

West Central CTST – August 13, 2025

Meeting started at 1:34pm

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

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

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

1. **Mariner Boulevard:** Eric Henry, FDOT, is hoping to have a presentation on the findings of the RSA at the next meeting.
2. **US 41 and Middle School Road:** Lt. Ball stated that since school is back in session, they need to do a study. A traffic control officer was added at the school for bus and vehicular traffic. This school is a school entrance and not a school zone. The speed limit has increased and there is a flasher with a recommended speed of 35 mph. Lt. Ball stated that many drivers are going above 35 mph. Eric will follow up with FDOT to possibly conduct another speed study. Discussion followed on wanting this location to be a school zone.
3. **Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail:** No update.
4. **Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard:** No update.

IV. **Calendar Updates/Activity Reports**

Eric Henry (FDOT): FDOT wrapped up back to school initiatives. They participated in an event at the Glazer Museum in Tampa. Tina Russo, FDOT, did helmet fittings, but there hasn't been anything done recently in Citrus County.

Tim Roberts (LEL): Operation Southern Slowdown is complete, so they are working on the reporting of the statistics now. Driver Sober Get Pulled Over will occur during Labor Day.

Eric Henry (FDOT): Next week is the Teen Safe Driving Coalition in Orlando on August 19th and August 20th. The following week is the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition in Tallahassee. Tim Roberts mentioned that the Impaired Driving Coalition is also coming up and will be in Orlando.

Chris Ball (Citrus County Sheriff's Office): Citrus County Sheriff's Office will be participating in the Drive Sober Get Pulled Over initiative on Labor Day. They will also be conducting a traffic operation on August 31st.

V. **Fatal Crash Map**

Lori Palaio (JMT): In Citrus County, from January 1st to May 24th, 2025, there have been 13 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to April 15th, 2025, there were 11 fatal crashes. The two new fatal crashes included one head on and one other fatal crash. The head on fatal crash (Report Number 26426019) was added to Signal Four Analytics on July 7th, 2025, but it occurred on March 26th, 2025, at 10:20pm. The head on fatal crash occurred on East Stage Coach Trail and South Trail 9, not at the intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one failed to negotiate a left curve in the roadway and subsequently hit vehicle two. The other fatal crash (Report Number 26966885) was single

vehicle related and occurred on April 18th, 2025, at 6:00pm on South Lecanto Highway and Triple M Ranch Road, not at the intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle hit a tree. There were 13 fatal crashes through May 24th, 2025, and in the same period in 2024 there were also 13 fatal crashes.

In Hernando County, from January 1st to May 24th, 2025, there were 20 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to April 15th, 2025, there were 17 fatal crashes. The three new fatal crashes included one rear end and two other fatal crashes. The rear end fatal crash (Report Number 26425823) occurred on April 21st, 2025, at 8:00am on US 19 and Hexam Road, not at the intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. The first other fatal crash (Report Number 26420377) occurred on May 2nd, 2025, at 1:50pm on US 41 and Shady Rest Court, not at the intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions and was motorcycle related. The second other fatal crash (Report Number 26959007) occurred on May 15th, 2025, at 1:45pm, on Spring Lake Highway and SR 50, not at the intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions and was motorcycle related. There are 20 fatal crashes through May 24th, 2025. Same period in 2024, there were 12 fatal crashes. Hernando County is up by eight fatal crashes in the same period. The data is unofficial and subject to change.

VI. SRTS Update

Eric Henry (FDOT): There is a webinar coming up on SRTS if anyone is interested in forwarding to school contacts. The webinar will explain the application process, how to apply, and what types of safety projects can be approved.

Jim McLean (Citizen): Jim mentioned a PBIC Messenger, which is a free monthly newsletter from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center.

Chris Ball (Citrus County Sheriff's Office): Lt. Ball asked about if widening roadways near school is part of Safe Routes to School eligibility. He discussed a problem area on CR 491 near Educational Path. There is one lane inbound for five schools. There needs to be a right turn lane added southbound and another lane coming in off of CR 491. He mentioned that they should also reconfigure the roundabout. There are student driver related crashes. The traffic light cycles too fast and there is a lot of traffic. Eric will find out more information from FDOT. *This will be added to the problem locations sheet.*

Chris Ball (Citrus County Sheriff's Office): At the intersection of the Suncoast Parkway and CR 44, the on-ramp has recently been repaved. Previously installed delineators were removed during the repaving process and have not yet been reinstalled. Currently, the area features a painted bulb-out but lacks any physical delineation. Eric will follow up on this matter. A brief discussion ensued. Additionally, Lt. Ball mentioned a potential wrong way driving incident involving a vehicle exiting the Suncoast Parkway onto CR 486. Eric will also investigate this report further.

VII. HSIP Update

Eric Henry (FDOT): There have been two HSIP applications from Hernando County – bright sticks and LED stop signs. The bright sticks were ordered, and the LED stop signs will be ordered soon after getting the preferred vendor information. Eric explained to the group what HSIP is and what types of items are eligible. Discussion followed.

Jim McLean (Citizen): At Citrus Springs Boulevard and Deltona Boulevard, at the four-way stop, there are a lot of rear end and sideswipe crashes. There is a middle school and an elementary school nearby. Jim requested an illuminated stop sign, but it was not approved. Discussion followed.

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

Tim Roberts (LEL): For the Drive Sober Get Pulled Over Campaign, statistics should be available at the October meeting.

Mark Svestka (Pine Ridge Property Owners Association): In the Pine Ridge community, equestrian crossings located on Pine Ridge Boulevard and Mustang Boulevard have raised safety concerns. The area has over 200 residents with more than 300 horses, emphasizing the importance of safe and accessible crossings for equestrian activities. Currently, there are five marked equestrian crossings on Pine Ridge Boulevard and two on Mustang Boulevard that are situated on two-lane roads and have a documented history of excessive speeding and failure to yield to equestrians. Despite being marked, the existing crossings consist solely of signage, which has proven insufficient in ensuring safety. A recent metavac incident at one of the crossings has heightened concerns. Reports indicate that nearly half of the equestrians now avoid crossing altogether, while those who do continue to cross have experienced numerous near misses. The average time required for a horse to fully cross the roadway is approximately 45 seconds, further complicating safe passage due to the roadways' curved design and dense roadside vegetation. Mark has proposed the installation of button-activated warning beacons (flashing lights) to enhance visibility and safety at these crossings. However, a study conducted by DRMP and referenced by Lt. Ball concluded that the crossings did not meet the threshold of 20 crossings per hour required for such enhancements. Mark inquired whether improvements could still be implemented despite not meeting this criterion. The speed limits on Pine Ridge Boulevard and Mustang Boulevard are 45 mph and 40 mph respectively, and both are classified as collector streets. With the anticipated opening of the Suncoast Parkway, increased cut-through traffic is expected, which may exacerbate existing safety issues. Mark requested resources on applicable criteria, and Lori directed him to Chapter 5 of the Traffic Engineering Manual. Eric noted that any requests would need to be submitted through the county for consideration. Mark underscored the need for reassessment of safety measures at equestrian crossings in Pine Ridge Boulevard to prevent further incidents and ensure the well-being of the community's equestrian population.

IX. Open Forum/Announcements

Jim McLean (Citizen): Jim has announced his decision to step down from his position as Vice Chair of the West Central CTST. A dedicated and active member for the past ten years, Jim has made significant contributions to the group's mission of promoting transportation safety. While he will no longer serve in a leadership capacity, Jim plans to remain engaged by attending meetings periodically. He is looking forward to traveling and spending more time with his family and has expressed a personal goal of writing a memoir for his children. Jim extended his heartfelt thanks to all members for their ongoing commitment to safety and shared that he thoroughly enjoyed his time as Vice Chair and being part of the CTST community. He will attend next month's meeting.



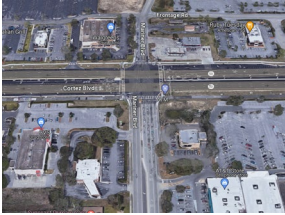
X. Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting: September 10, 2025 – Virtual Meeting, 1:30pm


Meeting adjourned at 3:13pm.

Attendees: Chris Ball (Citrus County Sheriff's Office), Eric Henry (FDOT), Jim McLean (Citizen), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), Lori Palaio (JMT), Tim Roberts (LEL), Mark Svestka (Pine Ridge Property Owners Association)

PROBLEM LOCATIONS – AUGUST 2025

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	Nov 2023	<p>Mariner Boulevard</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qi9</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. There will be a meeting on Mariner Boulevard tomorrow. Eric Henry, FDOT, is hoping to have a presentation on the findings of the RSA at the next meeting.</p>

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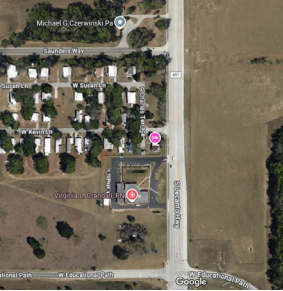
Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
2	August 2024	US 41 and Middle School Road  https://maps.app.goo.gl/pm1so8aFJgXBWd9c7	Jeffrey Hunter	August 2025		<p>US 41 and Middle School Road near Inverness Middle School is currently undergoing widening from a two-lane 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. **continued on next page**</p>




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						<p>They identified some things that they are going to 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. School will start back up in August. Eric will send a reminder to traffic operations. Lt. Ball stated that since school is back in session, they need to do a study. A traffic control officer was added at the school for bus and vehicular traffic. This school is a school entrance and not a school zone. The speed limit has increased and there is a flasher with a recommended speed of 35 mph. Lt. Ball stated that many drivers are going above 35 mph. Eric will follow up with FDOT to possibly conduct another speed study. Discussion followed on wanting this location to be a school zone.</p>

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3	August 2025	CR 491 near Educational Path  https://maps.app.goo.gl/oTerzbJmR21woZX27	Lt. Chris Ball	August 25025		Lt. Ball asked about if widening roadways near school is part of Safe Routes to School eligibility. He discussed a problem area on CR 491 near Educational Path. There is one lane-in for five schools. There needs to be a turn lane added southbound and another lane coming in on CR 491. He mentioned that they should also reconfigure the roundabout. There are student driver related crashes. The traffic light cycles too fast and there is a lot of traffic. Eric will find out more information from FDOT.


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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>https://goo.gl/maps/gb6K4d1P9zpR4B41A</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 **continued on next page**</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. No update.</p>

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LONG TERM LISTING						
2	Jan 2022	<p>Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard</p>  <p>https://goo.gl/maps/oqJoiXfvBxeksW1T9</p>	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. **continued on next page**</p>



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						Ernie Lane talked to the striping contractor and the contractor stated that they have had some recent 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. Eric will follow up with Ernie to see if there are any updates. No update.