvBxeksW1T9</a></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. <b>No update.</b></p>