

Pinellas CTST – April 2, 2026

Meeting started at 10:01am

I. General Meeting

Welcome and introductions. The March meeting minutes were approved.

II. Committee Reports

Enforcement

Jill Cox (St. Pete PD): Last month, St. Pete PD conducted a couple of traffic operations, with several more planned for this month. They also have two officers taking the DRE test today.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): The officers are taking the final knowledge exam required for Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) certification. The exam is a five-part test that can last anywhere from three to 12 hours. Mark Eastty noted that he taught both officers and expressed confidence that they would pass.

Daniel Negersmith (Clearwater PD): Last month, the agency participated in the DUI Wolfpack operation within their assigned area along Memorial Causeway, resulting in five DUI arrests. Although they were unable to participate in the full countywide effort, results in their area were positive. This month, advanced traffic homicide training through Tallahassee State College will be offered in Clearwater, and two additional officers are taking the final DRE knowledge exam, bringing the agency's total number of certified Drug Recognition Experts to 12. Other than these efforts, staff are managing impacts related to spring break.

Mark Eastty (PCSO): On March 14th, Pinellas County hosted a countywide DUI Wolfpack operation that resulted in 27 DUI arrests, 34 total criminal charges, and 130 citations. Patrol continues to conduct traffic enforcement details along U.S. 19 during morning and afternoon peak hours. An additional enforcement detail was held on March 27th in Dunedin and Palm Harbor, resulting in 13 stops, 12 warnings, and one citation. Law enforcement resources were also heavily engaged with spring break activities and the Valspar event. Looking ahead, the Level II Reconstruction (IPTM) course will be hosted in a few weeks, with no other major activities currently scheduled for the month.

Jim Hartwell (LEL): Traffic Safety Challenge applications for law enforcement closed on March 31st in the district, which includes Lake and Sumter Counties. A total of 27 agencies applied. Staff will review submissions and work through the data in preparation for the challenge awards at the end of July. Preparations are also underway for the Memorial Day Click It or Ticket kickoff.

Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR): Brentin asked about the status of a work zone grant application. Mark Eastty noted that concept papers are typically due by February 20th, and agencies are usually notified of awards around July or August. Brentin noted that supporting enforcement detail information, such as data from ELEE operations, can be used to demonstrate need for the grant, even though the same details cannot be conducted under multiple grants.

Engineering and Bike/Pedestrian

Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR): An upcoming Bike Your City event will be held in Tarpon Springs on Saturday, April 25th. The event is the organization's annual ride, hosted in a different Pinellas County city each year. Staff will attend with commemorative shirts and bicycle safety items, and a registration link will be shared in the chat.

John Rieman (Pinellas County): Staff participated in a Girl Scout bike-a-thon over the weekend, which was well received.

Education

Stephanie Carrier (Pinellas County Schools Transportation Department): Pinellas County Schools reported several upcoming changes, including the closure of Cross Bayou Elementary with students rezoned to Bardmoor Elementary School and Pinellas Central Elementary School. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing program will relocate to Walsingham Oaks K-12 for the 2025–2026 school year, and the Disston Academy in Gulfport will close, with students transitioning to other programs. Additionally, ongoing concerns with illegal passing of school bus stop arms were discussed. A list of problem locations is shared with law enforcement, and targeted enforcement and updated signage have already resulted in improvements at some locations.

III. Old Business

Problem Locations

- 1. Passing School Busses:** Ongoing concerns with illegal passing of school bus stop arms were discussed. A list of problem locations is shared with law enforcement, and targeted enforcement and updated signage have already resulted in improvements at some locations.
- 2. Trinity Boulevard and East Lake Road:** Enforcement efforts continued at the Trinity Boulevard and East Lake Road intersection during March, primarily during morning hours. Deputies issued three citations and 13 warnings for traffic violations. Follow-up feedback indicated that the enforcement presence is improving driver awareness and making a noticeable difference at the intersection.
- 3. 38th Avenue and 66th Street:** Ongoing congestion concerns were discussed at the intersection near 38th Avenue following the addition of a Publix, particularly due to increased pedestrian activity from students walking in the area. The location spans both unincorporated Pinellas County and the City of St. Petersburg. St. Petersburg Police reported that congestion is present but typically limited to a brief period of approximately 10 minutes during student pickup, after which traffic clears. The area will continue to be monitored to determine whether continued enforcement or presence is needed.

HSIP and SRTS Projects

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): Mahshid reported a recent meeting with Bill to review pending and new applications and codes. One new application from the City of Safety Harbor was highlighted, proposing a speed feedback sign on Allen Avenue between McMullen Booth Road and the North Bay Hills community.

Colin Bartholomew (City of Safety Harbor): A request for a speed feedback sign on Allen Avenue in the City of Safety Harbor was presented. The proposed location is on the north side of Allen Avenue near the North Bay Hills neighborhood, where speeding toward McMullen Booth Road is a concern. A recent speed study showed vehicles traveling approximately 10 mph over the 25-mph speed limit. The corridor has pedestrian activity, limited sidewalks, and nearby neighborhoods feeding into Allen Avenue, as well as reported wildlife strikes. The speed feedback sign is intended to improve driver awareness and reduce speeds. No known sight-distance issues were identified, and it was noted that the roadway is county-maintained. Discussion followed.

High Crash Intersections and Fatal Map

Mark Eastty (Pinellas County Sheriff's Office): An update on the fatal crash map was provided. As of March 27th, last year recorded 27 fatal crashes resulting in 28 fatalities, compared to 14 fatal crashes and 14 fatalities this year to date. Overall, fatal crash trends have improved compared to the same time last year.

Lori Palaio (JMT): A 2025 Safety Facts at a Glance summary was presented using the most recent available data (pulled March 2, 2026, with 2025 data noted as unofficial and subject to change due to reporting lag). In Pinellas County, total crashes, severe injuries, and fatalities were all down in 2025 compared to 2024. District 7 also showed decreases in total crashes, severe injuries, and fatalities, including improvements reflected in five-year trends. While several emphasis areas improved districtwide, increases were noted in distracted driving fatalities and commercial road user fatalities. City and county streets continued to account for the highest number of fatalities. Additional breakdowns included vulnerable road user involvement and driver age and gender trends. The summary will be shared in the upcoming safety newsletter.

IV. New Business

Mark Eastty (PCSO): A question was raised regarding the timing of the next Mega CTST meeting. It was noted that, rather than the typical May timeframe, the meeting is being targeted for September this year. More information will be shared as details are finalized, with a tentative timeframe of mid-September.

Upcoming Meeting: May 7th, 2026 – Virtual Meeting, 10:00am

Meeting adjourned at 10:25am

Attendees: Basit Ali (Kimley Horn), Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Colin Bartholomew (City of Safety Harbor Public Works), Matthew Belmonte (Gresham Smith), Darby Bryant (Pinellas County), Stephanie Carrier (Pinellas County Schools Transportation Department), Jill Cox (St. Pete PD), Mark Eastty (Pinellas County Sheriff's Office), Kathy Gademer (City of Dunedin), Richard Hartman (City of




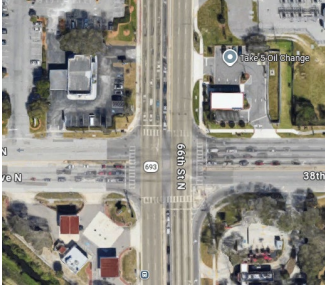
Clearwater), Jim Hartwell (LEL), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Daniel Negersmith (Clearwater PD), Lori Palaio (JMT), John Rieman (Pinellas County), Alexander Steady (Kimley Horn)

PROBLEM LOCATIONS - APRIL 2026

Item	Date Reported	Description	Staff	Last Update	Date Resolved/ Withdrawn	Comments
1	11/4/21	Passing School Buses	Deputy Miller, Joe Camera	4/2/26		<p>The buses are not activating the red lights which activates the stop bars, only the yellow lights are on. People are passing with the yellow lights on. The deputies can't stop people unless the red lights are on, and the stop bars are out. He asked that the bus drivers be re-educated about this to help the situation. Everyone forgets and more education and enforcement is needed. They must identify their high problem areas, such as Gandy, 4th Street, 114th Avenue, etc. The City of St. Pete suggested a billboard campaign. The new school buses have lights that are a lot brighter, than previous buses. Deputy Loring and other agencies are working on passing school bus enforcement. Joe reached out to Sgt. Caseber, of Largo PD for assistance. Joe stated when parents have their kids getting on the bus in the morning near Belcher Rd and Lancaster Dr, the students jump in the middle of the median. Mark Easty will make sure there is directed patrol in the areas Joe mentioned. Tampa Road was discussed. Deputy Loring will be taking care of the issues at US 19 and Highland Acres. This area backs up traffic for six to eight miles. Joe spoke to the driver, and she is going to try to open the yellow a little bit further back to give them more warning. Deputy Loring created a directive patrol for that as well and he is trying to include some of the patrol deputies and make them aware of it and enforce it when Deputy Loring is unavailable. School buses will take a break soon once school ends. Vehicles are not paying attention to bus stop arms. Daniel Negersmith stated that on Belcher Road by Oak Grove Drive, vehicles are constantly running past the bus stop arms. It is a 40mph zone. There is a transfer where buses pick up other students from other schools at that school, so many buses are coming and going. Daniel Negersmith if there is any way they can make that a school zone to slow down people during those times. John Rieman will investigate this location. Discussion followed. Autumn will reach out to her drivers to ensure they are doing what they need to do. ***continue on next page***</p>

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						<p>Mark will follow up on information on speed cameras in school zones. Autumn Westermann from Pinellas County Schools has a complaint at Oak Grove Middle School. Mark Easty will get extra enforcement out there. Mark Easty will look into Oak Grove Middle School. School starts on August 11th. Mark stated that all agencies will be increasing enforcement around school zones and buses during the back-to-school period. Mark addressed school bus safety concerns. He noted that Tarpon Springs Police Department has been actively monitoring a problematic bus stop area along US 19 and issuing citations for stop-arm violations. Per the discussion from earlier in the meeting, last month, ongoing issues continued from September regarding the bus stop at 2909 Gulf to Bay Boulevard, where drivers consistently fail to stop for buses. Despite seeking assistance from the school board, progress has been minimal, and the situation may escalate to media attention due to the uproar it has caused. Another concern is the Oak Grove area, a 40 mph school zone with multiple buses, where drivers are not stopping. Efforts are underway to designate it as a school zone to slow traffic, and enforcement has been active. School bus stop-arm violations continue to be a significant safety concern, with drivers frequently passing stopped school buses. Reports of these violations are shared with law enforcement units for follow-up and enforcement. School zone camera programs were also discussed, including implementation challenges experienced in other counties. Manatee County's program has been suspended due to enforcement errors, specifically citations being issued outside of active school zone times. Hillsborough County is currently operating a similar program, with violations reviewed by law enforcement prior to citation issuance. Ongoing concerns with illegal passing of school bus stop arms were discussed. A list of problem locations is shared with law enforcement, and targeted enforcement and updated signage have already resulted in improvements at some locations.</p>

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2	11/6/25	Trinity Boulevard and East Lake Road  https://maps.app.goo.gl/S7kzk0LDHbwPnFVG7	Daniel Negersmith, Clearwater PD	4/2/26		<p>Daniel Negersmith raised a concern about the intersection at Trinity Boulevard and East Lake Road, where drivers frequently run red lights during morning rush hours, particularly westbound vehicles making left turns southbound. This behavior causes gridlock and poses a high crash risk. Colin Bartholomew from City of Clearwater confirmed the issue occurs around 7:15 AM. Mark Eastty agreed to escalate the matter to traffic enforcement and suggested positioning a patrol car in the median for effective monitoring. The intersection will be added to the problem area list for follow-up next month. Mark sent an email to Deputy Howard Miller. There have been two violations, with one warning for passing a red light. There will be more numbers at the next meeting. Mark Eastty confirmed that directed patrols will continue, noting 13 warnings and several citations issued so far to help curb the issue. Mark stated since issuing a directed patrol there, officers have written 11 citations and more than 25 warnings. He said they will keep this location on the list a little longer, noting that it was originally raised by Sgt. Daniel Negersmith from Clearwater PD. Mark plans to reach out in the coming weeks to see whether conditions have improved. In the meantime, patrol units will continue monitoring the area during morning hours when drivers tend to roll past the stop bar and block the intersection. Ongoing congestion during peak periods was noted, with vehicles frequently blocking the intersection. Drivers are entering the intersection without sufficient space to clear it, contributing to operational and safety concerns. Drivers should remain behind the stop bar until adequate space is available and traffic conditions allow the intersection to be cleared. Enforcement efforts continued at the Trinity Boulevard and East Lake Road intersection during March, primarily during morning hours. Deputies issued three citations and 13 warnings for traffic violations. Follow-up feedback indicated that the enforcement presence is improving driver awareness and making a noticeable difference at the intersection.</p>

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3	3/16/26	<p>38th Avenue and 66th Street</p>  <p>https://maps.app.goo.gl/Y6nDAcmSoAs6ehAs5</p>	Mercedes Nelson-Palmer, Treasure Island Fire Rescue	4/2/26		<p>Concerns were raised regarding a proposed new Publix development and a nearby charter school, with increased congestion anticipated in the area. Identified issues include school pick-up and drop-off traffic, the lack of a formal school zone designation for charter and private schools, and limited driver awareness of increased pedestrian activity associated with the school. Ongoing congestion concerns were discussed at the intersection near 38th Avenue following the addition of a Publix, particularly due to increased pedestrian activity from students walking in the area. The location spans both unincorporated Pinellas County and the City of St. Petersburg. St. Petersburg Police reported that congestion is present but typically limited to a brief period of approximately 10 minutes during student pickup, after which traffic clears. The area will continue to be monitored to determine whether continued enforcement or presence is needed.</p>