

Hillsborough CTST – July 23, 2025

Meeting started at 9:30am

I. Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were given. June 2025 minutes were approved.

II. Membership Reports

Enforcement and Crash Statistics

Jacob Gonzalez (TPD): Jacob Gonzalez from the Tampa Police Department (TPD) provided an update on DUI arrests and related activities. As of July 22nd, there have been 93 DUI arrests, compared to 149 in July 2024, indicating a downward trend for the month, which is consistent across the state. A July 4th weekend operation with HCSO and TPD resulted in 26 DUI arrests. TPD participated in a Tampa Bay Rays event with FDOT on July 20th to promote impaired driving education. Upcoming activities include a responsible vendor training on July 26th at Peabody's and the Chiefs Youth Academy on July 30th at a TPD training facility. The department is also preparing to intensify underage DUI prevention efforts, including fake ID checks, especially as schools resume next month.

Demetrius German (TPD): Demetrius German from the TPD provided an update on the traffic unit's recent activities. The unit completed Operation Southern Slowdown through FDOT, issuing 457 citations for speeding, 68 seatbelt violations, and 561 warnings over the course of the week. They are also finalizing the application for the pedestrian and bicycle safety grant and preparing for an upcoming operation for Labor Day. In response to Abigail Flores' question about the severity of the speeding citations, Demetrius German clarified that most citations were for speeds over 15 mph above the limit, starting from 10 mph over. There were no excessively dangerous speeds.

Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers): Emily Hinsdale inquired about the school zone speed cameras that were announced to start with the new school year.

Demetirus German (TPD): Demetrius German from Tampa PD confirmed that these school zone speed cameras are scheduled to go live on August 11th, coinciding with the start of the school year. They are currently finalizing the installation of speed limit signs in the designated school zones. Alexandria Roeder asked if all Hillsborough County Public Schools would have these cameras installed. Demetrius clarified that the cameras are only for schools within the City of Tampa that were listed to receive them.

Sgt. Owens (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit): Sgt. Owen from HCSO confirmed that while not all schools in the county have the cameras, a significant number are active and will be operational again starting August 11th. He also mentioned that the cameras are inactive during the summer and are reactivated during the school year, issuing citations only during active school zone times. Emily Hinsdale asked if there was any data on the impact of these cameras on speeding and revenue from citations. Sgt. Owen did not have specific data but noted that complaints from parents and citizens in the school zones have decreased.



Sgt. Owens (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit): Sgt. Owen from HCSO provided an update on their recent Operation Southern Slowdown detail. Despite some limitations due to a funeral escort for a fallen corporal, they managed to conduct 231 traffic stops, resulting in 43 citations and two arrests. One of the arrests was under the new super speeder statute, involving a driver going 109 miles per hour with a suspended license and a warrant for domestic violence.

Abigail Flores (Hillsborough County): Abigail Flores offered support from Hillsborough County Engineering to Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office for analyzing speeding and complaints. She mentioned that both departments receive complaints about speeding and pedestrian safety and suggested partnering to address these issues.

Sgt. Owens (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit): Sgt. Owen from HCSO noted that their IT department is developing a program for the online website where citizens can directly report speeding or traffic issues, which will then be forwarded to the traffic unit. Abigail Flores acknowledged the collaboration and highlighted that while Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office focuses on enforcement, her department handles requests for infrastructure improvements like sidewalks and crosswalks.

Alexandria Roeder (TGH): Alexandria Roeder asked if the school speed cameras would operate automatically like school bus cameras, without human intervention. Sgt. Owen confirmed that the cameras would automatically issue tickets, but each citation would be reviewed by employees to ensure its validity before being sent to the violator.

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin Mosher provided an update, mentioning that they are still actively working and collecting information on any super speeder tickets issued during an ELEE detail. Although they haven't received any reports yet, they are keen on gathering this data to identify hot spots and track the number of tickets issued, particularly on state roads for the ELEE program. Brentin also noted that there might be some issues with the systems not being updated for the officers, as mentioned by Matthew Belmonte recently.

Lori Palaio (JMT): From January 1st through May 2nd, 2025, there have been 56 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st through April 15th, 2025, there were 49 fatal crashes. The seven new fatal crashes included one sideswipe, one run off road, one other, one left turn, two bicycle, and one pedestrian fatal crash. The first bicycle fatal crash (Report Number 26876825) occurred on April 17th, 2025, at 3:50pm, on W Hillsborough Avenue and Lee Place, at the four-way intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was traveling east on W Hillsborough Avenue in the lane closest to the curb on the south side of the road. The bicyclist was traveling south on Lee Place, crossing Hillsborough Avenue. The bicyclist struck the vehicle. The second bicycle fatal crash (Report Number 26422343) occurred on April 18th, 2025, at 6:29pm on SR 674 and 4th Street, not at the intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was westbound on SR 674 west of 4th Street. The non-motorist was operating a bicycle westbound on the eastbound shoulder of SR 674 west of 4th Street. The bicyclist made a right turn on SR 674 and entered the path of the vehicle. As a result, the front of the vehicle collided with the bicyclist. The pedestrian fatal crash (Report Number 27283693) occurred on May 2nd, 2025, at 5:00am, on N 50th Street and E 23rd Avenue, not at the intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. This fatal crash was in the City of Tampa.



The vehicle was traveling north in the outside lane of N 50th Street approaching the intersection with E 23rd Avenue. As the vehicle continued north on N 50th Street, the pedestrian crossed the northbound lanes, in the roadway, not within a crosswalk and in a dimly lit area. The center front of the vehicle struck the pedestrian. There are currently 56 fatal crashes through May 2nd, 2025. Same period in 2024 there were 54 fatal crashes. So, we are up by two fatal crashes, same period.

Abigail Flores discussed the percentage of center line miles, noting that FDOT has 11 percent of the center line miles. Abigail then pointed out that despite the state having only 11 percent of the network, a significant portion of pedestrian and bicycle crashes occur on state facilities. She questioned whether this is because state facilities are the most direct and convenient routes for travel. Abigail suggested working with Emmeth to gather more information on why pedestrian and bicycle crashes are prevalent on state facilities. Lori agreed that this is something to look into, especially considering the arterial roadways. Abigail proposed that Emmeth could share a short presentation on this topic. She also requested that Lori include details on the violations in future summaries of pedestrian and bike crashes, such as driver failure to yield or bicycles riding on the wrong side of the road. Abigail Flores asked Lori where to download the PDF file for the map. Lori responded that the file can be found on the Tampa Bay Traffic Safety website. Specifically, you need to go to the Hillsborough County CTST section, scroll down to the 2025 fatal crashes, and click on it to access the PDF. Lori also mentioned that you can find older maps under the past meetings for 2025, appended to the agendas, and in the 2024 meeting archive if you want to compare. Additionally, the website now includes a section for presentations from previous CTST meetings.

Health Agencies/Safety Groups

Alexandria Roeder (TGH): Alexandria Roeder from Trauma Injury Prevention shared several upcoming events and initiatives related to traffic safety. They are collaborating with AAA to hold a press conference in September focused on e-bike and e-scooter safety. Alexandria also mentioned the need for clarification on micromobility laws, particularly regarding age requirements, as there is a law currently in the Senate. Additionally, Alexandria has signed up to be a trainer for the CarFit program, which involves checking 12 safety points in a vehicle to ensure that drivers, especially elderly ones, are properly positioned to maximize protection in case of a collision. Alexandria also announced a collaboration with the Hillsborough County Sheriff Department for the Battle of the Belts, a seat belt campaign targeting teenage drivers and passengers in conjunction with Hillsborough County Public Schools.

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric Henry from FDOT provided updates on a couple of topics. Regarding the CarFit program, he mentioned that it is currently focused on one-on-one car fittings due to a limited number of trained coordinators and technicians. However, they plan to start holding larger events in the fall and winter. An event coordinator training is scheduled for November, and Eric will share information about it to get more people involved. On the topic of micromobility, Eric discussed Senate Bill 462, which allows local jurisdictions to define and enforce rules related to micromobility devices. This includes setting age limits, requiring education, and ensuring riders have identification. The bill itself does not enforce these rules but enables local agencies to make these decisions.



Abigail Flores (Hillsborough County): Abigail asked about how law enforcement agencies will interpret and create policies and procedures for the new law. Jacob Gonzalez from TPD explained that any legal updates go through their legal department, which reviews and then disseminates the information to the officers. They will act on any new directives once the legal team has reviewed and provided guidance. Abigail requested that Jacob share any details with the group once the legal team has reviewed and implemented the new law.

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric Henry provided a comprehensive update on various legislative topics discussed at the recent coalition meeting. He mentioned that a bill to establish a hands-free law in Florida failed to advance this year due to a lack of strong advocacy in the legislature. Another bill related to enhanced enforcement at railroad crossings and work zones also failed to advance. One significant victory was the passage of Senate Bill 994, which introduces new education requirements for driver's licenses. This bill, developed by the Teen Safe Driving Coalition, mandates a six-hour class for new drivers, although the coalition had hoped for a more extensive course. Additionally, a house bill passed increasing penalties for fleeing from law enforcement and another bill addressing excessive speeding, which now imposes fines for speeds over 100 miles per hour or 50 miles per hour over the posted limit. House Bill 289 was also passed, revising statutes and providing new penalties related to boating incidents. Looking into future legislation, there is interest in consolidating statutes governing graduated driver's licenses and learner's permits to make them clearer and easier to enforce. The coalition also updated their teen driver fact sheet, noting that while the nationwide trend shows the 100 deadliest days for teen drivers in the summer, Florida's peak time for fatalities and serious injuries in this age group is actually in the fall. Eric mentioned a presentation from law enforcement in Orlando about street racing and intersection takeovers, which are becoming more common than traditional street races. He concluded by noting that the coalition will meet again next month and will provide additional updates then. Abigail Flores thanked Eric for the information and requested that he share the teen driver crash statistics with the group.

School Operations

Melissa Kincheloe (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit): Melissa Kincheloe provided an update on the annual training for crossing guards, stating that they are ready to go and will conduct the training over the next two weeks for all 306 crossing guards. These guards will be certified and in place following the training. Abigail inquired if there is a different training course for roundabout crossings compared to standard intersections. Melissa explained that crossing guards are trained according to the specific intersection they work at, following FDOT guidelines which mandate annual recertification. Each guard receives specific training tailored to the type of intersection they will be working at.

Engineering/Planning

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric provided updates on several ongoing outreach initiatives. He mentioned that there is ongoing outreach on Busch Boulevard for new midblock crossings at two locations, including 18th Street. They are also preparing for a new signal installation on Fowler Avenue at 52nd Street, which will include an R-Cut to restrict car movement but allow pedestrian crossing. The signal is expected to be operational on August 7th, and message boards will be set up to inform drivers. Eric also highlighted an upcoming event at



the Glazer Children's Museum on August 5th, where they will distribute visibility items and provide education on walking and biking to school. Abigail raised a point about equipping students who walk and bike to school with safety items like reflective backpacks and slap bracelets. Eric responded that they typically provide child-sized safety vests, reflective slap bands, and bike lights. They also distribute printed materials like workbooks and coloring books focused on safe walking and biking. Eric mentioned that while larger items like bike lights are becoming limited, they have an excess of paper materials due to their 402 grant. Discussion followed.

Lisa Silva (Hillsborough TPO): Lisa provided an update on the Vision Zero implementation study for the Henderson Boulevard and Manhattan Avenue corridor in the City of Tampa. This area is partially owned by the Florida Department of Transportation, the City of Tampa, and unincorporated Hillsborough County. The study involves a comprehensive safety analysis of the four-mile corridor from Gandy Boulevard to Kennedy Boulevard. They have completed the existing conditions analysis, reviewed crash history, and made draft recommendations for stakeholder feedback. Lisa mentioned that they are preparing for community outreach anticipated in the fall. This outreach will involve a workshop where the community can provide feedback on the proposed recommendations. The outreach event is likely to be held at the Jam Platt Library, which is conveniently located along the corridor and has great meeting rooms and accessible parking. However, they are still finalizing the date to avoid conflicts with other events in October. Additionally, FDOT District 7 has asked them to look at Bearss Avenue in the I-275 interchange area, and they are beginning a draft scope for that safety study. The study is expected to be completed by the end of the year, but it might extend into early 2026 for official adoption by the TPO. Lisa stated that once the outreach is designed and scheduled, they will share the details with the group and on social media to ensure broad participation. The community workshop will allow residents to provide input on the proposed recommendations, as they have firsthand experience with the corridor.

Abigail Flores (Hillsborough County): Abigail provided updates on several pedestrian and bicycle projects. She highlighted two pedestrian projects, one on McIntosh Road and another on Bearss Avenue. The McIntosh Road project is adjacent to an FDOT project involving capacity improvements and adding lanes. Abigail is working on adding sidewalks and addressing crashes in this area. She asked Eric Henry for updates on the project's design phase and funding status. Eric agreed to check with the project manager and follow up. Abigail also discussed the Bearss Avenue project, which is part of their county design manual updates. Abigail emphasized the importance of phasing the construction of shared use paths due to the high costs of building long segments. Additionally, Abigail mentioned two bike projects: one on Bruce B. Downs Boulevard and another on Palm River Road. The Bruce B. Downs project aims to continue the existing protected bike lane and potentially include a shared use path. The Palm River Road project involves recommending a shared use path along a portion of the road. Abigail expressed her intention to present more detailed information on these projects to the group in the near future.

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): Mahshid Arasteh provided an update on the approval of several material requests, including RRFB speed feedback signs and LED stop signs. Mahshid also mentioned that there is good funding available this year for HSIP and Safe Route to School projects. However, Mahshid noted that Hillsborough County has not submitted any applications for these programs,



unlike other counties that have applied for projects such as reconfiguring trail crossings on Keystone Road and traffic calming measures in the City of Clearwater. Mahshid expressed eagerness to receive applications from Hillsborough County and mentioned discussions with Plant City about potential applications, though none have been received yet. Mahshid offered to assist in any way possible.

Community Organizations/University

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin Mosher provided an update on the ongoing education and outreach efforts for the new pedestrian hybrid beacons on Busch Boulevard. They have completed on-the-street education with bicyclists and pedestrians and are now moving on to business visits. Brentin mentioned that they have a SurveyMonkey quiz and social media posts to help educate the public on how to use the beacons. Additionally, a mailer is being prepared to reach those who might not use social media. Abigail Flores asked about the general feedback from pedestrians and bicyclists regarding the new beacons. Brentin noted that most people are familiar with how to use them since there are already several pedestrian hybrid beacons on Busch Boulevard. However, compliance varies, and they provide reflective bags or bicycle lights to increase visibility. Abigail inquired if people were crossing outside the designated areas. Brentin observed that while people generally use the beacons, they sometimes do not follow the zigzag pattern and instead walk in a straight line. Abigail mentioned research indicating that if the zigzag path is too long, people might not follow it. Brentin also highlighted that the beacons are two-stage crossings, requiring users to push a button in the middle to activate the other side. Abigail suggested adding a sign or plaque on the island to indicate that it is a two-stage crossing and to press the button for each direction. This could help improve compliance and ensure that users understand how to navigate the crossing safely. Discussion followed.

Ellen Snelling (Tampa Alcohol Coalition): The next MADD candlelight vigil for victims of impaired driving crashes is scheduled for December 4th, a Thursday, at 6:00 PM. Additionally, there will be an event at the end of this month in Fort Myers to recognize law enforcement officers for their efforts in keeping roads safe and arresting DUI offenders. The next Tampa Alcohol Coalition meeting will be on August 19th at Tampa Police Department District 2.

Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers): Sidewalk Stompers is currently reaching out to previous and potential partner schools to get them signed up for the year, especially as principals change around the county. They are also planning for National Walk to School Day on October 8th, with Atkins Realis sponsoring the event for Hillsborough County again this year. For Walk Bike Tampa, Emily highlighted their successful Bike Month celebration, where they recognized bike-friendly businesses. They are also preparing for World Car Free Day on September 20th, with new partners like Tampa General joining this year. The event will feature several rides from different locations, including the Cass Street Bridge area, Live Oaks, Hyde Park, and Seminole Heights. Emily mentioned that they are looking for experienced urban bikers to help manage the kids on the rides.



III. Follow-Up Items

Eric Henry provided updates on several projects and topics. He clarified that the project on US 92, which involves resurfacing and other improvements, is in design and funded for construction. The construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2026. This project includes guardrail, sidewalk improvements, signing and pavement marking, lighting, and signalization from Eureka Springs to Thonotosassa Road. Additionally, there is a widening project on US 92 at Mango Road that will add buffered bike lanes and sidewalks. However, this project is still in design and not yet funded for construction.

Regarding the lane repurposing statute, Eric mentioned that District 7 has a designated coordinator for lane repurposing. He has reached out to see if the coordinator or one of their staff could present at a future meeting to provide clarity on how they are interpreting and implementing the statute. This presentation is in the works and will be scheduled for a future meeting.

Eric also provided an update on education related to the new signal at Fowler Avenue and 52nd Street. The education efforts are set to start shortly, and the signal is expected to be active on August 7th.

IV. Presentations

None.

V. Announcements

None.

VI. Action Items (procedural items for committee vote)

None.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:41am.

Next Meeting: August 27 – In-Person Meeting, 9:30am, Benesch, 1000 N Ashley Drive #400, Tampa, FL, 33602

In attendance: Lama Alfaseeh (Hillsborough County), Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Alexandra Arvelaiz (HCSO Grants), Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Anthony Chaumont (JMT), Michael Ferguson (HCSO), Abigail Flores (Hillsborough County), Demetrius German (TPD), Jacob Gonzalez (City of Tampa PD), James Hartwell (Element Engineering Group), Eric Henry (FDOT), Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers), Melissa Kincheloe (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), Sgt. Owens (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit), Lori Palaio (JMT), Sogol Rajabafjeh (Hillsborough County Safety and Mobility), Alex Roeder (TGH), Lisa Silva (Hillsborough TPO), Ellen Snelling (Tampa Alcohol Coalition), Laisha Vejar (JMT), Gregory Vickers (USF PD), Mike White (TPD), Andrew Visser (TPD)