

Pinellas CTST – June 26, 2025

Meeting started at 10:06am

I. General Meeting

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

II. Committee Reports

Enforcement

Drew Thornsborough (Largo PD): Largo PD is conducting enforcement details for the Enhanced Law Enforcement Engagement (ELEE) program. They also put in for the High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) grant.

Wellington Bond (St. Pete PD): St. Pete PD is conducting motorcycle operations. High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) starts next month. St. Pete is currently down nine fatal crashes from last year.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): May was the CTST Mega Meeting. May 15th and May 16th was the Impaired Driving Coalition. The DUI Symposium was May 19th through May 22nd in Orlando. Pinellas has been working on details on US 19 for the past couple of months, and there has been an uptick in aggressive driving during rush hour. Deputy Loring stated that they gave out 579 citations, nine arrests, 295 warnings, and 767 traffic stops. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is also still conducting HVE.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): The fourth round of ELEE started June 1st, and it will end in February. June 5th was the ceremony for ELEE three, where law enforcement agencies received the equipment, they earned for their efforts.

Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian

John Rieman (Pinellas County): The pedestrian bridge is complete over the Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal and will be opening soon.

Eric Henry (FDOT): FDOT is looking into doing intersection safety initiatives on 38th Avenue North and 48th Street North in St. Petersburg. There has been an uptick in crashes, specifically left turn crashes southbound, heading east. FDOT is looking into signal timing modifications. Also, FDOT is looking at doing intersection safety on SR 580 and Countryside Boulevard in Clearwater. There is also an uptick in crashes at that intersection, so FDOT is performing a safety analysis and developing a collision diagram. They may look at signal timing modifications there as well. Discussion followed.

Emmeth Duran (FDOT): Alt 19 and Bay Pines Boulevard, near Walmart, is another hotspot for left turns, especially in the merging lane. They are looking into possibly adding delineators on the edge lines due to the merging issues.

Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas): Valerie mentioned her participation in the illegal bus passing survey. She is hoping the numbers are released soon from the survey results.

Jim Reiser (LEL): Jim discussed a bill to amend some of the rules on bus cameras on the ordinance violations. There was controversy in Miami-Dade due to some violations that shouldn't have been approved. Manatee County failed to do public outreach on bus cameras as well. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is placed in the Traffic Safety Challenge. The winners will be announced in Orlando in July. Click it or Ticket is wrapping up. Operation Southern Slowdown will begin in July.

Education

None.

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:** No update.

John Rieman (Pinellas County): The Airco Golf Course, which is now vacant, has a lot of homeless people in the area, especially around the Cracker Barrel. John expressed concern about the fatal crashes. Mark Eastty said he will keep an eye on that location and will see if there has been an uptick in fatal crashes.

Emmeth Duran (FDOT): They are retrofitting the lighting on Ulmerton Road from High Pressure Sodium (HPS) to Light Emitting Diode (LED).

Mark Eastty (PCSO): Mark discussed the motorcycle lane splitting issues, meaning that a motorcycle rider can navigate between lanes of slow-moving or stopped traffic. Discussion followed.

HSIP and SRTS Projects

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): Mahshid discussed that material requests take some time for approval. She explained that zipper style delineators aren't funded since the zipper style delineators are not Build America Buy America (BABA) compliant. Discussion followed. Mahshid said to look on FDOT's approved product list for HSIP requests. She also discussed putting the ship to address.

Emmeth Duran (FDOT): Federal funding must be BABA compliant. HSIP can do delineators and quick curb – although there are disadvantages to delineators and quick curb compared to zipper style delineators, it is still an option. Emmeth is hoping there will be a waiver for the product in the future.

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): July 1st is the new fiscal year. She discussed that if you go on www.tampabaytrafficsafety.com and then you go to engineering tab, you will find the HSIP page. There is a tutorial on the webpage on how to submit the application.

Emmeth Duran (FDOT): There are seven million dollars in Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant money statewide. Applications open in October. Discussion followed.

High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map

Mark Eastty (PCSO): From January 1st to May 23rd, 2025, there have been 34 fatal crashes and 38 fatalities. At the same time last year there were 48 fatal crashes and 50 fatalities. Discussion followed on toxicology results not being put on the state crash form, but only being put on an internal system. Mark asked John Reiman if there were any issues with missing information on recent crash reports and John said no. Discussion followed

IV. New Business

Mark Eastty (PCSO): MADD is conducting the Second Annual Golf Like MADD at Crescent Oaks Golf Club in Tarpon Springs in October. Mark will send Lori the information to send to the CTST group.

Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas): Valerie asked about the legality of scooters and the definition of scooters as micromobility. Mark Eastty stated that there is a 2025 Quick Reference Guide, which has some information on scooters. There are also pamphlets going to the schools of the legality. FDOT also stated that they have a lot of tip cards. Discussion followed.

John Rieman (Pinellas County): John Rieman found in his email that SR 580 and Countryside Boulevard had plans to do a four-section head from an email send in July 2023. John will send that email over to Emmeth.

Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith): Matt asked about the Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM) instructor course.

Emmeth Duran (FDOT): Emmeth explained House Bill 85 on Hazardous Walking Conditions. There are revised criteria that determines hazardous walking conditions for public school students, effective July 1st, 2025. He also discussed House Bill 567 which addresses electric bicycle regulations. Emmeth asked Lori to include a table of the bills discussed in the meeting minutes.

Bill	Effective	Summary	Safety Focus
HB 85 (<i>Hazardous Walking Conditions</i>)	7/1/2025	Expands criteria for identifying and addressing hazardous walking zones near schools (e.g., sidewalks adjacent to limited-access roadways) (flsenate.gov)	Pedestrian safety
SB 462 / HB 567 (<i>E-Bike Regulations</i>)	7/1/2025	Empowers local governments to set minimum age, require ID, and mandate safety training for e-bike riders	Bicycle/e-bike safety
HB 351 (<i>Dangerous Excessive Speeding</i>)	7/1/2025	Creates a criminal offense for exceeding the speed limit by 50 mph+ or driving 100 mph+, with jail time, hefty fines, and license revocation	Traffic safety (speed enforcement)
TLSAE Revisions (<i>Adult & Teen Driver Education</i>)	7/1/2025	- Requires all adult (18+) applicants to complete Traffic Law & Substance Abuse Education course- Requires teens (learner's permit holders) to complete an approved classroom driver education course	Road user/driver safety
HB 687 (<i>Trenton's Law – DUI/BUI Homicides</i>)	7/1/2025	Elevates penalties to felony for repeat DUI/BUI homicides and refusal of chemical testing	Traffic safety (impaired driving fatalities)
HB 961 (<i>FLHSMV Reforms</i>)	7/1/2025	Introduces lifetime disabled parking permit and designates "Move Over Awareness Week" in April	Traffic safety awareness (move-over laws, parking accessibility)

Discussion followed on substance abuse education courses. Teens are required to do a teens driver education course.

Discussion followed on DUI refusal and in Florida, DUI's are a misdemeanor for the first offense.

Discussion followed on Ambien impaired drivers.

Discussion followed on the Florida Statute 293.13 on controlled substances.

Upcoming Meeting: July 17, 2025 – Virtual Meeting, 10:00am

Meeting adjourned at 11:05am

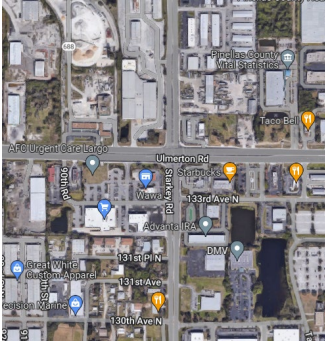
Attendees: Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Wellington Bond (St. Pete PD), Valerie Brookens (Forward Pinellas), Emmeth Duran (FDOT), Mark Eastty (PCSO), Kathy Gademer (City of Dunedin), Richard Hartman (City of Clearwater), Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering Group), Eric Henry (FDOT), Blaine Loring (PCSO), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), John Mullins (PCSO), Lori Palaio (JMT), Matthew Pepe (Pinellas County School Board), John Rieman (Pinellas County), Drew Thornsborough (Largo PD), Autumn Westermann (Pinellas County Schools)

PROBLEM LOCATIONS - JUNE 2025

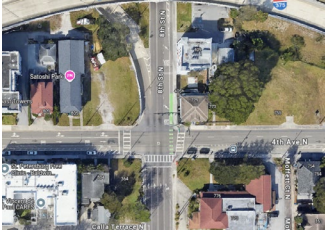
Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	11/4/21	Passing School Buses	Deputy Miller, Joe Camera	3/6/25		<p>The buses are not activating the red lights which activates the stop bars, only the yellow lights are on. People are passing with the yellow lights on. 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 - JUNE 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. Mark Eastty will look into Oak Grove Middle School. No update.

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>https://goo.gl/maps/mP4aTReBBao4HLwn6</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>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)	2/6/25		<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. 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. Mark will reach out to St. Pete PD to see if there is an update on if crashes have gone down or not. No update.</p>