



**Hillsborough CTST – April 22, 2026**

Meeting started at 9:30am

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Introductions were given. March 2026 minutes were approved.

**II. Membership Reports**

**Crash Statistics and Enforcement**

Jacob Gonzalez (Tampa PD): In March, DUI arrests totaled 124, down from 158 during the same period last year. As of April to date, approximately 83 DUI arrests have been made, which is tracking similarly to last year's total of 132. Law enforcement operations are planned with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office for Cinco de Mayo and Memorial Day. In addition, DUI education efforts are ongoing, including outreach at high schools and special events through the end of the school year.

Jim Reiser (Tampa PD): Jim reported that there have been five traffic fatalities in the City of Tampa this year, which is a decrease compared to last year (reported as approximately 8–11 fatalities). The most recent fatality occurred on Swann Avenue and involved a pedestrian who was sitting in the roadway in an unlit section and was struck by a vehicle; the driver remained on scene and no impairment was noted. Traffic homicide is continuing to investigate the circumstances. Overall, traffic fatalities are trending downward this year. The Traffic Unit is actively working several safety grants, including aggressive driving, work zone safety, and pedestrian safety, and has multiple enforcement operations planned around upcoming holidays, including Memorial Day, Labor Day, and the Fourth of July. In addition, the City recently completed a motorcycle safety SMART class and a follow-up open training day for graduates, resulting in approximately 15 additional riders receiving motorcycle safety training, with the goal of improving motorcycle safety in the Tampa Bay area.

Daniel Hawkins (HCSO): An underage beverage and DUI operation is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> in District 3, including the Citrus Park, Westchase, and Town n Country areas. Additional DUI enforcement operations are planned for Cinco de Mayo as a multi-agency effort, as well as for the Memorial Day weekend. The Sheriff's Office also plans to rotate locations for the DUI enforcement vehicle (Batmobile), with operations anticipated in the City of Tampa on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and at the University of South Florida on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Lori Palaio (JMT): From January 1<sup>st</sup> through February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, there have been seven fatal crashes. Same period last year there were 12 fatal crashes, so we are down by five fatal crashes same period. Data is unofficial and subject to change. Of the seven fatal crashes, there was one rollover, one pedestrian, one head-on, two off-road, and two left-turn fatal crashes. The first rollover fatal crash occurred on January 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:16am on I-4 westbound and mile marker 14 (Report Number 27076139), not at the intersection, in dark-lighted, foggy, and dry conditions. The driver was traveling west on I-4. The vehicle traveled onto the shoulder and the driver attempted to steer back onto the roadway but overcorrected and lost control. The vehicle then veered off the road and overturned multiple times eventually striking a tree and fence. While



overturning the passenger was ejected from the vehicle. The driver was under the influence of alcohol with a BAC of 0.200. The first pedestrian crash occurred on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 6:33pm on E Keysville Road and Cedar Grove Church Road (Report Number 27719553), not at the intersection, in dusk, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was traveling westbound on E Keysville Road and Cedar Grove Church Road. The pedestrian was crossing northbound on E Keysville Road. The driver of the vehicle stated it was dark and he did not observe the pedestrian until they were 10 feet in front of the vehicle, and it was too late to stop. As a result, the vehicle collided with the pedestrian. The first head-on fatal crash occurred on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 12:33am on U.S. 301 and Harney Road (Report Number 27100383), not at the intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was southbound on US-301, south of Harney Road. Vehicle one crossed over the center line into the northbound lanes and into the path of vehicle two, causing a head-on collision of the two vehicles. Driver one was under the influence of alcohol with a BAC of 0.160. The first off-road fatal crash occurred on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 9:57am on E Idlewild Avenue and N 47<sup>th</sup> Street (Report Number 27718695), not at the intersection, in day, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was traveling east on E Idlewild Avenue, just west of N 47<sup>th</sup> Street. The vehicle left the eastbound and entered the westbound lane before exiting the roadway where the front panel of the vehicle made contact with a tree. The second off-road crash occurred on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 10:52pm on Signet Drive and Golf and Sea Boulevard (Report Number 27718877), not at the intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. The vehicle was traveling northbound on Golf and Sea Boulevard, just south of Signet Drive. At an approximate speed of 100 MPH, the vehicle veered off the road and collided with a TECO concrete utility pole. The driver was under the influence of medications/drugs/alcohol. The first left-turn fatal crash occurred on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at approximately 6:41pm on N Hilltop Road and Highland Ridge Circle (Report Number 27718604), at the t-intersection, in dusk, clear, and dry conditions. The crash occurred as the vehicle was leaving a parking lot on Hilltop Road. The driver of the vehicle made a left turn to travel northbound and entered the path of an oncoming motorcycle. The motorcyclist attempted to brake but was unsuccessful and struck the driver's side of the vehicle, resulting in the motorcyclist being ejected from the vehicle. This was a motorcycle fatal crash. The motorcyclist was not wearing a helmet. This was an angle fatal crash but was coded as a left-turn fatal crash. The second left-turn fatal crash occurred on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 9:05pm on Paul Buchman Highway (S.R. 39) and Moricville Lane (Report Number 27070421), at the t-intersection, in dark not-lighted, clear, and dry conditions. Vehicle one was northbound on S.R. 39 attempting to make a left turn into a private driveway. Vehicle one failed to yield the right of way to vehicle two, causing the rear of vehicle one to collide with vehicle two. As a result, vehicle two rotated into the northbound lane where it collided with vehicle three. Discussion followed.

Jim Hartwell (LEL): Jim shared several traffic safety-related updates. He reported receiving information from NHTSA indicating a renewed emphasis on supporting law enforcement through restored grants, expanded partnerships, and new award programs recognizing local heroes. NHTSA is also placing increased focus on combating impaired driving, including expanded use of ignition interlock devices and advocacy for oral fluid testing technology to detect the presence of drugs in drivers, subject to state consideration. He also noted that the national Click It or Ticket enforcement campaign will run from May



18<sup>th</sup> through the end of the month. A local law enforcement network meeting and kickoff event is planned in conjunction with the campaign, with FDOT District Seven hosting at their McKinley Drive office. In addition, he reported that applications for the Florida Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Challenge have been submitted, with both the Tampa Police Department and the University of South Florida receiving recognition. The awards ceremony is scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> in Orlando.

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

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric reported that a potential pilot project is being explored to improve understanding of teen driving safety. The pilot would involve introducing a smartphone app at select high schools, likely in Hillsborough County, that students could voluntarily download. The app would track driving behaviors such as harsh braking, rapid acceleration, and other risky behaviors, similar to monitoring tools used by insurance companies. Participation incentives may include gift cards or similar rewards. Additional information will be shared as the pilot concept is further developed.

Alexandria Roeder (TGH): She highlighted the success of a recent CarFit event, which resulted in the training of 14 technicians and fittings completed for 10 vehicles. This was the first CarFit event held in Hillsborough County in some time, and additional events are being considered for December in coordination with Older Driver Safety Week. She also noted that Tampa General Hospital has been collaborating with AAA on a new e-Ride Ready safety campaign, including the development of a guidebook focused on e-bicycle and e-scooter safety. A press conference for the campaign is planned for early June, with a target audience of parents purchasing these devices; the guidebook will be shared publicly once officially released. Additional upcoming activities include the TGH Trauma Survivor Event scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup>, which will feature traffic crash survivors, including motorcycle, dirt bike, and pedestrian crashes, emphasizing the role of post-crash care. National Bike to Work Day will be observed on May 15<sup>th</sup>, with TGH hosting a free helmet fitting event on Davis Island. In recognition of Motorcycle Awareness Month in May, TGH will be placing approximately 26 motorcycle safety awareness signs throughout the area and will collaborate with motorcycle SMART classes by incorporating Stop the Bleed training.

### **University/Community Organizations**

Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR): Brentin reported on recent outreach activities, including participation in the Move with MADD event on March 27<sup>th</sup>, where staff engaged with numerous families. He also noted involvement in the Uptown Chamber of Commerce Transportation Day, during which business leaders learned about transportation initiatives, toured the FDOT Traffic Management Center, conducted a mini road audit on Fowler Avenue, and participated in a panel discussion on mobility topics. Looking ahead, an upcoming Bike Your City event is planned in Tarpon Springs in coordination with Pinellas County.

Ariana Roman (MADD): Ariana reported that underage substance-use prevention efforts are ongoing, with a focus on high-school driver education programs. She continues to deliver presentations at local high schools, including recent sessions at Wharton High School and upcoming presentations at Armwood High School. Ariana typically conducts approximately six presentations per day, reaching about 100 students per



presentation. She also noted that the recent Move with MADD event was successful and allowed MADD to engage with a large number of community members.

Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers): Emily shared updates in recognition of National Bike Month, including National Bike to School Day in partnership with Sidewalk Stompers. This year's primary focus is on bike helmet fitting, with multiple helmet-fitting events already completed and participation in several bike rodeos. She noted that her team can assist schools in need of helmets and often works with school social workers to identify students who are biking or scootering to school without proper head protection. Emily also announced that Walk Bike Tampa's 5<sup>th</sup> annual National Bike Month celebration will be held on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 to 7:00pm. at the Tampa Bay History Center. The event will feature several speakers, including the new CEO of the Tampa Bay History Center, who will discuss transportation system changes in Paris, and Jeff Houck, Tampa's Food Explorer, who will share insights from his walking and dining-focused video blog. Sponsorships and individual tickets are available via Eventbrite, and attendees are encouraged to participate in the discussion on walking and biking in the Tampa Bay area.

### **Engineering/Planning**

Eric Henry (FDOT): Eric provided brief updates, noting that this week is Work Zone Awareness Week, with ongoing training activities underway, and that today is Wear Orange Day to promote work zone safety. He also mentioned recent discussions with traffic operations staff regarding the intersection of East MLK Boulevard at North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, following reports of repeated crashes involving a home on the northwest corner of the intersection. He noted that a safety study for this location is currently in progress and that the issue is being actively reviewed.

Venkat Vattikuti (Hillsborough County): Venkat provided updates from Hillsborough County, announcing that Dibakar Saha has joined the county as the new Traffic Safety Engineer, filling the position previously held by Abigail Flores. Dibakar will begin attending CTST meetings moving forward, and Venkat expressed confidence in his background and experience, noting that he recently transitioned from the FDOT Central Office in Tallahassee. Venkat also shared his intention to step down as CTST Chair due to increased responsibilities and meeting conflicts associated with his new role at the county. He thanked the group for the opportunity to serve and discussed the process for identifying a replacement, with discussion to continue among CTST leadership. A replacement chair will be discussed at the next meeting. Additionally, Venkat noted that the county is working on developing a GIS-based master map that will showcase traffic safety-related projects, including resurfacing and traffic engineering efforts, throughout Hillsborough County. This map is expected to help illustrate the scope and extent of safety initiatives and may be shared with the group at a future meeting. He also mentioned that Alex Fraser with Hillsborough County is in the process of submitting Safety Project 12 and will be following up after the meeting.

Nicholas Inniss (Element Engineering Group): Nicholas provided additional context regarding the safety study underway at the intersection of East MLK Boulevard and North 17<sup>th</sup> Street. He noted that the team is working with FDOT Safety on the study and is evaluating potential access changes due to a history of angle crashes, including several crashes that have resulted in vehicles striking a property on the northwest corner of the intersection. The intersection is located adjacent to Young Middle School and Lockhart



Elementary Magnet School, and coordination has been conducted with the schools to better understand impacted stakeholders. Nicholas invited meeting participants to share information on any additional stakeholders or considerations that should be accounted for as the analysis is finalized.

Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants): Mahshid reported on ongoing coordination related to HSIP funded materials and safety projects, noting that monthly meetings have been productive and that cities, counties, and FDOT continue to work collaboratively. Current efforts include procurement of bright sticks for the City of Plant City in coordination with James Hutchinson and R1-6A signs for the City of Tampa. She explained the general process for HSIP materials, including application review, approval, and issuance of codes, noting that products listed on FDOT's Approved Products List streamline procurement. Mahshid emphasized the importance of timely review of codes by local agencies and verifying shipping addresses and recipient information before purchase. She also noted that she is available to assist with applications and expressed appreciation for increased participation from smaller cities. Additionally, she stated that the team is awaiting submission of the Hillsborough County safety application, with Alex Fraser expected to assist and follow up.

Fred Baxter (City of Plant City): Fred provided brief project updates, noting that a fiber-tracking documentation project is currently underway and is expected to span approximately three months. As part of recent work, the City completed a 6,900-foot fiber-optic loop to close a gap along Alexander Street (S.R. 39). He also reported that Park Road and Sam Allen Road are under construction for new traffic signalization, and that the intersection of James L. Redman Parkway and Park Road is preparing for a signal respan and reconstruction. Additional safety improvements include the installation of several all-way stop controls, primarily in residential areas with three located in the downtown area, as well as multiple RRFB pedestrian signal installations in residential neighborhoods and one within the greater downtown area.

Lisa Silva (Hillsborough TPO): Lisa reported that a multi-modal safety study was recently completed and presented to the TPO Board for adoption. The study has been adopted, and efforts are now focused on implementation. She also shared that a vision and safety plan for Henderson Boulevard and Manhattan Avenue is currently being advanced through committees and will be brought to the Board for adoption, with an emphasis on safety and multi-modal mobility. Lisa noted that staff are evaluating opportunities to pursue Safe Streets for All grants, potentially targeting smaller cities, and are also working to advance authorization for a previously submitted school transportation-related project. In addition, she described plans for a field trip to Pasco Safety Town with community members and staff to explore the potential for developing a similar facility in Hillsborough County, and she will be reaching out to school transportation partners for collaboration and support. She expressed appreciation for school staff and consultants involved in recent projects and noted that the TPO is a sponsor of the Walk Bike Tampa Bike Month event. Lisa also highlighted partnerships with Tampa General Hospital to support Stop the Bleed and SMART initiatives, which will be advanced through committee discussions to raise awareness of these efforts.



### **School Operations**

Shirley Ready (Hillsborough County Schools): Shirley noted that Matt Weaver had recently reached out to coordinate regarding the MLK Boulevard and North 17<sup>th</sup> Street intersection. In response to comments about Pasco Safety Town, Shirley shared historical context, noting that Hillsborough County previously had a Safety Village near Lowry Park Zoo, where schools brought students for hands-on bicycle and traffic safety education. While the facility no longer exists, it served a similar purpose and was well regarded. Discussion followed on wanting to recreate something like the previous Safety Village.

Melissa Kincheloe (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit): For staffing for crossing guards, they have seven vacancies out of the 345 locations they cover.

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

Eric provided an update on education related to the new signal at Fowler Avenue and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street. The education efforts are set to start shortly, and the signal is expected to be active on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Brentin Mosher, CUTR, mentioned earlier in the meeting that the midblock pedestrian signal on Fowler Avenue and 52<sup>nd</sup> 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. *Advertising associated with the project reached approximately 178,000 individuals, and a supplemental mailer was distributed to about 5,000 households. In addition, on-street education was conducted when the pedestrian hybrid beacon initially opened last September.*

### **IV. Presentations**

None.

### **V. Announcements**

None.

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

None.

### **VII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:14am.

**Next Meeting: May 27<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Meeting, 9:30am**



**In attendance:** Rick Adams (Nations Traffic Safety School), Julian Anderson (HCSO), Mahshid Arasteh (American Quality Consultants), Alexandra Arvelaiz (HCSO Grants), Fred Baxter (City of Plant City), Jacob Gonzalez (Tampa PD), Jim Hartwell (LEL), Daniel Hawkins (HCSO), Eric Henry (FDOT), Emily Hinsdale (Sidewalk Stompers), James Hutchinson (City of Plant City), Nicholas Inniss (Element Engineering Group), Melissa Kincheloe (HCSO Crossing Guard Unit), David Liller (HCC Ybor), Brentin Mosher (USF CUTR), Melinda Nelson (HCSO Grants), Lori Palaio (JMT), Ron Patel (City of Temple Terrace), Shirley Ready (Hillsborough County Schools), Jim Reiser (Tampa PD), Jennifer Reynolds (HCSO), Alexandria Roeder (Tampa General Hospital), Ariana Roman (MADD), Dibakar Saha (Hillsborough County), Lisa Silva (Hillsborough TPO), Ellen Snelling (Tampa Alcohol Coalition), Andrew Stastny (Kimley Horn), Michael Tayler (Hillsborough County Emergency Medical Planning Council and Trauma Agency Coalition), Venkat Vattikuti (Hillsborough County)