

### Pinellas CTST – April 3, 2025

Meeting started at 10:02am

#### I. General Meeting

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

#### II. Committee Reports

##### *Enforcement*

Jeffrey Estoch (St. Pete PD): St. Pete PD is continuing with their motorcycle safety operations. They are doing them at least once a week for four hours with four officers. They are also continuing their High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) operations, focusing on pedestrian safety for the upcoming month.

Jim Reiser (LEL): LEL just completed the entries for the law enforcement safety challenge. They are being reviewed right now and hopefully they will get the notice to the agencies within the next month or so whether they placed in the challenge. The safety challenge tracks traffic safety, outreach, and enforcement activities that are conducted by a particular agency during a calendar year. The award ceremony will be in July in Orlando. Click it or Ticket is coming up in May over the Memorial Day weekend.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): ELEE operations ended on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Brentin is working on getting the final details from the agencies and compiling those and getting their equipment orders. The ELEE ceremony will be in June. They submitted their scope of work for the next ELEE, which they are hoping to kick off in May or June.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): On March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, Mark attended the Florida Impaired Driving Coalition. At the coalition, they discussed that FDOT received a grant from NHTSA to update the statewide crash form. It hasn't been updated since June of 2013. The implementation may start sometime next year, so there will be a new statewide updated crash form. Also, Senate Bill 138, also known as Trenton's Law, is being updated. The Senate Bill is adding some verbiage to the DUI statute to include any impairing substances. Currently, the statute states impairing substances are when somebody's breath or blood alcohol is 0.08, or any other chemical or controlled substances. The issue law enforcement is having is that Ambien isn't a controlled substance under the 89313 Florida State Statute, and it is really impairing people. If they arrest somebody that is impaired by it because it isn't covered under 89313, the state attorney's office cannot prosecute it. This has been brought up numerous times and it has been quickly shot down. But it is now getting some traction, was through some subcommittees, through a policy committee, etc. March 10<sup>th</sup> through March 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Pete College had a radar laser class that Mark taught. PCSO also finished up work with ELEE and they are still working on their HVE and speed grants. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Mark attended the MADD West Central Florida's Gala, which was at Seaworld. There were a bunch of keynote speakers, the chief for Clermont PD, the mayor of Orlando, etc. Next month, PCSO is hosting an IPTM course called the Medical Foundations of Visual Systems Testing. It is a free class from April 9<sup>th</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup>. Tomorrow, PCSO is going to Tampa International Airport to welcome home Deputy Dellechiaie. He was involved in a significant crash back in October of 2024 after the hurricane. He received a very severe TBI and was in Atlanta getting physical therapy. There will be a big welcome back celebration for him tomorrow.

Discussion followed on the new crash form coming and when it will be implemented. They are adding a lot of interesting things to the crash reports, such as micromobility, etc. It is still in the early phases of when it will be implemented. There will have to be training for law enforcement in the new crash reports. Discussion followed.

Jennifer Hall, Nations Traffic Safety School, explained the phases of the crash reports. Phase one is 2025 for the MUCC alignment planning and update planning. Phase two is the 2026 database design, and MUCC database documentation updates. Phase three is software and system testing, so a full MUCC implementation is in 2027. Phase four is implementation and validation in 2028. Phase five is training and support final evaluation and report to NHTSA in 2029.

### *Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian*

Eric Henry (FDOT): The next round of Safe Streets for All funding just opened. Everyone should have received an email this morning on this with some detailed information. The deadline for the application is June 26<sup>th</sup>. There is close to a billion dollars available.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin thanked Pinellas Park PD for helping lead the Bike Your City Ride on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Today there is an event at USF St. Pete with MADD, FHP, and other partners, talking to people at that campus. If anyone is doing anything for Bike to School Day in May, let Brentin know. They are doing education with Northshore Elementary School in St. Petersburg on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### *Education*

Sheila Rainey (John's Hopkins All Children's Hospital): They are wrapping up their bike safety poster contest. Pinellas County had six entries submitted. They are judging the posters on Tuesday and prizes will go out to the kids in April. March 18<sup>th</sup>, they trained the Clearwater crossing guards to be helmet fitters. So, they are going to use that in their daily activities and at National Night Out as well.

Jason Jackman (CUTR): CUTR has a distracted driving awareness program. It is currently distracted driving awareness month. Throughout April and May, they are trying to do some events in the Tampa Bay area through an FDOT project.

Jennifer Hall (Nations Traffic Safety School): Jennifer attended the Teen Safe Driving Coalition. The DHSMV recently had to do their five-year effectiveness study of the BDI class, ADI class, etc. With that, they are looking at opportunities to improve their driver education program. Senate Bill 994 and House Bill 889 is going to update driver education requirements for people under the age of 18. Nations Traffic Safety School just finished putting together a document to update driver education as a whole, so that the department of education can look at it. Another legislation topic is that they are looking at the handheld cellphone driving ban, Senate Bill 1318 and House Bill 501. The bill is trying to make it that if you have a phone in your hand on the road, you can get a ticket. Another one that came up is the traffic infraction enforcement for railroad crossings and work zones in Senate Bill 812 and House Bill 1275. Jennifer discussed the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association. They formed a Florida association that is dual membership with them to develop a better conversation between all areas of driver and traffic safety. Jennifer Hall is the chair of the association. The numbers are coming out from Hurricane Milton and DHSMV, so Nations Traffic Safety School will be collecting those and putting that into charts.

### III. Old Business

#### *Problem Locations*

1. **Passing School Busses:** No update. Mark Eastty will look into Oak Grove Middle School.
2. **Signal @ Starkey Road north at Willow Road:** No update.
3. **5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North (Alt. 19) and 8<sup>th</sup> Street North:** Mark will reach out to St. Pete PD to see if there is an update on if crashes have gone down or not.

John Rieman (Pinellas County): There was a man on a wheelchair hit on 66<sup>th</sup> Street and 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue a few days ago. John asked if the individual was homeless or not, since there is a homeless shelter near there. Mark wasn't sure of the details, but he stated that FHP worked that crash investigation.

Richard Hartman (City of Clearwater): There have been multiple vehicle crashes at the intersection of Countryside Boulevard and SR 580 and Enterprise Road and SR 580. Richard stated that it could use some review and analysis. Mark will reach out to the sergeant at Clearwater PD and see if they can do additional enforcement there. Discussion followed.

#### *HSIP and SRTS Projects*

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): The last applications are being reviewed and funded. Mahshid has been contacted by some cities and counties for new applications. A lot of times the point of contact for HSIP and SRTS changes. Mahshid will be sending emails out asking who the point of contact is.

#### *High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map*

Mark Eastty (PCSO): From January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, there were 29 fatal crashes with 31 fatalities. This year we are at 24 fatal crashes with 25 fatalities, so it is lower, which is good. The final report from 2024 was lower than 2023. In 2023 there were 102 fatal crashes and 110 fatalities. The final numbers for 2024 were 99 fatal crashes with 106 fatalities. We improved from 2023, so hopefully we can keep that going.

Lori Palaio (JMT): Lori showed the 2024 Safety Facts at a Glance Sheet. It is also in the District 7 Safety Newsletter. This shows that for all of District 7, we are down in total crashes, total severe injuries and total fatalities in 2024 compared to 2023. In Pinellas County, we are down in total crashes in 2024, but we are up in severe injuries and fatalities. For all of District 7, we are up in aggressive and speeding for all crashes and fatalities, and down in severe injuries. We are up in motorcycle crashes and fatal crashes. Lori discussed the different trends in 2024 vs. 2023. Discussion followed. The data is unofficial and subject to change.

### IV. New Business

Richard Hartman (City of Clearwater): The City of Clearwater has a community workshop for the active transportation plan coming up at 5:30pm on April 10<sup>th</sup> at Countryside Library. They have a survey that has been out that is for the public.

Jason Jackman (CUTR): Jason Jackman gave a presentation on the Tampa Bay Community Safety Academy. Jason Jackman introduced the Tampa Bay Community Safety Academy, a pilot program by the

Florida Department of Transportation District Seven. The program is fully virtual and synchronous, meaning it involves real-time interaction between participants, facilitators, and presenters. The academy aims to engage community members and empower them to become safety ambassadors. It focuses on safety initiatives happening locally, statewide, and nationally. The program is based on best practices from the National Institute for Congestion Reduction and the University of South Florida's CUTR program. The course will be six weeks long, with weekly agendas and six modules covering different topics each week. The program will be flexible and interactive, with a cap of 35 participants to ensure a personable experience. There will be an online registration process, and the rollout is expected in the fall. Jason emphasized the importance of focus testing the program with CTST members in District Seven to make it effective and enjoyable. Participants will be surveyed to provide feedback, which will be included in the final report. Overall, the Tampa Bay Community Safety Academy aims to enhance awareness of safety initiatives and create a memorable learning experience for community members in District Seven. If anyone has questions or wants to be involved in the focus group, they are encouraged to reach out. Discussion followed.

Mark Eastty (PSCO): Last week was the new opening of the southbound Howard Franklin Bridge. There will not be a regular meeting next month because there will be the CTST Mega Meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> in Citrus County. MADD is doing the Second Annual Golf like MADD at Crescent Oaks Golf Club in Tarpon Springs on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Lori Palaio (JMT): The CTST Mega Meeting will be at Citrus Springs Community Center. There will be an RSVP link sent out next week with additional information. There will be some panels and great presentations. So, we look forward to seeing everyone there. If Mark is available, we would love to have him present a short five-minute presentation on some of the accomplishments, and some things that we did within the past year with Pinellas CTST. If anybody has any ideas to bring to the table on that presentation, let Lori or Mark know so we can get that incorporated into the presentation. Discussion followed.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): The June meeting date has changed. We will get that information sent out. It won't be the first Thursday of the month.

**Upcoming Meeting:** May 8, 2025 – CTST Mega Meeting – 1570 W Citrus Springs Boulevard, Citrus Springs, FL 34434

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am

**Attendees:** Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas), Jeffrey Dunn (Unknown), Mark Eastty (PCSO), Jeffrey Estoch (St. Pete PD), Chelsea Favero (Forward Pinellas), Kathy Gademer (City of Dunedin), Jennifer Hall (Nations Traffic Safety School), Rick Hartman (City of Clearwater), Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering Group), David Hegarty (City of St. Petersburg), Eric Henry (FDOT), Richard Interrante (PCSO), Jason Jackman (USF CUTR), Denise Kreais (PCSO Grants), Blaine Loring (PCSO), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), Logan O'Brien (FDOT), Lori Palaio (JMT), Sheila Rainey (John's Hopkins All Children's Hospital), Jim Reiser (LEL), Joan Rice (Pinellas County), John Rieman (Pinellas County), Autumn Westermann (Pinellas County Schools)

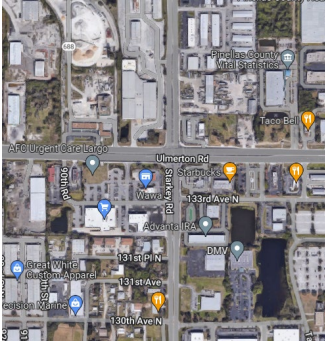
## PROBLEM LOCATIONS - APRIL 2025

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	11/4/21	Passing School Buses	Deputy Miller, Joe Camera	3/6/25		<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. Mark will follow up on information on speed cameras in school zones. Autumn Westermann from Pinellas County Schools has a</p>

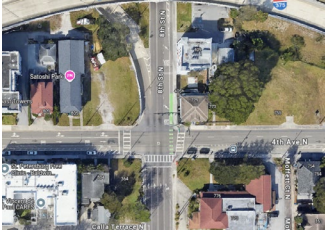
## PROBLEM LOCATIONS - APRIL 2025

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
						complaint at Oak Grove Middle School. Mark Eastty will get extra enforcement out there. <b>No update. Mark Eastty will look into Oak Grove Middle School.</b>



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
2	7/8/22	<p>Signal @ Starkey Road north at Willow Avenue</p>  <p><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/mP4aTReBBao4HLwn6">https://goo.gl/maps/mP4aTReBBao4HLwn6</a></p>	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><b>No update.</b></p>

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3	11/7/2024	<p>5th Avenue North (Alt. 19) and 8th Street North</p>  <p><a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/jsXXckzZ4Xu2DTEj9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/jsXXckzZ4Xu2DTEj9</a></p>	David Hegarty (COSP)	2/6/25		<p>He stated that the City has one specific intersection with a high volume of red-light running crashes/collisions - 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North (Alt. 19) and 8<sup>th</sup> 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. 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. David Hegarty, from City of St. Petersburg, stated that the signal timing is complete. Warning signs will be installed within the next month or so. <b>Mark will reach out to St. Pete PD to see if there is an update on if crashes have gone down or not.</b></p>