



## Hillsborough CTST – January 28, 2026

Meeting started at 9:30am

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Introductions were given. December 2025 minutes were approved.

### **II. Membership Reports**

#### **Enforcement and Crash Statistics**

Jacob Gonzalez (TPD): In January 2026, there have been 131 DUI arrests so far, compared to 143 during the same period in 2025, indicating an upward trend. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, an underage drinking and fake ID operation was conducted with the assistance of ABT, resulting in 24 arrests along with multiple violations identified by the Tampa Fire Marshal's Office. DUI education presentations have been delivered this month at the Academy of Holy Names, Plant High School, Freedom High School, Robinson High School, and USF, with another event planned for the University of Tampa on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Additional personnel have also been scheduled in preparation for Gasparilla night.

Lori Palaio (JMT): From January 1<sup>st</sup> through November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, there have been 133 fatal crashes. At the last CTST from January 1<sup>st</sup> through September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, there were 100 fatal crashes. There are 33 new fatal crashes added to the fatal crash map. They include 14 pedestrian, four right angle, three bicycle, three run off road, three rear end, two head on, two other, one unknown, and one rollover fatal crash. Eighteen of the 33 new fatal crashes occurred in dark conditions. Twenty-two of the 33 new fatal crashes did not occur at an intersection. Nine of the 33 new fatal crashes were lane departure related. Three of the 33 new fatal crashes were motorcycle related. For the 17 new pedestrian and bicycle fatal crashes: Nine were in the travel lane at the time of crash, four were in a marked crosswalk, three were in the sidewalk, four were other/unknown, one was at an intersection without a marked crosswalk, one was in the shoulder, and one was in a median/crossing island. The three motorcycle related fatal crashes included one angle, one rear end, and one rollover fatal crash. Pedestrian fatal crashes are the highest fatal crash type, representing 29.3 percent of the fatal crashes in Hillsborough County. There are currently 133 fatal crashes through November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The same period in 2024 there were 139 fatal crashes. We are down by six fatal crashes in the same period.

Venkat Vattikuti (Hillsborough County): Venkat asked Lori whether the crash summary could be separated into state roads versus non-state roads. Lori explained that the current pie chart breaks crashes down by jurisdiction, showing 47% on state roads, 32% on Hillsborough County roads, 18% in the City of Tampa, and small portions in Temple Terrace and Plant City, and noted that lane miles are also included. Venkat stated that the goal is to understand how specific crash types are distributed across the state, county, and city systems so each agency can better target efforts. Lori agreed and said she would work with the GIS department on creating separate maps and then send them to Venkat for approval. Venkat closed by emphasizing the importance of using these trends to guide program improvements.



## Engineering/Planning

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric reported that southbound I-275 will be closed tonight from 11 PM to 5 AM so crews can finish installing overhead signage for the new southbound span, with the roadway expected to reopen by early tomorrow morning. He also noted that Trapnell Road, just east of S.R. 39 in Plant City, has been closed since Sunday and is anticipated to remain shut for about three weeks, with a projected reopening around February 8<sup>th</sup> if work proceeds as planned. Beyond construction updates, he highlighted a busy month of outreach activities, including participation in the Northdale senior safety event, handing out materials at the MLK Day Parade, and supporting the Gasparilla Children's Parade. At that event, Tina partnered with TPD to run a bike rodeo, and the team fitted over 100 helmets in one day. Eric concluded by noting that planning is underway for February's upcoming outreach efforts.

Gena Torres (Hillsborough TPO): Gena shared that Lisa Silva is managing the Manhattan–Henderson study, which will be presented to the committees in March and April, and she noted that the meetings are open to the public for virtual viewing. The study's visioning work has highlighted opportunities to improve safety along sections of those corridors that appear overbuilt. Gena also mentioned she is in her final two months with the county after 36 years of service and is completing a safety effectiveness evaluation as her last project. This evaluation will help guide decisions on where to invest limited safety funds, such as whether to install several midblock crossings or a roundabout, to maximize safety benefits. That study is also scheduled to go before the committees in March.

Harry Walsh (Hillsborough TPO): Harry explained that the TPO's congestion management process is being updated and will be brought to several advisory committees next week. This cycle includes the addition of a crash-mitigation component, creating a more safety-focused CM/CMP, and the team will use committee feedback to refine the safety measures they track. The update is expected to wrap up around June, with plans for future updates every two to three years. He also noted a major challenge: the lack of reliable data on e-bike and e-scooter crashes. Pending legislation may improve reporting consistency, and once a standardized data source becomes available, it will be incorporated into subsequent updates. Harry added that any existing Hillsborough County data sources would be helpful.

Kevin Amig (City of Plant City): Kevin reported that on January 21<sup>st</sup>, the long-standing flasher at the intersection of Whitehurst Road and U.S. 92 was replaced with a fully operational signal. The flasher had been in place for about twenty years, and the updated signal was rebuilt through a collaboration between FDOT and contracted crews. After installation, the team notified law enforcement and pushed information out through social media to make the public aware of the change. He noted that everything has been going well so far.

Venkat Vattikuti (Hillsborough County): Venkat shared that the team is preparing a comprehensive GIS map that will compile all ongoing safety and improvement projects from various divisions and departments into a single resource. The goal is to provide consistent updates at each CTST meeting and, when possible, have individual project managers present notable progress or changes. He hopes this consolidated reporting can begin by the next CTST. Venkat also noted that the county is preparing to submit a Safety Edge HSIP application, tied to several resurfacing projects scheduled over the coming



months. These locations already have documented crash and lane-departure histories, allowing the team to conduct before-and-after comparisons once the safety treatments are installed. He emphasized that results from these evaluations will be shared once implementation is complete.

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): Mahshid thanked Venkat for the HSIP update and for his work on preparing the application, noting that the team is looking forward to receiving it. She shared that they are actively working on gathering more quotes and processing additional HSIP requests, including coordinating with the City of Tampa on some of their submissions. She added that she remains available to assist however needed.

### **Health Agencies/Safety Groups**

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric noted that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition is meeting across from District 7, continuing through this morning, which may explain why attendance is lighter than usual. He suggested that at the next meeting, it would be helpful for attendees from that coalition to share any insights or updates relevant to the group. He also recapped the Teen Safe Driving Coalition meeting held in December, explaining that the coalition is still distributing Battle of the Belts kits to local high schools and encouraged anyone with contacts at schools not yet participating to connect them so they can receive the free materials. In addition, the coalition recently released a Ground Your Parents kit designed to help students start conversations with parents whose driving they feel is unsafe; the kits can support up to 100 students and are intended to be distributed through schools. Eric welcomed referrals from anyone who knows schools that may be interested in these resources.

### **Community Organizations/University**

Brentin Mosher (CUTR): Brentin shared that the team had a great experience at the Gasparilla Children's Parade and asked everyone to mark their calendars for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Bike with the Temple Terrace Mayor event, scheduled for Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. Participants can gather at 7:30 for coffee, donuts, and helmet distribution before the ride begins. He also noted that their Health and Campus Safety Day outreach event for students and faculty is planned for Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Jeannine South (MADD): Jeannine shared that her team participated in the Northdale Safety Fair this month, an event that consistently draws strong community engagement. She and Ariana Roman are actively delivering presentations throughout Hillsborough County, including high schools, driver's education programs, and Juvenile Diversion, while Ariana has also expanded outreach into elementary schools with the newer Power of Me program, which teaches young children about car safety and how to respond to unsafe driving situations. Jeannine noted that their schedules remain full as they continue community presentations. She also announced that the former Walk Like MADD event has been rebranded nationwide as Move with MADD. This year's event will take place on March 27<sup>th</sup> in the evening at USF, at its usual location. Jeannine encouraged teams, participants, sponsors, and vendors to join, and offered to assist anyone with questions, noting that she has shared the flyer and her contact information in the chat.



Venkat Vattikuti (Hillsborough County): Venkat thanked Jeannine for her long-standing work with MADD, especially the annual vigil in Temple Terrace, noting how meaningful the event has been to the community and sharing that he has followed it for many years.

Jeannine South (MADD): Jeannine appreciated the recognition and mentioned that this past December's vigil was especially strong, with significant support and attendance from law enforcement. She highlighted that Temple Terrace Police Department took the lead this year in coordinating law-enforcement participation and did an excellent job, and she also thanked Mission Hill Church for its continued support. She encouraged others to attend future vigils, emphasizing the impact these events have on victims and families.

Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers): Emily shared that several new schools have recently joined the county's Walk to School programs, bringing the total to about twenty participating schools. These programs are incentive-based and tailored to each school's needs, some involve group walks, while others encourage individual families to walk on their own. She also noted that Walk Bike Tampa has begun planning its May Bike Month award ceremony, which recognizes local bike-friendly businesses. They are currently seeking a venue and a speaker, and Emily invited anyone with suggestions or topics they would like highlighted around walking and biking in Tampa to reach out.

### **School Operations**

None.

### **III. Follow-Up Items**

*Eric 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. Brentin Mosher, CUTR, mentioned earlier in the meeting that the midblock pedestrian signal on Fowler Avenue and 52nd Street will be completed in September. The restricted crossing U-turns are complete, but the pedestrian signals have not been activated. Brentin reported that the social media ad campaign is still active, while the on-street education component has concluded. He also noted that the pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) at Nebraska Avenue and Idlewild Avenue will incorporate geofencing and educational outreach.*

### **IV. Presentations**

Lori Palaio (JMT): Lori introduced her presentation on pedestrian and bicycle crash facts and countermeasures on the state highway system, explaining that it was prompted by findings from the Hillsborough CTST fatal crash map, which showed that although FDOT roadways make up only about 11 percent of the county's network, they account for roughly 41 percent of fatal crashes. She highlighted that this imbalance is likely tied to higher speeds, wider roadways, and major generators such as malls located along state facilities. District 7 data show a 50/50 split between on-system and off-system fatal bike/ped crashes, despite on-system roads representing a much smaller share of lane miles. Statewide trends mirror this pattern, with more fatal crashes occurring on state roads even though non-fatal crashes are more



common on local roads. She then reviewed roadway characteristics that contribute to higher crash rates, particularly commercial suburban corridors (C3C) and urban general areas (C4), which combine higher speeds, turning movements, and significant pedestrian and bicycle activity. She walked through the top crash problem types, including mid-block crashes, intersection crashes, and crashes involving turning motorists, and outlined corresponding countermeasures such as high-visibility crosswalks, refuge islands, curb extensions, leading pedestrian intervals, signal timing changes, protected turn phases, and improved education and enforcement. She also covered bicycle-specific challenges and solutions, including bike boxes, two-stage turn queue boxes, protected bike facilities, and lighting improvements. She concluded by emphasizing that most severe crashes are preventable through targeted engineering, education, and enforcement, and underscoring the importance of speed management and context-sensitive design in achieving Target Zero.

Venkat Vattikuti (Hillsborough County): Venkat asked whether Lori could share the presentation with the group, and Lori confirmed that it will be posted on the CTST website under the presentation archive. Emily requested that it also be sent out by e-mail, even if only as a link, so she can share it with others who may benefit from seeing what is possible in pedestrian and bicycle safety design. Lori agreed and said she would coordinate with Andrea to make sure the presentation is distributed to everyone. Several participants thanked Lori for the presentation, and Venkat noted that it addressed exactly the separation of data he had asked about earlier in the meeting.

#### **V. Announcements**

Venkat Vattikuti (Hillsborough County): Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is February 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VI. Action Items (procedural items for committee vote)**

None.

#### **VII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:13am.

#### **Next Meeting: February 25<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Meeting, 9:30am**

**In attendance:** Rick Adams (Nations Traffic Safety School), Lama Alfaseeh (Hillsborough County), Kevin Amig (City of Plant City), Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Susan Boda (Benesch), Jacob Gonzalez (TPD), Eric Henry (FDOT), Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers), Melissa Kincehloe (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit), Sebastian Meyer (TPD), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Dave O'Neil (MacDill Air Force Base), Lori Palaio (JMT), Shirley Ready (Hillsborough County School District), Andrea Sauvageot (Benesch), Ellen Snelling (Tampa Alcohol Coalition), Jeannine South (MADD), Andrew Stastny (Kimley Horn), Gena Torres (Hillsborough TPO), Venkat Vattikuti (Hillsborough County), Harry Walsh (Hillsborough TPO)