

**Hillsborough CTST – June 25, 2025**

Meeting started at 9:30am

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Introductions were given. April 2025 minutes were approved.

**II. Membership Reports**

**Enforcement and Crash Statistics**

Jacob Gonzalez (TPD): For Tampa Police Department (TPD), they ended May with 127 DUI arrests, which is down compared to 2024. As of last night, there have been 89 DUI arrests for the month of June. In June of last year there were 138 DUI arrests, so they trended down as well. There were three responsible vendor trainings done in June. In June there was one fatal traffic crash, which was a single vehicle motorcycle fatal crash, and it doesn't appear to be DUI related. TPD has an upcoming operation on July 4<sup>th</sup> with Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

Jim Reiser (LEL): Operation Southern Slow Down is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. This week-long anti-speeding campaign will involve all law enforcement agencies within District 7. The campaign will kick off with a press event at the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) headquarters on McKinley Drive at 10:00 AM on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The initiative will last for a week, during which statistics will be tracked to measure its impact. Discussion followed. Abigail Flores inquired whether officers would be issuing warnings or citations during traffic stops. James Reiser explained that it would be at the officer's discretion, but egregious violations, especially high speeds, would likely result in citations. He mentioned potential enhancements to penalties, including a Super Speeder bill that could provide more tools for handling high-speed cases. During the discussion, Abigail Flores inquired about a bill that proposed increasing the posted speed limits on freeways to 70 miles per hour. Jim responded that any changes to speed limits are currently off the table. He mentioned that the focus is on penalties for drivers who violate existing speed limits. He also noted that there was a bill proposing an increase to 80 miles per hour on limited access facilities, but it did not advance. Emily Hinsdale, Sidewalk Stompers, confirmed that the bill did not move forward.

Sgt. Owens (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit): Sgt. Owens reported that in May, their motor units conducted 4,674 traffic stops, issued 834 citations, and made 42 arrests. They also participated in a multi-agency Click It or Ticket campaign on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, focusing on State Road 60, resulting in 156 stops, 52 seatbelt citations, and 39 warnings.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin provided an update on the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program, which kicked off its fourth round on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will run through February 2026. The program involves law enforcement agencies conducting enforcement on state roads to earn points redeemable for equipment. All agencies in Hillsborough County, except the airport, are participating. Brentin noted that while they have data on warnings and citations for different categories. Discussion followed.



Nicole Marchesano (USFPD): Nicole shared observations about the impact of the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement program on Fowler Avenue. She noted that the increased presence of law enforcement, including HCSO and TPD, has led to a noticeable reduction in speeding. This effect is evident throughout the day, indicating that the program's message is effectively reaching drivers. Now that she is back on the day shift, she has observed a significant number of drivers slowing down, demonstrating the program's success in promoting safer driving behaviors.

Lori Palaio (JMT): From January 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, there have been 49 fatal crashes. These include 11 pedestrian, seven left turns, seven other, six right angle, six bicycle, four rear end, four off road, two head on, and two rollover fatal crashes. During the same period in 2024, there were 42 fatal crashes, so we are up by seven fatal crashes. Pedestrian and bicycle fatal crashes represent 35 percent of the fatal crashes. Approximately 53 percent of those pedestrian and bicycle fatal crashes occur on state roads. There were 11 motorcycle fatal crashes. Six of those motorcycle fatal crashes (55 percent) occurred on state roads. Of all the fatal crashes, approximately 53 percent occurred at night. Approximately 63 percent of all the fatal crashes did not occur at an intersection.

### **Health Agencies/Safety Groups**

Emmeth Duran (FDOT): Emmeth provided updates on upcoming coalition meetings. The teen coalition is meeting in Orlando this week, and an update will be provided next month. The pedestrian and bicycle safety coalition will also meet in Orlando next month, with more updates to follow. Emmeth mentioned that the pedestrian and bicycle safety coalition will meet in Tampa in October, and anyone interested is welcome to attend, provided they give a heads-up to ensure enough room. The event will span two half-days, with public agencies and advocacy groups typically presenting.

Rick Adams (Nations Traffic Safety School): Rick provided an update on the Teen Safety Driving Coalition meeting in Orlando this week. He mentioned a new bill that passed the legislature, which mandates that traffic law substance abuse education will only be for individuals over the age of 18. A new six-hour curriculum is being developed and reviewed in the state. Schools are uncertain if they will be ready by July 1<sup>st</sup> to implement the program for those under 18 in an educational program. Abigail asked if the program would be offered through schools or as a voluntary course. The program will likely be available at many high schools and possibly online. Rick highlighted the challenge of validating online courses, as there is no way to monitor who is taking the course. Discussion followed.

### **School Operations**

Shirley Ready (Hillsborough County School District): Morgan High School will open in August in Wimauma on West Lake Drive. The county should be installing a crosswalk near the school with flashing school zone signs.

The Hillsborough County crossing guard unit provided an update on crossing guard vacancies, mentioning that Turner/Bartels K-8 in New Tampa and Dorothy York Innovation PreK-8 Academy in Riverview have vacancies that need to be filled before the start of the school year.



Abigail Flores (Hillsborough County): Abigail asked about the effectiveness of school bus cameras in getting drivers to comply. Shirley Ready noted that numerous tickets have been issued, and while some individuals have filed lawsuits claiming the tickets were incorrect, these have not been successful. Lori Palaio, JMT stated that Corey Norris will present more information on school bus cameras at the next meeting. Discussion followed.

Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers): Emily asked about updates on school zone speed cameras. Sgt. Demetrius German from TPD responded that at least one speed camera should be operational by the beginning of the school term in August, with more coming online by the end of 2025. These cameras will operate only during school times.

### **Engineering/Planning**

Emmeth Duran (FDOT): Emmeth provided updates on several projects and initiatives. A new signal is being activated on Fowler Ave at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, west of 56<sup>th</sup> Street. This intersection will be an RCUT (Restricted Crossing U-turn) intersection with signalized left turns and a pedestrian crossing. Outreach efforts are ongoing for this project as well as for new pedestrian hybrid beacons on Busch Boulevard at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. Emmeth mentioned a challenge with HSIP applications for equipment for zipper style delineators. These separators are not compliant with the Build America Buy America Act, as no U.S. vendor manufactures them. Alternatives are being explored, and a waiver may be sought to allow their use. Discussion followed. Regarding the pedestrian signal piloting, Emmeth confirmed that the project is ongoing, with updates to locations being made. The original locations did not include any in District 7. The midblock pedestrian signals on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Pinellas County are working well, with minimal impact on corridor congestion. Abigail Flores suggested making past presentations available on the website, and Emmeth mentioned a recent presentation by Tina Russo (FDOT) and Andrew Gray (JMT) at the Transportation Symposium in Hollywood on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, which could be scheduled for a future CTST meeting.

Abigail received a TPO update on her email. The update was from Lisa Silva from Hillsborough TPO. It stated that they kicked off the Henderson Boulevard-Manhattan Avenue Vision Plan and its implementation of Vision Zero along a four-mile segment along a high injury network corridor, overlapping county, city and DOT owned right of way. Consultants have identified existing conditions on the corridor and asked for comments on initial high-level recommendations. Consultant to schedule next meeting to share comments. The TPO is looking forward to participating in World Car Free Day 2025.

Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers): Emily Hinsdale stated that the stakeholders group conducted traffic counts and a walk audit of the entire corridor on Manhattan Avenue to Henderson Boulevard stretching from Gandy Boulevard in the south end to Kennedy Boulevard on the north end. Part of the corridor is FDOT, part is county, and part is city, so it is very complicated to coordinate any changes. The project is a visioning study. The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to review findings from the walk audit and the collected data, and to start formulating a plan. The focus of this Vision Zero initiative is on all roadway users, addressing driver crashes, pedestrian, and bike safety. Currently, the corridor lacks



connectivity for bikes and pedestrians, with many broken sidewalks and no bike facilities in large portions. Discussion followed.

Abigail Flores (Hillsborough County): Abigail Flores shared several updates on safety and mobility programs for Hillsborough County. This year, there are 32 project developments for various corridors, including pedestrian, bicycle, Vision Zero, and corridors where residents have requested safety improvements. Additionally, 44 intersection locations have been identified for safety enhancements, all aimed at reducing fatal and severe crashes and improving access for pedestrians and cyclists. Abigail emphasized a proactive approach, using crash data as one of many data points to inform project development. They consider risk factors such as high posted speeds, the number of lanes, and areas with significant walking and biking activity. One project includes Balm River Road from US 41 to US 301 and identifying shared use paths. Another project is Bruce B Downs Boulevard, which addresses the gap in the separated bike facility from USF Holly Drive to Cypress Cay Boulevard. Another project is Sims Rd from US 301 to Balm Riverview Road and Causeway Boulevard from Falkenburg Road to Brandon, where they are collaborating with FDOT to improve bike network connectivity, especially at intersections and bridges. For pedestrian corridor safety, major projects include Bearss Avenue from Smither Road to Casey Road and Harney Road from Sligh Avenue to 56<sup>th</sup> Street. They are implementing mid-block crossings, pedestrian hybrid beacons, new sidewalks, and shared use paths. The Vision Zero plan update is underway, with a strong community component to keep the CTST involved and up to date. Additionally, 44 surfact resurfacing projects are in progress, combining resurfacing with project development to reduce lane widths and driver speeds. Abigail also provided updates on the Safe Streets for All projects, including Safe Routes to Schools. Designs for Brandon High School and Limona Elementary School schools are complete, and 22 projects are in design and construction phases. These projects include pedestrian, bicycle, Safe Routes to School, and Safe Access to Transit projects. Community engagement will be a part of these projects, with various levels of involvement planned. Emily Hinsdale inquired about funding for school designs, and Abigail confirmed that construction is funded. The Hillsborough County community engagement team will share plans for community engagement as the projects progress.

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): Mahshid Arasteh provided an update on the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Most previous applications have been funded, and new applications are being accepted for the new fiscal year. Mahshid emphasized the importance of including the ship-to address and ensuring products comply with the Build America Buy America Act. She also guided attendees on how to access the application form on the Tampa Bay Traffic Safety website. Discussion followed.

### **Community Organizations/University**

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin provided an update on the outreach efforts for the new pedestrian hybrid beacons on Busch Boulevard. There are two new beacons, one at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and another just east of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street signal. The outreach includes on-the-street interactions with pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as a digital campaign with social media ads to inform the public on how to use the beacons. Next month, outreach will begin at the Fowler and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street crossing, near the Publix before 56<sup>th</sup> Street, with similar on-the-street and digital messaging efforts. Brentin mentioned that during the outreach, they distribute surveys, tip cards on how the pedestrian hybrid beacon works, and safety items like reflective bags or



bicycle lights. Abigail suggested creating a YouTube video on how to use the beacons, and Brentin noted that FDOT already has an existing video. Abigail encouraged everyone to familiarize themselves with the controls to promote safety awareness. Brentin agreed to provide a presentation at a future meeting.

Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers): Emily announced that they are starting outreach to schools for walking and biking programs in the fall. She invited anyone aware of interested schools to reach out. Emily also mentioned funding available for a road mural project within the City of Tampa and encouraged suggestions for locations that emphasize safety needs. Additionally, she highlighted the upcoming World Car Free Day Tampa on September 20th, seeking sponsors and participants for the event.

Ellen Snelling (Tampa Alcohol Coalition): Ellen Snelling provided updates on Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). The annual candlelight vigil is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> at Mission Hills Church on 56<sup>th</sup> Street. This event brings together law enforcement and victims of impaired driving crashes to support each other and share their stories. She also mentioned an Anti-Drug Alliance meeting at the Children's Board, featuring a speaker on substance abuse and mental health.

### III. Follow-Up Items

*Plant City Engineer Fed Baxter asked about safety projects planned for high crash corridor US92. Eric stated at a previous meeting that FDOT did a high-level crash analysis on US 92 from County Line Road to east of Wiggins Road. They are looking into this further to see if there are any safety studies or lighting studies planned for. Eric to share update at July meeting.*

*Eric is looking to see if there can be a presentation at a future CTST meeting on the recently passed lane repurposing statute. He is hoping someone can give a presentation in the next few months. Abigail stated that for the lane repurpose statute, it says if we are going to repurpose any part of the travel lane, we have to do additional study. We want additional context from FDOT so we can get consistency with the agencies in this region. We will follow up with Eric on this.*

Emmeth Duran (FDOT) to provide update on outreach efforts for new signal being activated on Fowler Ave at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, west of 56<sup>th</sup> Street. This intersection will be an RCUT (Restricted Crossing U-turn) intersection with signalized left turns and a pedestrian crossing. Outreach efforts are ongoing for this project as well as for new pedestrian hybrid beacons on Busch Boulevard at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

### IV. Presentations

Karen Kress (Tampa Downtown Partnership): Karen Kress provided an in-depth overview of the data collection and analysis efforts for pedestrian and bicycle counts in downtown Tampa. The process began with identifying more sites than there was equipment for, leading the committee to use Google Earth to narrow down and prioritize locations. They tested various equipment, including tubes, infrared, and cameras, across 14 different counting sites, primarily in the downtown area. The use cases for these initial scenarios included gathering counts on a new cycle track, advocating for improved conditions, establishing recommended routes, and a specific example of removing a traffic signal to replace it with an all-way stop. The committee conducted on-site visits to validate the chosen locations, even enduring rain to ensure





accuracy. One significant focus was the area around Tampa General Hospital, where counts were conducted to highlight the need for better bike and pedestrian conditions. The data collected, including mid-block crossings and sidewalk usage, was shared with the city and the hospital to inform potential improvement. Another example was Franklin Street, where data supported the removal of a traffic signal in favor of an all-way stop, enhancing the pedestrian experience. She also mentioned a project near Raymond James Stadium, where pedestrian counts during events showed an 18,000% increase, leading to discussions about signal timing, crossing guards, and other measures to improve pedestrian safety. Additionally, efforts were made to advocate for a proposed bicycle boulevard connecting downtown Tampa to Midtown and West Shore. The data collected from these efforts, including a permanent counter installed over a year ago, has provided valuable insights. As of the end of March, the counter had recorded 142,000 people, with a daily average of just under 1,600, and 80% of those being pedestrians. The highest recorded day saw 4,000 people, likely due to an event at Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park. She emphasized the importance of continuing collaboration within the Tampa data committee and suggested that updates on District 7's program could be provided in future meetings. Abigail Flores highlighted the significance of capturing pedestrian and bike counts, noting that Hillsborough County now requires consultants to include such data in their projects to better understand travel patterns and improve network connectivity. Karen concluded by mentioning that the City of Tampa has since purchased mobile cameras to conduct temporary counts, providing a more comprehensive understanding of use cases compared to tubes or infrared. Discussion followed.

## **V. Announcements**

Rick Adams (Nations Traffic Safety School): Nations Traffic Safety School now has updated defensive driver class completions versus crash data from 2019 to 2024. Email him if you want more information.

Abigail Flores (Hillsborough County): Abigail inquired about the existence of a Ride Transit to Work Week or if the focus was solely on the Car Free Day in September. Emily Hinsdale suggested that the group working on the HART route one free ride, might be doing something if there is such a day nationally. Craig Fox (Andrew Joseph Foundation) then mentioned that there are national events such as Get on Board Day on April 25<sup>th</sup> and Dump the Pump Day on June 19<sup>th</sup>, but he was unsure if there was a specific week dedicated to riding transit.

Lori Palaio (JMT): Lori announced that the October meeting date would be rescheduled due to the ped bike coalition. A survey with two date options will be sent out to determine the best date for the group. Lori also mentioned that Corey Norris will be present at the next meeting and might bring a vendor to address questions from the previous CTST Mega Meeting.

Abigail Flores (Hillsborough County): Abigail encouraged participants to send any items they want on the CTST online calendar or questions for presenters to Lori.

## **VI. Action Items (procedural items for committee vote)**

None.



**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:56am.

**Next Meeting: July 23 – Virtual Meeting, 9:30am**

**In attendance:** Rick Adams (Nations Traffic Safety School), Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Alexandra Arvelaiz (HCSO Grants), Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Anthony Chaumont (JMT), Emmeth Duran (FDOT), Abigail Flores (Hillsborough County), Craig Fox (Andrew Joseph Foundation), Demetrius German (TPD), Jacob Gonzalez (City of Tampa PD), James Hartwell (Element Engineering Group), Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers), Karen Kress (Tampa Downtown Partnership), David Liller (HCC Ybor), Nicole Marchesano (USF PD), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), Sgt. Owens (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit), Lori Palaio (JMT), Sogol Rajabafjeh (Hillsborough County Safety and Mobility), Shirley Ready (Hillsborough County School District), Jim Reiser (LEL), Ellen Snelling (Tampa Alcohol Coalition), Feliz Rivera (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit), Michael Tayler (Hillsborough County Emergency Medical Planning Council and Trauma Agency), Justine Towne (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit)