

### West Central CTST – July 9, 2025

Meeting started at 1:33pm

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

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

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

1. **Mariner Boulevard:** There will be a meeting on Mariner Boulevard tomorrow. Eric Henry, FDOT, is hoping there will be a future presentation on the findings of the RSA.
2. **US 41 and Middle School Road:** School will start back up in August. Eric will send a reminder to traffic operations.
3. **Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail:** No update.
4. **Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard:** Eric will follow up with Ernie to see if there are any updates.

### IV. **Calendar Updates/Activity Reports**

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric mentioned that this month has been relatively quiet regarding outreach campaigns or events. He noted that the Florida Teen Safe Driving Coalition meeting took place a few weeks ago, which he attended. The meeting involved discussions about new legislation, specifically Senate Bill 994, which mandates driver's education for learner's permit and driver's license holders.

Jim Reiser (LEL): Jim announced that Operation Southern Slowdown will start on July 14<sup>th</sup> and run through July 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a press conference at the Florida Highway Patrol in Tampa on Monday morning. He suggested that agencies send a representative or two to arrive by around 9:30 AM to coordinate any pictures. Reporting for the operation will open on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Jim mentioned that he didn't have the statistics in front of him, but he noted that the US 19 detail, which stretched from Levy County down to Pinellas, was very successful with over 700 stops and around 600 tickets issued, with around 400 being for speeding. Jim also mentioned that they might be looking at US 301 next, probably in August. Brentin Mosher responded that he hadn't heard about the US 301 detail but would look into it. Brentin mentioned that there were 767 traffic stops, 579 citations, including 365 for speeding, 19 seat belt violations, 33 citations or arrests for driving with a suspended license, and one stolen vehicle recovered. Jim mentioned that with the upcoming Operation Southern Slowdown, agencies with the speed and aggressive driving grant are required to participate as part of their grant agreement. He noted that reporting related to this operation can be claimed under ELEE, providing a double benefit. He emphasized the importance of agency participation in the operation next week.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin Mosher added that the ELEE kicked off on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will run until February 28<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned that there is a lot of ELEE information available in the FDOT newsletter, which he shared in the chat.

Jim Reiser (LEL): Jim mentioned that he reviewed the statistics through Signal 4 Analytics for the citations report. He observed that enforcement efforts are sustained in Hernando and Citrus County, with some

increases related to speeding enforcement. He noted that there are a fair number of run off the road crashes in these areas, which could be contributing to the speeding issues. He highlighted that the agencies in these counties are quite active and are making efforts to reduce the numbers.

### **V. Fatal Crash Map**

Lori Palaio (JMT): In Citrus County, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, there were 11 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, there were 8 fatal crashes. So, there are three new fatal crashes. The three new fatal crashes include one rear end, one other, and one bicycle fatal crash. The rear end fatal crash occurred on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 12:10PM (Report Number 26420340) on SR 44 and South Redbud Terrace, not at the intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. This crash occurred in a work zone. The other vehicle crash occurred on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, at 6:20PM (Report Number 26426020) on W Birds Nest Drive and N Candlewood Drive, not at the intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. This was a single vehicle motorcycle fatal crash. The bicycle fatal crash occurred on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9:47PM (Report Number 26462329) on N Citrus Avenue and W Adirondack Street, not at the intersection, in dark-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was traveling southbound on N Citrus Avenue, approaching W Adirondack Street. The bicyclist was riding southbound on N Citrus Avenue, approaching W Adirondack Street on the roadway. The cyclist did not have lights on the rear or front of the bicycle at the time of the crash. As a result, the right side of the vehicle struck the cyclist. There are 11 fatal crashes through April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Same period in 2024 there were 11 fatal crashes.

In Hernando County, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, there were 17 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, there were 15 fatal crashes. The two new fatal crashes include one pedestrian and one run off the road fatal crash. The pedestrian fatal crash occurred on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 4:20AM (Report Number 26421195) on Wison Road (CR 570) and California Street (CR 583), at the four-way intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. A vehicle was traveling west on CR 570 approaching the intersection of CR 583. The pedestrian was traveling north on CR 583, attempting to cross CR 570. The pedestrian was not crossing the road within a marked crosswalk. The driver failed to observe the pedestrian crossing the roadway. As a result, the front right of the vehicle struck the pedestrian. The run off the road fatal crash occurred on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 8:10PM (Report Number 26966878), on Deltona Boulevard and Regatta Circle, not at the intersection, in dark-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was traveling north on Deltona Boulevard, north of the intersection of Regatta Circle. The vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed and weaving behind lanes. The vehicle failed to negotiate the roadway's curve to the left, ran off the roadway to the right, and began to rotate clockwise. There are 17 fatal crashes through April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Same period in 2024 there were 11 fatal crashes. We are up by six fatal crashes in the same period.

### **VI. SRTS Update**

None.

### **VII. HSIP Update**

Eric Henry (FDOT): We have ongoing applications for Hernando County for some LED stop sign enhancements. Bill is coordinating with the county to purchase this equipment, and they hope to have it

installed soon. Eric reminded everyone that if they have any ideas needing extra funding, they should reach out to him or Lori Palaio for assistance with applications. He also mentioned that there is usually quite a bit of unused funding available each year.

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

None.

### **IX. Open Forum/Announcements**

Eric Henry (FDOT): He mentioned the upcoming Bike Ped Coalition meeting next month and inquired if anyone from the group sits on that coalition.

Jim Reiser (LEL): Jim Reiser confirmed his participation at the Ped Bike Coalition and noted that the micromobility language crafted in the coalition was adopted as part of the new statute. This language defines what a micromobility apparatus is, providing law enforcement with tools to identify these devices. Jim elaborated that the statute covers e-bikes and scooters, but there is a challenge in categorizing the exact type of vehicle (e-bikes, scooters, etc.) involved in crashes. He mentioned that there is a consensus that more data is needed to determine if these devices are involved in fatal or serious injury crashes. However, updates to the crash report are not expected until 2029. He also noted that there are ongoing discussions about how to identify micromobility devices in crashes and what categories to use for selection. Jim shared that in Hillsborough, they see electric dirt bikes that go faster than 28 miles per hour, and agencies are citing these cases accordingly. He mentioned that the Motorcycle Coalition is monitoring this issue, and that further language clarification is expected. Jim will keep the group updated on any meaningful developments, especially those affecting law enforcement and their enforcement efforts.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin brought up House Bill 351, known as the Dangerous and Excessive Speeding Act, which makes it a crime to drive over 100 miles per hour or more than 50 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. Eric confirmed the details and added that it also applies to speeds 35 miles per hour over the posted limit on non-limited access facilities. Brentin mentioned that they are piloting a way to track this through the ELEE program, where officers will report excessive speeding citations. Matthew Belmonte noted that their agency is not yet writing these citations due to a delay in updating their system, which might cause a lag in data coming into the ELEE program. He offered to provide updates once their system is up and running.

Jim Reiser (LEL): Jim clarified that the thresholds for the enhanced penalty under the "super speeder" statute are either driving 50 miles per hour over the posted speed limit or exceeding 100 miles per hour. He provided examples, such as driving 101 miles per hour in a 70-mile-per-hour zone or 95 miles per hour in a 45-mile-per-hour zone, both of which would qualify for the enhanced penalty.

Bob Esposito (Hernando/Citrus MPO): Bob provided an update on the expansion of US 41 in Citrus County. He mentioned that although the recently expanded portion has been opened, the next phase of the project will not let until February 2027. This delay is due to funding issues and design changes requested by the City of Inverness. Bob also shared results from a national youth distracted driving survey conducted in April 2025. Among the 1,124 respondents, nearly 60% claimed they had not used or interacted with their



device while driving in the past 30 days. Bob expressed skepticism about this statistic, suggesting that the actual number of teens using their devices while driving is likely higher. He voiced a desire for the legislature to push for a hands-free law.

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric added that there was significant discussion about a hands-free bill during the last Teen Safe Driving Coalition meeting, but it failed due to a lack of legislative support. Discussion followed.

Jim Reiser (LEL): Jim expressed curiosity about the youth distracted driving survey results shared by Bob, specifically whether the survey referred to any interaction with an electronic device or just texting on the phone.

Bob Esposito (Hernando/Citrus MPO): Bob clarified that the survey title was "phone use while driving" and among the 1,124 respondents, nearly 60% claimed they had not used or interacted with their device while driving in the past 30 days. Bob noted that 35% of respondents admitted to using their phones while driving. Bob also mentioned that approximately 51% of respondents identified talk-to-text features like Bluetooth as the most common hands-free phone feature they use. Bob pointed out that many teenagers typically drive older cars without such features.

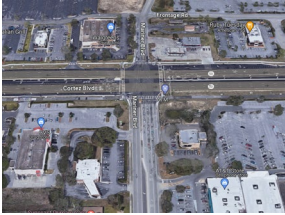
### **X. Adjourn**

**Upcoming Meeting: August 13, 2025 – In-Person Meeting, 1:30pm, Citrus County Emergency Operations Center, Room #140, 3549 Saunders Way, Lecanto, FL 34461**

Meeting adjourned at 2:04pm.


**Attendees:** Laura Anstead (Citrus County Sheriff's Office), Chris Ball (Citrus County Sheriff's Office), Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Bob Esposito (Hernando/Citrus MPO), Samantha Gigante (Hernando County Sheriff's Office), James Hartwell (Element Engineering Group), Eric Henry (FDOT), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), Lori Palaio (JMT), Jim Reiser (LEL), Mark Svestka (Citizen)

## PROBLEM LOCATIONS – JULY 2025

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	Nov 2023	<p>Mariner Boulevard</p>  <p><a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qi9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qi9</a></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 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. 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. The signal timing is still being figured out. It is still in the review phase. <b>There will be a meeting on Mariner Boulevard tomorrow. Eric Henry, FDOT, is hoping there will be a future presentation on the findings of the RSA.</b></p>



## PROBLEM LOCATIONS – JULY 2025


Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
2	August 2024	US 41 and Middle School Road  <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/pm1so8aFJgXBWd9c7">https://maps.app.goo.gl/pm1so8aFJgXBWd9c7</a>	Jeffrey Hunter	June 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 meeting with law enforcement contacts. They identified some things that they are going to</p>



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						<p>try to work on, but Eric hasn't heard anything further. Lt. Chris Ball spoke with the contractor to try to get the speed limit sign changed. There is still construction going on, so they have to wait until construction is complete. The center median is still being done. Eric will check with the project manager on date of completion. There is a portable sign there. Discussion followed. Eric Henry checked with the project manager and the project manager stated that the project should be fully completed by the end of this month or by early July. Bob Esposito reached out to Eric Cash, the PM, to get an update on when the next segment of US 41 will start. Eric Cash said the next segment of US 41 will not start until 2026 or early 2027. Lt. Christopher Ball stated that we need to wait until school starts back up before we start looking at the assessment of US 41 and Middle School Road. <b>School will start back up in August. Eric will send a reminder to traffic operations.</b></p>

## PROBLEM LOCATIONS – JULY 2025

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><a href="https://goo.gl/maps/gb6K4d1P9zpR4B41A">https://goo.gl/maps/gb6K4d1P9zpR4B41A</a></p>	Ernie Lane	June 2025		<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. For the line of sight, Ernie showed the locations to a new traffic engineer; both <b>**continued on next page**</b></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. 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 Borgesi, 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. 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 Lane stated that there will be inventory done on how many ADA mats need to be replaced. Ernie Lane stated that this is in the Capital Improvement Program, but it is four to five years out. In the meantime, the county is currently replacing the ADA mats that are broken or starting to come up. Discussion followed about adding a one-cent sales tax. <b>No update.</b></p>

## PROBLEM LOCATIONS – JULY 2025

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
LONG TERM LISTING						
2	Jan 2022	Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard   <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/oqJoiXfvBxeksW1T9">https://goo.gl/maps/oqJoiXfvBxeksW1T9</a>	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. Ernie Lane is not sure where this location is on the priority list. Ernie will find out more about this location. <b>Eric will follow up with Ernie to see if there are any updates.</b>