

Pinellas CTST – January 9, 2025

Meeting started at 10:02am

I. General Meeting

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

Anthony Chaumont (JMT): Anthony gave a presentation on the highway safety matrices. The highway safety matrices are a data-driven tool that ranks our cities and our counties into population groups. It looks at fatal and serious injury crashes for the rankings. The groupings are based on the state's strategic highway safety emphasis areas. Pinellas County is ranked number five for aging road users, which means out of all the counties in the State of Florida, Pinellas County was the fifth of the most crashes in that category. There are four counties that have more fatal and severe injury crashes in that category. The average rank for Pinellas County is 7.8 between the 2024 and 2025 fiscal year highway matrix. There is a decrease in crashes for distracted driving. Impaired driving went from six to five, so they are doing worse in impaired driving. Anthony provided additional statistics and distributions between the different counties. He directed everyone to the highway safety matrices on

<https://www.fdot.gov/Safety/grants/highwaysafetymatrices.shtm>

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Discussion followed on the safety matrix being useful for writing grants. The grant period is open now until the end of February.

Jim Reiser (LEL): The new matrix is on the state safety website. All the law enforcement partners that are eligible for grants has been sent out information. There is going to be an in-person training for concept papers on Friday, January 17th from 10:00am-12:00pm at FDOT D7 in Tampa. The meeting will include education on how to do concept papers.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Roy Paz from Tampa Police Department retired. Discussion followed.

II. Committee Reports

Enforcement

Jill Cox (SPPD): St. Petersburg Police Department started doing motorcycle enforcement operations.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Last month some of the traffic units in the north end were working the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) details. On December 18th, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office participated in the multi-agency speed detail along US 19 from the north end of the county to the south end. The operation started at 10:00am and ended at 6:00pm. There were 488 total citations, 232 of which were speeding. There were nine total physical arrests, four DUI arrests, 10 seatbelt violations and 475 total warnings. Throughout the detail, law enforcement officers stopped a total of 893 total vehicles.

Blaine Loring (PCSO): During the US 19 operation, there were a lot of move over violations.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Driver Sober Get Pulled Over ended. It started before Christmas and ended January 1st. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is still working on the ELEE details. Next week Mark and Tim Cornelius

with the Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM) are hosting a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) instructor course with 11 students in attendance.

Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian

Eric Henry (FDOT): Tina Russo, formerly with Pasco MPO, has left that position and is now the new bicycle and pedestrian program manager at FDOT. There is a new PSA coming out shortly for the midblock pedestrian signals that were installed on 4th Street. There is also a generic PSA coming out on the midblock pedestrian signals (MPS) for anywhere else they implement MPS treatment to aid with education on how to use the facilities. January is Move Over Month.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): FDOT began the ELEE Impact Teen Driver program in the Pinellas County Schools. They have been to Boca Ciega High School, Clearwater High School, Countryside High School, Pinellas Park High School, and Tarpon Springs High School. Forward Pinellas tentatively set their next Bike Your City event for Saturday, March 1st, in Pinellas Park.

Sheila Rainey (John's Hopkins): Tina Russo and Sheila are putting together a helmet fitting class for Pinellas County. John's Hopkins is starting out their bicycle safety poster contest. They give it out to six counties and email it out to bicycle-pedestrian contacts, as well as contacting all the school principals (both public and charter schools). Last year there were 23 entries, and they gave out a lot of prizes. The entries aren't due until March 15th.

Darby Bryant (Pinellas County): There are a couple of Pinellas County staff members that are looking to be trained and certified in helmet fittings. They are available to supply the space for the training.

Education and EMS

Jim Reiser (LEL): Jim sent out an email for free training classes to the D7 officers for the IPTM coming up. A lot of the trainings are focused on DUI. There has been a lot of transfers within some of the units in the Tampa Bay area and some new people are coming in, so hopefully some of the newer, younger generation officers will participate in the training. Jim included a link in the email to the training through Tallahassee Community College, grant funded at zero cost to your agency. Discussion followed.

III. Old Business

Problem Locations

1. **Passing School Busses:** School just started back up. 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 the signal timing to increase the all-red time to try and reduce those red-light running collisions is complete. FDOT will be implementing some signage improvements in February. This will be monitored.

HSIP and SRTS Projects

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): Mahshid is working with Bill Riha on review of the HSIP applications and getting final quotes. Now is the time to submit any further applications. Also, a reminder that when submitting applications please include a prioritized list of the locations where the material will be used, including a location map. Please indicate the address where the equipment will be shipped to. This information is necessary for getting material quotes. All local agencies intending to submit project applications for federal safety funding under the Highway Safety Improvement Program are required to attend at least four CTST meetings per year and present the concept for each project at one CTST meeting. Mahshid is always available to lend a hand in preparing HSIP and SRTS applications. Please let her know if you need any information or if you are working on a new HSIP or SRTS application or if you need to know if a project qualifies for HSIP funding.

High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map

Mark Eastty (PCSO): From January 1st to December 26th, 2024, there have been 95 fatal crashes with 101 fatalities. Same time last year there were 100 fatal crashes and 108 fatalities, so a little better than last year. Pedestrian fatal crashes have gone down by almost half, motorcycles went up a little bit, bicycle fatal crashes are down by one fatal crash, and vehicles are up by three fatal crashes same period.

IV. New Business

Eric Henry (FDOT): We are looking for the next location to hold the CST Mega Meeting. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) building is a good lead, but if anybody has any other locations that they think could be suitable, feel free to let us know. Mark Eastty stated that they have a large room at the EOC that would accommodate a lot of people as well as some breakout rooms.

Kathy Gademer (City of Dunedin): The City of Dunedin just started their bicycle pedestrian master plan update. They are hoping it will be a six-month project, and they are working with Kimley Horn on that. They are including a 2011 bicycle pedestrian master plan into their multi-modal transportation plan. The City of Dunedin is holding an event of February 1st. It is a golf cart to low-speed vehicle conversion event. They are working with a couple of golf cart dealers and insurance agents and will be explaining the process and how to do it the right way with the tax collectors department. They will be highlighting safety on the roadway as well. It will be from 9:00am to 11:00am at City Hall.

Mike Zinn (FDOT): Back in May of 2021, District 7 formed a new committee called IDEA (Impaired Driving Education Awareness), primarily for Hillsborough County. FDOT wants to bring this into Pinellas County. The next kickoff meeting will be on January 22nd at 2:00pm at FDOT Pinellas Operations Office. Mike invited the CTST group to join.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): The February meeting will be an in-person meeting at the traffic operations building. After the meeting there will be a tour of the traffic operations facility. They give a presentation on the different signaling and how traffic signals work in Pinellas County.

Upcoming Meeting: February 6, 2025, 10:00am – In Person Meeting, Pinellas County Government, 22211 US 19 N, Building 1, Clearwater, Florida



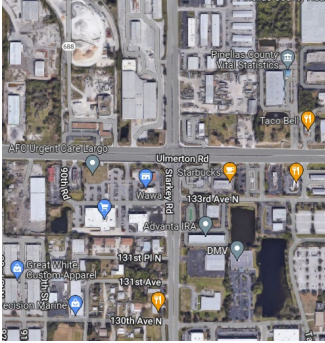
MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 2025


Meeting adjourned at 10:40am

Attendees: Rick Adams (Nations Traffic Safety School), Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Darby Bryant (Pinellas County), Anthony Chaumont (JMT), Jill Cox (SPPD), Mark Easty (PCSO), George Edmiston (Benesch), Kathy Gademer (City of Dunedin), Gina Harvey (Pinellas County Public Works), Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering Group), David Hegarty (City of St. Petersburg), Eric Henry (FDOT), Peter Hsu (FDOT), Richard Interrante (PCSO), Denise Kreais (PCSO), Blaine Loring (PCSO), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), Lori Palaio (JMT), Sheila Rainey (John's Hopkins All Children's), James Reiser (LEL), Autumn Westermann (Pinellas County Schools), Richard Wilson (Benesch), Mike Zinn (FDOT)

PROBLEM LOCATIONS – JANUARY 2025

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. 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. Mark Easty 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> <p>School just started back up. No update.</p>

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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)	1/9/25		<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. 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> <p>David Hegarty, from City of St. Petersburg, stated that the signal timing to increase the all-red time to try and reduce those red-light running collisions is complete. FDOT will be implementing some signage improvements in February. This will be monitored.</p>