

Pinellas CTST – December 5, 2024

Meeting started at 10:02am

I. General Meeting

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

II. Committee Reports

Enforcement

Jason Levey (City of St. Pete PD): City of St. Pete PD will be participating in a couple weeks with FHP on a joint operation on US 19.

Daniel Negersmith (Clearwater PD): Clearwater PD will be participating in the join operation with FHP on US 19. Clearwater PD has an FST School the first week in January with A Ride to follow in that same week.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Pinellas County Sheriff's Office have been working the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) details. They were awarded the FDOT speed and aggressive driving grant as well as the DUI grant.

Blaine Loring (PCSO): Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has the high visibility enforcement (HVE) grant going on as well as the speed grant. On December 18th, they have the US 19 detail which spans from Citrus County all the way to the Skyway Bridge from 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Jim Reiser (LEL): They have the Driver Sober Get Pulled Over Campaign for the holidays from December 13th through January 1st. It is a reportable campaign by the agencies. Tarpon Springs is working grant operations in Pinellas Park. Tarpon Springs is starting a DUI enforcement grant. There have been several delays on the quick reference guides. They should be printed shortly, and they will be printed in the Tampa area. Discussion followed about the digital version of the quick reference guide.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin stated that they started the teen traffic impact classes. Clearwater PD conducted the classes at Clearwater High School and Countryside High School. It is great to have that as part of the ELEE program and having teens education at the same time.

Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): They will be starting education along 5th Avenue in St. Petersburg in the next month or so. FDOT is attending Largo PD Safety Day later this month.

John Rieman (Pinellas County Public Works): Pinellas County had some successful outreaches throughout the Palm Harbor Touch a Truck event. They fitted and gave away 71 helmets to kids. Pinellas County was out in Lemoine. They went to the Lemoine Asian Family Neighborhood Center for Thanksgiving Dinner. They were able to provide outreach to a lot of kids as well as a lot of unhoused or very low-income people there. Lemoine just started their farmers market, so Pinellas County had a table set up there. The next farmers market is December 22nd.

David Hegarty (City of St. Petersburg): The city was recently awarded a 3.6-million-dollar Safe Streets for All grant that they will be using over the next couple years to implement several smaller scale quick build safety improvements throughout the city. Improvements include new street lighting, enhanced crosswalks, raised crosswalks, etc.

Eric Henry (FDOT): FDOT will be at the Largo PD Safety Day on December 14th and FDOT will hand out safety materials. The start date for the construction of the Alt 19 RRR is January 7th. There is going to be an open house for the construction set to start on the Skinner Boulevard project, adding on the two roundabouts and then adding pedestrian improvements. The open house will be December 12th at Dunedin City Hall. There will be some project focused people there as well as FDOT handing out some general safety roundabout tip cards.

Robyn Morton (MADD): This evening, December 5th, is the 40th Annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Candlelight Vigil of Hope and Remembrance at 7:00pm at the Mission Hill Church in Temple Terrace. MADD will be attending Holiday in the Park on Friday night with Pinellas Park PD. They will also be at the Largo Chief Safety Day on December 14th at 10:00am. MADD completed their Stepping into a Safer Holiday Challenge, and the winner was announced yesterday. Mark Easty stated that the Broward State Attorney's office had 1.6 million steps with a grand total of 4.7 million steps.

Education and EMS

Mark Easty (PCSO): IPTM has been posting a bunch of grant funded courses, and PCSO will be hosting some courses as well on DUI and Traffic Safety. The classes are free to attend.

Rick Adams (Nations Traffic Safety School): There has been a vast reduction in the amount of people taking the four hour and 12-hour advanced driver course after receiving citations. While that has been going down, the number of collisions has been going up. Rick asked everyone to be an advocate of those defensive driving school courses when you stop people as well as when you go to court. In the late 2000's, they were averaging around 250,000 to 260,000 citations per year, but they were completing 650,000 defensive driving school courses. Last year, in the State of Florida, there were around 715,000 collisions and less than 300,000 people who completed the class. Rick is looking for some support across the schools and to help the schools locally after people receive violations. Discussion followed.

III. Old Business

Problem Locations

1. **Passing School Busses:** No update.
2. **Signal @ Starkey Road north at Willow Road:** No update.
3. **5th Avenue North (Alt. 19) and 8th Street North:** David Hegarty, from City of St. Petersburg, stated that they took some action to try and correct the high volume of red-light running collisions they were seeing. They have increased the length of the all red time as the signals change in both directions, but predominately on 5th Avenue North where they are seeing most of the collisions. They also coordinated with FDOT to make some signage improvements on 5th Avenue North approaching the light to warn drivers that the signal is there. The signage improvements should be completed in February in conjunction with another project that has been going on in that area. So

once that is done, they will monitor the location over the next year to see if there are a reduction in crashes.

HSIP and SRTS Projects

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): She stated they have been receiving some HSIP applications for material requests. They have prepared several spreadsheets with all the information pertaining to all the requests. The final review by FDOT is happening in December, but there is still time to apply for material requests. John Rieman, from Pinellas County Public Works, will reach out to someone to get an answer as to when Safe Routes to School Applications will be coming up.

High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map

Mark Eastty (PCSO): From January 1st to November 26th, 2024, there have been 85 fatal crashes and 90 fatalities. At this point last year, there had been 94 fatal crashes and 99 fatalities. Pinellas County is doing significantly better with pedestrian fatal crashes this year. Motorcycle fatal crashes are the same as last year. Bicycle fatal crashes is down by one fatal crash from last year.

IV. New Business

John Rieman (Pinellas County Public Works): The February meeting will be in-person at the Traffic Ops building. Deneta Jones will do a presentation during the meeting. After the meeting, there will be a tour of the TMC, which is the operations center for all the traffic management.

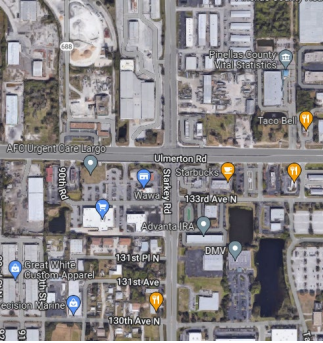
Upcoming Meeting: January 9, 2025 – Virtual Meeting


Meeting adjourned at 10:26am

Attendees: Rick Adams (Nations Traffic Safety School), Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Susan Boda (Benesch), Mark Eastty (PCSO), Kathy Gademer (City of Dunedin), Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering Group), David Hegarty (City of St. Petersburg), Eric Henry (FDOT), Jason Levey (City of St. Pete PD), Blaine Loring (PCSO), Robyn Morton (MADD), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), Daniel Negersmith (Clearwater PD), Lori Palaio (JMT), James Reiser (LEL), Joan Rice (Pinellas County Public Works), John Rieman (Pinellas County Public Works), Autumn Westermann (Pinellas County Schools)

PROBLEM LOCATIONS – DECEMBER 2024

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. No update.</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>

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3	11/7/2024	<p>5th Avenue North (Alt. 19) and 8th Street North</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/jsXXcKzZ4Xu2DTEj9</p>	David Hegarty (COSP)	12/5/24		<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> <p>David Hegarty, from City of St. Petersburg, stated that they took some action to try and correct the high volume of red-light running collisions they were seeing. They have increased the length of the all red time as the signals change in both directions, but predominately on 5th Avenue North where they are seeing most of the collisions. They also coordinated with FDOT to make some signage improvements on 5th Avenue North approaching the light to warn drivers that the signal is there. The signage improvements should be completed in February in conjunction with another project that has been going on in that area. So once that is done, they will monitor the location over the next year to see if there are a reduction in crashes.</p>