

**West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team  
Meeting Minutes of Feb. 8, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Diez. Introductions were made and the minutes were corrected and approved. Thanks to the promotion for our team, we have new members attending. WELCOME !

**OLD BUSINESS – PROBLEM LOCATIONS**

**Hernando County**

1. Powell and California St. will get a flashing beacon.
2. Nature Coast High School and Chocachatee Elem. School to get flashing beacons to slow traffic. The School Board will assume the cost of the equipment and the County will maintain the lights.
3. US 98 and CR 476 will get a flashing beacon within the next few months.
4. Hwy 98 and mobile home park at Weeki Wachee area—The volume of traffic does not warrant a turn lane.

**Citrus County**

5. Hwy 44 and Highview at the landfill entrance. A signal and all options have been requested by the citizens.

**NEW PROBLEM LOCATIONS**

1. Hwy 44 and Independence-- Donna asked about installing a protected left turn arrow which allows left turns with green arrow only. As of now, left turns are also permitted with the green light. Because of the curved access, this is a dangerous turn as traffic is in the middle of the intersection to attempt to make the left turn. Often there are close calls with oncoming traffic.
2. Primrose Ln. Hwy 19 and Forest Oaks. The President of the Homeowner's Assn. asked for directional markers or reflectors for left turn lane onto Lk in the Woods Dr. from the northbound lane of US 19. As of now, the left turn is too short and into oncoming traffic. Dave Carr will ask the signal shop to re-stripe and install guide skips on US 19.
3. Forest Oaks—Green left turn arrow lighting and signals to be checked. Now it has permissive left turn. Trying to cross 8 lanes of traffic makes it complicated. Larger print signs are also helpful. Street lighting is coming next year.
4. SR 50 and Powell—dual left turn and striping within the next 2 weeks.

**EVENTS of JANUARY**

Sue reported that the January 21 car seat check at Crystal Chevrolet was successful. There were 22 seats checked this month. None of them were installed correctly. 4 were replaced and the rest were adjusted. 51 people attended Car Seat Safety Classes in January and 23 safety seats were provided at low cost. The Car Seat Safety Program received a donation of \$3,000 from the Gulf to Lakes Pilot Club, a service organization that funds programs dealing with brain injury and the prevention of brain injuries. Thank you pilots!

Kris's report of activities for the Bike Safety Program includes the following presentations for Jan. and upcoming activities for February.

<b>1-3-06</b>	<b>North Oak Baptist</b>	<b>Citrus Springs</b>	<b>20 – 3 to 12 yr olds</b>
<b>1-10 to 1-19</b>	<b>Floral City Elem.</b>	<b>Floral City</b>	<b>450 – Pre K to 5<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>1-20 to 1-22</b>	<b>Primary – Update UF Meeting</b>	<b>Gainesville</b>	<b>Professional Dev.</b>
<b>1-23 to 2-24</b>	<b>Rock Crusher Elem</b>	<b>Homosassa</b>	<b>750 - Pre K to 5<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>1-23 to 2-24</b>	<b>Rock Crusher Elem. (ED)</b>	<b>Homosassa</b>	<b>750 – Pre K to 5<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>1-28</b>	<b>Ducks Unlimited (Community Event)</b>	<b>Crystal River</b>	<b>30 – 5 to 12 yrs old</b>
<b>2-7</b>	<b>Sertoma – Speak Oysters – Bike Safety (Community Event)</b>	<b>Crystal River</b>	<b>40 - Adults</b>
<b>2-13</b>	<b>Citrus Spgs Middle Bikeathon (Rodeo)</b>	<b>Citrus Spgs</b>	<b>150 - 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>2-27 to 3-10</b>	<b>Pope John Paul Catholic (ED)</b>	<b>Lecanto</b>	<b>255 - Pre K to 8<sup>th</sup></b>

Kris also has a new section going in the elementary level bike safety curriculum on adaptive bikes for students with special needs.

Joe Palminteri of the Citrus SO reported on the Jan 27 campaign for aggressive driving and red light running. The department issued 60 citations. He also reported that the traffic unit was split in Dec. into the east and west side areas, each about 300 square miles. Lt. Grant and Lt. Simmons are in charge of the 2 areas. There are now 8 new units for traffic patrol. Every other month, they will conduct a detail. Joe reported 171 citations were issued last month.

He also suggested that on a traffic stop for aggressive driving, the offense be indicated or checked to be able to determine the number of aggressive drivers that are cited during any time period.

Lt. Walker was recently promoted. CONGRATULATIONS ! and is now in charge of operation support. There are 15 people in his unit and they will get one additional person next year. His previous position is open.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Terry passed out brochures for a new campaign to educate motorists to move their vehicle off the road if damaged in a crash, unless there is an injury. Moving the vehicle helps clear the crash scene quickly, reduces congestion, and improves safety conditions for responders.

Sue reported that Feb. 13-18 is Child Passenger Safety Week with an emphasis on Booster Seat use. Only 10 – 15% of kids who should be in a booster actually do use one. Kids need to be in a booster from 40 pounds to about 80, or until they are 4 ft. 9 inches tall. Then they will first fit in an adult seat belt. There will be a car seat check up event at Childhood Development Services on Sat. Feb. 25 from 10 am to 2 pm. No appointment needed.

Peter alerted the team to the **March 31 due date for all 402 Safety Grant concept papers** for DOT grant funding for safety education and enforcement related projects. Areas of concern for concept papers are: roadway safety, speed, aggressive driving, alcohol and impaired driving, occupant protection and child passenger safety among others.

Contact Peter or Jeanette with questions regarding completion of the form.

Sue suggested that the Hernando SO or Health Department apply for Child Passenger Safety, as there is no low cost car seat distribution program available in Hernando County. There is also a need for certified technician in Hernando County to educate parents on the correct use of child safety seats. Sue will schedule a technician class with the DOT, for June if possible, and will work with Sgt. Powers of Hernando SO to register participants from the sheriffs office. Office personnel as well as deputies are more than welcome to attend. Citrus SO staff members are also encouraged to attend. Since there are laws for child restraints, Child Passenger Safety is a law enforcement issue.

Peter also reported on the funding available for the “Safe Routes to School.” There are no requests as yet from Citrus or Hernando Counties for this funding. If there are no requests, the funding will go to other counties. This funding can be used for infrastructure improvements to increase the safety for kids who walk or ride bikes to school, such as signs, bike racks, sidewalks, striping, etc. See Peter for a comprehensive list of projects.

Fatalities as of Monday, Feb. 6 are: 2 for Citrus County and 6 for Hernando County for 2006.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

St. Lucie County approved a bike helmet law. They are the last county in the state to do so.

There was a question as to what traffic laws apply in gated communities. The SO can go in if there is a crash, a DUI or criminal infraction. They do not monitor things like stop sign infractions.

Motor Carrier has conducted speed details on hwy 54 near 589 and also a weight detail in Pasco County. They work on safety inspections of rock haulers. The teams set up at high schools with the NO ZONE program, where they allow students to sit in a large truck to see how the driver has a blind spot or NO ZONE, where they cannot see vehicles on the sides, front and in back of their truck.

Peter encouraged both SO's to participate in the Buckle Up Florida program and earn equipment such as lasers, computers, and cameras for their departments. Both Sgt. Palminteri and Lt Walker reported receiving this equipment in the last campaign.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Littnan  
Secretary

*The next meeting is Wednesday, March 8 at 1:00  
It is at the Government Center in Lecanto*

**Members Present:**

David Carr	FDOT, Brooksville	352-797-5700
Purce Dahlin	AARP	352-799-3658
Steven Diez	Hernando Co Planning	352-754-4057
Bill Geiger	City of Brooksville	352-544-5430
Terry Hensley	FDOT, Traffic Incident Mgmt	813-975-6259
Claudio Alleyne	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Peter Hsu	FDOT, Safety	813-975-6251
Sue Littnan	Citrus Co Health Dept	352-726-1731 x 242
Paulette Murrin	Hernando Co Health Dept	352-540-6800
Joe Palminteri	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Kristen Reinhard	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT, Safety	813-975-6256
Herman A. Sinemus	AARP 55 Alive	352-344-1901
James Walker	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Donna Young	Citrus Co School Board	352-726-1931
Michael Weaver	FDOT Motor Carrier Compliance	352-585-5999
Ron Williams	Primrose Lane	352-597-5638