## WEST CENTRAL WEST

CTST

#### **MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 2025**

#### West Central CTST - October 8, 2025

Meeting started at 1:33pm

- I. Welcome and Introductions were made.
- II. Minutes were approved for September 2025.
- III. Old Business Review of Problem Location Spreadsheet
  - Mariner Boulevard: Eric stated that JMT had presented findings from the safety study at the previous meeting. He suggested that in a future meeting, we revisit the Mariner Boulevard item to either narrow down the specific location or clarify the intent of the issue.
  - US 41 and Middle School Road: Eric stated that Traffic Operations was planning another study but had not yet conducted it. He believed it would happen within the next month. He added that traffic counts and a new signal warrant study were underway, with an estimated completion time of 60 to 90 days starting in early September. Geoffrey Blotz with Citrus County Sheriff's Office shared that he had spoken with Sgt. Hunter. The primary concern identified was the transition from two lanes to one near Middle School Road. Drivers often fail to recognize this narrowing, which leads to abrupt and potentially hazardous lane changes as they continue northbound. Geoffrey stated that the road narrows due to a nearby bridge, and the school is located just south of that bridge. Bob noted that the next phase of construction in the area isn't scheduled to begin for another year and a half, attributing the delay to requested modifications from the City of Inverness during an ongoing project. Eric confirmed that the concern seems to be more about the lane merge approaching the bridge rather than the intersection at Middle School Road itself. Geoffrey added that the congestion occurs just south of Middle School Road, where the road transitions from four lanes to two. This area is heavily trafficked by school buses and parents during drop-off and pick-up times. Eric concluded by saying they would look into the issue further and pass it along to the project team to determine if others have raised similar concerns.
  - 3. CR 491 near Educational Path: Eric had discussed the issue internally and noted that more information was needed before determining eligibility for SRTS. Eric proposed that at the next meeting, they speak with Lieutenant Ball to identify a contact who could coordinate with the Safe Routes to School program and potentially initiate an application. Bob Esposito added that any Safe Routes to School grant application would require right-of-way documentation and support from the school's superintendent and principal. He emphasized that many people are unaware of these prerequisites.
  - 4. N Lecanto Highway (CR 491) and W Hampshire Boulevard: Eric said he would coordinate with the county to determine if they were aware of the location or had conducted a signal warrant study. Bob mentioned a capacity project in the area but was unsure if the intersection was included in the current or future scope.
  - 5. Truman Boulevard and Harrison Street: Eric stated that responsibility for this location is primarily for the county, and the team will continue coordinating with them to ensure it remains on their radar.
  - 6. Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail: No update.

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#### 7. Mariner Boulevard and Northcliffe Boulevard: No update.

#### IV. Calendar Updates/Activity Reports

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric began by highlighting that October is Pedestrian Safety Month, which is the primary focus for outreach and education efforts. He invited attendees to share any initiatives they're working on related to pedestrian safety so the team can help promote them. He mentioned that on October 12, FDOT staff will participate in the Cooter Carnival in Inverness, an event known for its large turnout. The team will distribute safety materials and engage with the community. Additionally, Eric noted that the Bike/Pedestrian Coalition meeting is scheduled for October 21–22, just a few weeks away.

Tim Roberts (LEL): Tim Roberts from the LEL program shared that in-person interviews were conducted, and a notification about the selected candidate is expected later that afternoon. The goal is to have the new hire onboard by October 27 and be active in the field by November 1. Tim added that the interview panel included representatives from District 7 to ensure the new LEL would be a good fit. He praised both the panel and the applicants, noting the difficulty of the selection process due to the high quality of candidates. Tim concluded by saying they're working hard to fill the shoes of the previous LEL, Jim Reiser, and that Jim had opted to continue in his current role rather than take on the position.

#### V. Fatal Crash Map

Lori Palaio (JMT): In Citrus County, from January 1st to July 19th, 2025, there have been 18 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to June 28th, 2025, there were 16 fatal crashes. There were two new fatal crashes added, including one run off the road and one pedestrian fatal crash. The run off the road fatal crash occurred on June 30th, 2025, at approximately 4:47pm (Report Number 27018676) on North Croft Avenue and East Ramsey Street, not at the intersection, in day, cloudy, and dry conditions. The vehicle was northbound on North Croft Avenue approaching the intersection of East Ramsey Street. As the vehicle continued northbound, the driver failed to maintain control of his vehicle. The vehicle left the roadway to the right and entered onto the outside grassy shoulder. The vehicle continued traveling in a northerly direction on the grassy shoulder. The front left corner of the vehicle struck a utility pole. The front right side of the vehicle then struck a tree. The pedestrian fatal crash occurred on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, at approximately 10:20pm (Report Number 26425828) on US 19 and Ponce De Leon Boulevard, not at the intersection, in dark-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. The pedestrian was walking east on US 19 in the northbound lanes. The vehicle was traveling north on US 19 in the inside lane approaching Ponce De Leon Boulevard. While the pedestrian was walking across US 19, for an unknown reason failed to ensure the desired path of travel was free and clear entering when entering the travel lanes of northbound US 19. As a result, the vehicle collided with the pedestrian. There are currently 18 fatal crashes through July 19th, 2025; in the same period in 2024 there were 19 fatal crashes. We are down by one fatal crash in the same period. Pedestrian fatal crashes are second highest fatal crash type in Citrus County for mode of travel.

In Hernando County, from January 1st to July 19th, 2025, there have been 21 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1st to June 28th, 2025, there were 20 fatal crashes. There was one new fatal crash added to the fatal crash map, a right-angle fatal crash. The right-angle fatal crash occurred on June 8th, 2025, at approximately 2:00am (Report Number 26971773) on Spring Hill Drive and Linden Drive, at the

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four-way intersection, in dark-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was traveling south on Lema Drive approaching the intersection of Spring Hill Drive. Vehicle two was traveling east on Spring Hill Drive in the outside lane approaching Linden Drive. The driver of Vehicle one failed to obey a posted stop sign which regulates southbound Lema Drive at the intersection of Spring Hill Drive. Vehicle ones front collided with vehicle twos left side. There are currently 21 fatal crashes through July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025; same period in 2024 there were 19 fatal crashes. We are up by two fatal crashes in the same period. Motorcycle fatal crashes are the second highest fatal mode of travel in Hernando County (19%), followed by pedestrian (14%). Off road is highest fatal crash type.

#### VI. SRTS Update

Bob Esposito (Hernando Citrus MPO): Bob stated that the City of Brooksville had just contacted him about the program. He explained that he had reiterated to them what he previously told the former mayor: before applying, agencies must have the right-of-way secured, and support from both the school superintendent and school principals. Without these prerequisites, applying would be premature and likely unsuccessful. Bob emphasized that the funding pool is limited and that he's been advocating for local agencies to contribute financially if they want support from state or federal sources. He mentioned speaking at the Citrus POCC meeting, where he highlighted the need for local revenue generation, noting that Citrus County has over a billion dollars in infrastructure needs but only brings in \$21 million annually. Eric agreed with Bob's assessment, acknowledging that the application process is more complex than many realize. He noted that FDOT often receives early-stage applications that must be returned due to missing foundational elements. Bob added that the Safe Routes to School program typically only covers construction costs, not right-of-way acquisition, which further limits its scope.

#### VII. HSIP Update

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric shared that there is currently one pending HSIP request in Hernando County for LED-lit stop signs, which is under review and approval. He encouraged attendees to promote HSIP funding opportunities to agencies that may not be aware of or planning to apply, noting that additional funding may become available soon. He also mentioned that early next year, there may be a presentation round to review eligible equipment for HSIP funding, especially helpful given recent group turnover.

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

None.

#### IX. Open Forum/Announcements

Eric Henry (FDOT): With no volunteers stepping forward for the Vice Chair role, Eric reiterated the need to identify a suitable candidate in the coming months. At that point, Lori Palaio nominated Bob Esposito, who accepted the nomination with the understanding that his availability is limited due to staffing constraints. Eric acknowledged that others had expressed similar interest and said the team would continue working to find the best fit, with updates expected at the next meeting.

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Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin raised a concern about the declining participation from Hernando County law enforcement and FHP personnel due to recent staffing changes. He asked Lori Palaio to collaborate on re-engaging these groups. Lori agreed and offered to compile a list of past attendees. She suggested sending personalized follow-up emails to encourage attendance, referencing a previous "we miss you" outreach effort. Eric supported the idea and recommended leveraging ELEE contacts to help bring agencies back into the fold. He emphasized that even if agencies can't attend every meeting, having a designated point of contact would be beneficial. Matthew Belmonte added that he had a contact at FHP he could reach out to.

Ariana Roman (MADD): Ariana Roman reminded the group about the upcoming Victim's Candlelight Vigil on December 4<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to RSVP using the link Eric had previously shared. She also mentioned her ongoing outreach efforts in the West Central area, including a Power of Youth presentation next week for Hernando Teen Court. Ariana expressed interest in participating in any upcoming events or tabling opportunities. Eric mentioned the Cooter Carnival happening on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Ariana asked if additional tabling opportunities were available, and Eric offered to connect her with the event coordinators.

#### X. Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting: November 12, 2025 – In-Person Meeting, 1:30pm, FDOT Brooksville Operations, 16411 Spring Hill Drive, Brooksville, FL

Meeting adjourned at 2:04pm.

**Attendees:** Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Geoffrey Blotz (Citrus County Sheriff's Office), Bob Esposito (Hernando Citrus MPO), Jim Hartwell (Element Engineering Group), Eric Henry (FDOT), Brentin Mosher (CUTR), Lori Palaio (JMT), Tim Roberts (LEL), Ariana Roman (MADD)



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	Nov 2023	Mariner Boulevard  https://maps.app.goo.gl/E9PN5YDyVuiSM5qi9	Sgt. Andrews	Sep 2025		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 received the data from Sgt. Andrews. 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. 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 recom



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2	August 2024	US 41 and Middle School Road  https://maps.app.goo.g l/pm1so8aFJgXBWd9c7	Jeffrey Hunter	Oct 2025		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 t



	Date			Last	Date Resolved/	
Item	Reported	Description	Staff	Update	Withdrawn	Comments
						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. Traffic Operations is going to be conducting another signal warrant study, now that school is back in session. FDOT expects it to be completed within the next couple of months and then they will follow up with a formal response to the requests related to that intersection. Bob Esposito, Hernando Citrus MPO, has been talking with Traffic Operations as well. Eric stated that Traffic Operations was planning another study but had not yet conducted it. He believed it would happen within the next month. He added that



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Item		Description	Staff		Withdrawn	Geoffrey stated that the road narrows due to a nearby bridge, and the school is located just south of that bridge. Bob noted that the next phase of construction in the area isn't scheduled to begin for another year and a half, attributing the delay to requested modifications from the City of Inverness during an ongoing project. Eric confirmed that the concern seems to be more about the lane merge approaching the bridge rather than the intersection at Middle School Road itself. Geoffrey added that the congestion occurs just south of Middle School Road, where the road transitions from four lanes to two. This area is heavily trafficked by school buses and parents during drop-off and pick-up times. Eric concluded by saying they would look into the issue further and pass it along to the project team to determine if others have raised similar concerns.



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3	August 2025	CR 491 near Educational Path  https://maps.app.goo.gl/oTerzbJmR21woZX27	Lt. Chris Ball	Sep 2025		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. Eric Henry, FDOT, discussed a newly added location near the school on CR 491, which may be eligible for Safe Routes to School funding. He mentioned that he had reached out to the program coordinator for feedback but hadn't received a response yet. The team previously considered redesigning the driveway as a potential Safe Routes to School project. If that's not feasible, they plan to explore alternative, less engineering-intensive improvements in coordination with the school or County. Eric had discussed the issue internally and noted that more information was needed before determining eligibility for SRTS. Eric proposed that at the next meeting, they speak with Lieutenant Ball to identify a contact who could coordinate with the Safe Routes to School program and potentially initiate an application. Bob Esposito added that any Safe Routes to School grant application would require right-of-way documentation and support from the school's superintendent and principal. He emphasized that many people are unaware of these prerequisites.



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e top of a hill where traffic the area, Lt. Ball tential traffic signal or this location would be signal study has already been ot warranted, alternative d that a major development is and Hampshire Boulevard terns and increase the urgency with the county to had conducted a signal act in the area but was unsure	There were recent complaints and crash data highlighting concerns—particularly with the left-hand turn at the top of merges and backs up. Due to continued growth in the are recommended evaluating the intersection for a potential treconducting a signal warrant study. Eric stated that this loc discussed with Traffic Operations to determine if a signal conducted or if one can be initiated. If a signal is not warracountermeasures will be considered. Lt. Ball added that a underway near the N Lecanto Highway (CR 491) and Har intersection, which could further impact traffic patterns and for improvements. Eric said he would coordinate with the determine if they were aware of the location or had convarrant study. Bob mentioned a capacity project in the intersection was included in the current or future.		Sep 2025	Lt. Chris Ball	N Lecanto Highway (CR 491) and W Hampshire Boulevard  https://maps.app.goo.gl/a EC3vWbmwwTK4BDw5	Sep 2025	4
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5	Sep 2025	Truman Boulevard and Harrison Street  https://maps.app.goo.gl/jE En95UpZoj4cUHC6	Lt. Chris Ball	Sep 2025		Truman Boulevard and Harrison Street in Beverly Hills is a residential area where residents have requested a stop sign. Truman Boulevard serves as a feeder road into the historic district and experiences high traffic volumes and speeding. Lt. Ball noted recent enforcement efforts and speed data collection that support the need for traffic calming measures, such as a stop sign, to improve safety at that intersection and nearby areas. Eric confirmed it falls under county jurisdiction and will be passed along to the appropriate contacts for review. Eric stated that responsibility for this location is primarily for the county, and the team will continue coordinating with them to ensure it remains on their radar.



Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
LONG	TERM LISTI	NG				
1	Apr 2021	Corridor-Wide on Good Neighbor Trail  (This item was replaced with the Good Neighbor Trail - Preston Road and Weatherly Road – Good Neighbor Trail Stop Signs details were removed)  https://goo.gl/maps/gb6K4d1P9zpR4B41A	Ernie Lane	June 2025		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 st



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						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 maint



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LONG	TERM LISTI	NG				
2	Jan 2022	Mariner Boulevard Northcliffe Boulevard  https://goo.gl/maps/oqJoj XfvBxeksW1T9	HC / Todd	Jan 2025		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 li



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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. <b>No update.</b>