



West Central CTST – March 12, 2025

Meeting started at 1:33pm

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

II. **Minutes** were approved for February 2025.

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

1. **Mariner Boulevard:** Bill Riha and Mike Zinn from FDOT are still in the process of reviewing the findings from the RSA.
2. **US 41 and Middle School Road:** Eric Henry stated that Mike Zinn had a meeting with law enforcement contacts. They identified some things that they are going to try to work on, but Eric hasn't heard anything further.
3. **Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail:** No update.
4. **Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard:** No update.

IV. **Calendar Updates/Activity Reports**

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): The Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program ends on Monday, March 31st, so that will be the last day for details. Then they will get the equipment orders and prepare for the ceremony. Hernando County Sheriff's Office is getting a speed feedback trailer. Citrus County will be getting two light towers and two variable message boards.

Eric Henry (FDOT): FDOT will be out on Saturday, March 22nd at the Good Neighbor Pedal Play Day in Brooksville, which is organized by a downtown Brooksville partnership and revitalization deal. The event will be a Russell Street Park. There will be a bike rodeo, as well as some safety skill workshops. FDOT will be there as a vendor with a safety table.

Jeannine Laurence (MADD): Tampa Bay Walk like MADD is on March 28th at USF. It is available to any impaired driving victims or families or any other organizations that want to be part of it. The nomination for Law Enforcement Recognition is now open. The nominations are available to everyone in the state of Florida. It is available to law enforcement, community members that are helping to end impaired driving, etc.

V. **Fatal Crash Map**

Lori Palaio (JMT): For Citrus County, from January 1st to December 29th, 2024, there were 30 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to November 29th, 2024, there were 29 fatal crashes. There is one new fatal crash since the last CTST - other fatal crash (pedestrian). The fatal crash occurred on December 18th, 2024, at 6:15pm (Report Number 26425996) on SR 44 and North Maynard Avenue, at the T-intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions and was pedestrian related (coded as other). Vehicle one was traveling southeast on State Road 44 in the outside lane just northwest of North Maynard Avenue. Vehicle two was stopped southbound at the entrance of an RV park. The non-motorist was assisting vehicle two (RV) in backing out from the driveway access of the RV park. The driver of vehicle



one did not observe the non-motorist and attempted to overcorrect towards the inside lane of travel to avoid striking the non-motorist. Subsequently the right front of vehicle one struck the non-motorist. After collision, the non-motorist landed near the entrance/exit of the RV park and vehicle one continued to the southwest grass shoulder on State Road 44. The driver of vehicle two began backing out from the driveway access of RV park onto the eastbound lanes of State Road 44. Vehicle two then struck the non-motorist.

There are currently 30 fatal crashes through December 29th, 2024. Same period in 2023 there were 24 fatal crashes. Citrus County is up by six fatal crashes same period. Run off road fatal crashes are highest fatal crash type in Citrus County, representing 23.3 percent of fatal crashes.

For Hernando, from January 1st to December 29th, 2024, there were 40 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to November 29th, 2024, there were 34 fatal crashes. There have been six new fatal crashes since the last CTST – one rollover, one left turn, two head-on, and two run off the road fatal crashes. For the rollover fatal crash, it occurred on December 8th, 2024, at 12:44am (Report Number 26420441) on Saturn Road and Hidden Oaks Drive, not at the intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was northbound negotiating the curve on Saturn Road. The driver of the vehicle failed to maintain control, traveling off the roadway to the right onto the north shoulder and began to rotate counterclockwise. As a result, the vehicles right side collided with a wooden fence and overturned in the woods.

For the left turn fatal crash, it occurred on November 28th, 2024, at 4:04pm (Report Number 26467124) on US 41 and Ayers Road at the four-way intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. It was motorcycle related. Vehicle one was traveling east in the eastbound left turn lane of Ayers Road approaching US 41. Vehicle two was traveling west in the westbound through lane of Ayers Road approaching US 41. The driver of vehicle one failed to observe vehicle two as driver one turned left to travel north on US 41. As a result, the passenger side of vehicle one collided with the front of vehicle two.

For the first head-on fatal crash, it occurred on November 29th, 2024, at 9:45pm (Report Number 26283554) on Northcliffe Boulevard and Merchant Avenue, not at the intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was traveling west on Northcliffe Boulevard in the inside lane east of Merchant Avenue. Vehicle two was traveling east on Northcliffe Boulevard in the inside lane west of Merchant Avenue. For unknown reasons, vehicle one drifted across the continuous left turn lane and into the travel path of vehicle two. The left front of vehicle one collided with the left front of vehicle two.

For the second head-on fatal crash, it occurred on December 19th, 2024, 7:20pm (Report Number 26465081) on Sunshine Grove Road and Moon Road, not at the intersection, in dark not-lighted, fog/smoke conditions. Vehicle one was traveling north on Sunshine Grove Road, north of Moon Road. Vehicle two was traveling south on Sunshine Grove Road, approaching Moon Road. Vehicle one traveled into the southbound lane and entered the direct path of vehicle two.

For the first run off the road fatal crash, it occurred on December 3rd, 2024, at 12:34am (Report Number 26420436) on CR 480 and Weatherly Road, not at intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was eastbound negotiating the curve on Croom Road just east of Weatherly Road.



The driver failed to maintain control of the vehicle, traveling off the roadway to the right onto the south shoulder. As a result, the front of the vehicle collided with a DOT curve warning sign.

For the second run off the road fatal crash, it occurred on December 21st, 2024, at 5:10am (Report Number 26424094) on US 301 and Ranchette Boulevard, not at the intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was northbound on US 301, just north of Ranchette Boulevard intersection. While continuing northbound, the vehicle failed to maintain control and left the roadway to the left. The vehicle entered onto the west grassy shoulder where the front of the vehicle struck a tree.

There are 40 fatal crashes through December 29th, 2024. Same period in 2023, there were 44 fatal crashes. Down by four fatal crashes same period. Run off road fatal crashes are the highest fatal crash type in Hernando County, representing 17.5 percent of the fatal crashes.

VI. SRTS Update

Jim McLean (Citizen): The project on Forest Ridge Boulevard is considered to start in 2027.

VII. HSIP Update

Eric Henry (FDOT): HSIP applications are still open. For the HSIP application on LED stop signs, FDOT is currently reviewing it and looking at the crash data just to make sure it is supported with a benefit-cost analysis.

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

None.

IX. Open Forum/Announcements

Jim McLean (Citizen): There will be a one-mile walk, and a 5k run on Saturday, April 5th on the Withlacoochee State Trail. At the end of April, there will be a bicycle ride on the trail. Jim will send this information to Tina Russo.

Eric Henry (FDOT): Beverly Howard has been a long-term member of the CTST, spanning back 10 years. She will be scaling back her involvement and doesn't anticipate being able to participate in the CTST group any longer.

X. Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting: April 9, 2025, 1:30pm – In-Person Meeting, FDOT District 7, Brooksville Operations Center, 16411 Spring Hill Drive, Brooksville, FL 34604

Meeting adjourned at 1:53pm.

Attendees: Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Bob Esposito (Hernando/Citrus MPO), Samantha Gigante (Hernando County Sheriff's Office), Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering Group), Eric Henry (FDOT), Jeannine Laurence (MADD), Jim McLean (Citizen), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), Lori Palaio (JMT), Tina Russo (FDOT)



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	Nov 2023	<p>Mariner Boulevard</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qj9</p>	Sgt. Andrews	February 2025		<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. 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 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. Eric Henry will follow up with Emmeth to see if we can get an update at the next meeting. Eric Henry stated that JMT completed the RSA. Eric Henry stated that FDOT received the finalized report, but the report is awaiting the final sign-off. Hopefully at the next meeting, Eric will be able to provide some of the findings and recommendations and what improvements they will implement. Bill Riha and Mike Zinn from FDOT are still in the process of reviewing the findings from the RSA.</p>



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
2	August 2024	<p>US 41 and Middle School Road</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/pm1so8aFJgXBWd9c7</p>	Jeffrey Hunter	Jan 2025		<p>US 41 and Middle School Road near Inverness Middle School is currently undergoing widening from a two-lane to a four-lane road. 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. 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. Bob Esposito (MPO) stated that FDOT is looking into doing traffic counts. Laura Anstead 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. 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. FDOT conducted a field review prior to 7am to observe the traffic movements, and counts were low from the previous analysis. There is currently an active construction project that is widening US 41 including at this location. Due to construction, they cannot do a full signal study, but they will readdress the location later. The school zone is marked with suggested speed, and it is not an actual school zone sign. There is an old sign going northbound and a portable sign going southbound. Mike Zinn from FDOT will get ahold of the contractor immediately. Discussion followed. Eric Henry stated that Mike Zinn had a</p>



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						<p>meeting with law enforcement contacts. They identified some things that they are going to try to work on, but Eric hasn't heard anything further.</p>



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



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						<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. 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. 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.</p>



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LONG TERM LISTING						
2	Jan 2022	Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard  https://goo.gl/maps/oqJoiXfvBxeksW1T9	HC / Todd	Jan 2025		<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. This item will not be removed until the paint has been put down. 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 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. The striping crew is currently working in the county, and they have it on their to-do list. Hopefully they will get this done this month or next month. Ernie Lane talked to the striping contractor and the contractor stated that they have had some recent</p>



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						problems with personnel. Ernie will see where they are on the list and then Ernie will send out an email. No update.