## WEST CENTRAL CTST

#### **MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 2024**

#### West Central CTST - November 13, 2024

Meeting started 1:30pm

- I. Welcome and Introductions were made.
- **II. Minutes** were approved for August 2024.
- III. Old Business Review of Problem Location Spreadsheet
  - Mariner Boulevard: 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.
  - 2. US 41 and Middle School Road: 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.
  - 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.
  - 6. Main Street (US 41) and Highland Boulevard, Inverness: Laura Anstead (CCSO) stated that nothing has been done with the lights. They are still functioning in the same pattern, but it hasn't created much chaos so far this year. This can stay one more month on the problem locations sheet to monitor the situation. Then it can be removed after the next meeting.

#### IV. Calendar Updates/Activity Reports

Jim McLean (Citizen): Jim stated that the Withlacoochee State Trail rehabilitation project is completed on the south end with one exception, they discovered a major sinkhole about six feet deep and seven or eight feet wide after construction was completed. The north end is almost done, they are in phase four of construction and should be completed at the end of the month.

Eric Henry (FDOT): The Sun Trail program is open for funding applications, specifically on the Florida Greenways Trail network. The funding ends in December. Next week is the Great American Teach-In. For the next round of HSIP funding, FDOT received over four million dollars to FDOT District Seven, and specifically for Citrus and Hernando, \$329,000 (\$247,000 for Citrus and \$82,000 for Hernando).

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): The midpoint Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) meeting was yesterday with all the participating agencies. Also, the participating law enforcement agencies completed their Train the Trainer for their new program called Impact Teen Education. A few law enforcement officers were selected to be trainers, and they can train others in their agency. They can use the program to go into schools to teach traffic safety.

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Jim Reiser (LEL): He is getting ready to do a Thanksgiving holiday enforcement initiative. Agencies with DUI units are going to ramp up their DUI enforcement over the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be a US 19 enforcement operation soon. The operation will run from the Citrus County Line all the way to St. Petersburg. The grants that were awarded to the Hernando County Sheriff's Office and the Citrus County Sheriff's Office were allocated by the state safety office. They have already been sent advisories to apply for the fiscal year 2026 cycle.

Bob Esposito (MPO): Bob met with the Citrus County Commissioner, Rebecca Bay and former state secretary Ananth Prasad, who now runs Florida Transportation Road Builders. Bob is trying to figure out how to bring more construction money into the area. There should be rural arterial money coming. Bob is trying to get funding for US 41 in Citrus County. Bob did a radio interview on the WWJB radio last week. He explained on the radio what the benefit would be in the next election in a couple years for the one cent sales tax, since it didn't pass this round. Discussion followed.

#### V. Fatal Crash Map

Melissa Shepherd (JMT): For Citrus County, from January 1st to August 23rd, 2024, there have been 20 fatal crashes. Since we didn't have a meeting last month due to the hurricane, the previous map we discussed from January 1st to May 25th, 2024, there were 13 fatal crashes. The seven new fatal crashes include two pedestrian, two head on, one other, and two off road fatal crashes.

For the two new pedestrian fatal crashes:

The first pedestrian fatal crash occurred on June 3rd, 2024, at 6:09am (Report Number 26284240) on SR 44 and South Shad Terrace, at the t-intersection in dawn, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was traveling west in the left lane on SR 44, approaching the intersection of South Shad Terrace. Non-motorist one was walking in a northerly direction from the southern shoulder of SR 44 at said intersection. Non-motorist one walked into the westbound travel lanes of SR 44 and into the direct path of vehicle one. This caused the front right of vehicle one to collide with the right side of non-motorist one.

The second pedestrian fatal crash occurred on June 15th, 2024, at 11:57pm (Report Number 26364420) on West Homosassa Trail and South Lantana Way, not at the intersection in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was traveling east on County Road 490 (West Homosassa Trail), approaching South Lantana Way. Non-motorist one was walking his electric bike southeast on County Road 490 (West Homosassa Trail) in the eastbound lane, approaching South Lantana Way, directly ahead of vehicle one. As a result, the front right of vehicle one collided with non-motorist one and his electric bike.

There are currently 20 fatal crashes through August 23rd, 2024. Same period in 2023 there were 16 fatal crashes. Citrus County is up by four fatal crashes in the same period.

For Hernando County from January 1st to August 23rd, 2024, there have been 22 fatal crashes. Since we didn't have a meeting last month due to the hurricane, the previous map we discussed from January 1st to May 25th, 2024, there were 12 fatal crashes. The ten new fatal crashes include one bicycle, one other, one head on, two rollovers, two pedestrians, two right angles, and one left turn.

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For the bicycle fatal crash, it occurred on June 8th, 2024, at 4:32am (Report Number 26365413) on Ridge Manor Boulevard and Tall Pines Drive, not at the intersection in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was northbound on Tall Pines Drive approaching a stop sign at the intersection of Ridge Manor Boulevard. Non-motorist one was traveling west on the sidewalk that runs parallel with Ridge Manor Boulevard. Vehicle one failed to stop at the stop sign. The front right of vehicle one struck non-motorist one as he was attempting to cross Tall Pines Drive. As a result, non-motorist one was thrown from his bicycle.

For the two pedestrian fatal crashes:

The first pedestrian fatal crash occurred on July 8th, 2024, at 12:50pm (Report Number 26370371) on US 19 SB and Algood Road, not at the intersection, in day, cloudy, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was traveling south on US 19 (State Road 55) in the outside lane. Non-motorist one was crossing the roadway from west to east carrying groceries from the 7-11 convenience store located at 1285 Commercial Way when she entered the roadway from the northwest corner. The front of vehicle one collided with non-motorist one.

The second pedestrian fatal crash occurred on August 21st, 2024, at 11:55am (Report Number 26328166): 7480 Delaware Drive and Delaware Drive, not at the intersection, in day, clear and dry conditions. Vehicle one was backing in the yard of 7480 Delaware Drive. Non-motorist one was standing behind vehicle one in the yard of 7480 Delaware Drive. While vehicle one was backing in the yard of 7742 Delaware Drive, driver one failed to ensure the safe and prudent distance was maintained to the person behind. As a result, vehicle one collided into non-motorist one.

There are currently 22 fatal crashes through August 23rd, 2024. Same period in 2023 there were 23 fatal crashes. Hernando County is down by one fatal crash in the same period.

#### VI. SRTS Update

None.

#### VII. HSIP Update

Eric Henry (FDOT): A new application came in from Hernando County for bright sticks so that will be looked at, as well as the other ones that were submitted.

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

None.

#### IX. Open Forum/Announcements

Emmeth Duran (FDOT): When FDOT looks at the safety performance metrics in the district by County, District Seven is overall seeing lower numbers in terms of fatalities and serious injuries, especially in Hillsborough and Pinellas County. But Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco numbers are going up in comparison to previous years. One of the strategies FDOT is looking at is seeing how to reduce any future instances including public awareness and outreach. If there are any events or any ideas for any outreach opportunities that FDOT can partner with, let Emmeth know. FDOT is looking for events in Citrus and



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Hernando to raise awareness of laws and rules of the road, especially with the holidays coming up.

Anthony Chaumont (JMT): Anthony presented on the FDOT Highway Safety Matrix. It is a tool that compares all the emphasis areas from the Florida Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The emphasis areas are the areas that generally represent the groupings, statistically where there are the most fatal and severe injury crashes. It is a comparative presentation of the 2024 to the new 2025 data that's available. Group one represents populations greater than 200,000. Group two represents populations between 50,000 and 200,000 (Citrus and Hernando). Citrus and Hernando County have all the emphasis areas being in the highest 35 percent. When the crashes are sorted and analyzed, Hernando County has the most crashes for aging road users for all the counties in the state of Florida that has populations between 50,000 and 200,000. Six of the nine emphasis areas were ranked very high in Citrus and Hernando County. There was a worsening in crashes in Hernando County for impaired driving and occupant protection. Anthony discussed more statistics on Citrus and Hernando County versus counties/cities of similar size for fatal and sever crashes. He directed everyone to the highway safety matrices on <a href="https://www.fdot.gov/Safety/grants/highwaysafetymatrices.shtm">https://www.fdot.gov/Safety/grants/highwaysafetymatrices.shtm</a>

Discussion followed.

Jim Reiser (LEL): The 2026 matrix should be out very shortly to allow the agencies to apply for funding under the FDOT Safety Grant program. When a law enforcement agency asks for funding for an emphasis area, the matrix is relied upon heavily to determine whether the county is going to qualify for funding. Discussion followed.

#### X. Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting: December 11, 2024, 1:30pm - Virtual Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.

**Attendees:** Meredith Abel (EXP), Sgt. Jeff Andrews (Hernando County Sheriff's Office), Laura Anstead (Citrus County Sheriff's Office), Christina Fogt-Boulnois (Lochner), Anthony Chaumont (JMT), Emmeth Duran (FDOT), Bob Esposito (MPO), Eric Henry (FDOT), Jim McLean (Citizen), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Jim Reiser (LEL), Melissa Shepherd (JMT), Matthew Weaver (Element Engineering Group)



Item	Date	Description	Staff	Last	Date Resolved/	Comments
1	Reported Nov 2023	Mariner Boulevard  https://maps.app.goo.gl/ E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qi9	Sgt. Andrews	May 2024	Withdrawn	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



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
2	August 2024	US 41 and Middle School Road  https://maps.app.goo.g l/pm1so8aFJgXBWd9c7	Jeffrey Hunter	August 2024		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 vehic



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
LONG	TERM LISTI	NG				
1	Apr 2021	Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail  (This item was replaced with the Good Neighbor Trail - Preston Road and Weatherly Road – Good Neighbor Trail Stop Signs details were removed)  https://goo.gl/maps/gb6K4d1P9zpR4B41A	Ernie Lane	March 2024		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 st



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 Borgesi, 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.



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments			
LONG	LONG TERM LISTING								
2	Nov 2023	Powell Road at the Suncoast Trail Crossing  https://maps.app.goo.gl/qNe3HyP4Xadk91j67	Michael Attard (citizen)	Feb 2024		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.			



LONG	TERM LISTI	NG			
3	Jan 2022	Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard  https://goo.gl/maps/ogJoj XfvBxeksW1T9	HC / Todd	Feb 2024	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 addit

Boulevard. No update. This will be on the long-term list. No update.



#### **LONG TERM LISTING**

4 Sept 2023

Main Street (US 41) and Highland Boulevard, Inverness



https://maps.app.goo.gl/ x43dCWHK4owdaUFcA Laura Feb 2024 Anstead (CCSO) 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. Sqt. 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. 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. 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.

Laura Anstead stated that nothing has been done with the lights. They are still functioning in the same pattern, but it hasn't created much chaos so far this year. This can stay one more month on the problem locations sheet to monitor the situation. Then it can be removed after the next meeting.