

**West Central FL Community Traffic Safety Team
Meeting Minutes of Jan. 11, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Diez. Introductions were made and the minutes were approved. Before the meeting, Peter showed a video, "What Happens if You Don't Die," telling the stories of individuals who have been victims of DUI crashes.

OLD BUSINESS- A letter was sent to members who have not attended for some time, inviting them to participate in the CTST meetings, or send another representative of their agency if they no longer can attend.

Peter reminded members that the DOT has safety improvement funds to provide Citrus and Hernando Counties for safety improvements. Funding can improve intersections and other unsafe roadways. Monies will be allocated to other counties if Citrus and Hernando Counties do not apply for these funds.

PROBLEM LOCATIONS

1. Inverness High School needs a flashing warning signal on SR44. DOT revised signage and markings on Hwy 44. High school students cross all over and don't go to the crosswalk. A regular traffic signal is within 500 ft of entrance, so flashing signal cannot be installed that close. Crossing guards are a possibility as there is Inverness Primary school in the same location.
2. Steve discussed the difference in depth of road surface along US 19 at the intersections. This causes a dangerous situation for bike riders, as the tires cannot adjust to the one inch difference in depth. US19 may be removed as a bike facility for unsafe riding conditions.
3. Sgt. Walker of Hernando SO discussed US 19 near Weeki Wachee North Mobile Home Park. 140 residents over age 55 would like a deceleration lane both north and south to allow them to turn into the park.
4. Peter talked about US Hwy 98 and CR 476 in Hernando County. There were 3 traffic fatalities last year. The county was asked to trim trees to improve road visibility. DOT will add flashing beacon and then install a signal at a later date.
5. Rucell asked about where the flashing signal will go in at California Street. She asked if the speed limit will be reduced from 55 mph on Powell. Steve will check on it.
6. Deputy Corey Davidson—Citrus SO said that crashes continue on Hwy 44 and Highview across from the landfill. A possible solution is to add a merge lane from Highview turning right onto Hwy 44. Cars do not accelerate fast enough when they pull out of Highview into oncoming traffic that is traveling at 60 to 70 mph.

REPORTS FROM NOV. AND DEC.

The CTST had a wonderful Holiday luncheon in Dec. Thanks to all who helped make it a fun event.

Sue reported that the Car Seat Safety Classes are going well at the 2 hospitals. Many more families are coming to the Inverness Health Department to have their child’s car seat inspected prior to the birth of their baby.

There will be a car Seat check up event on Saturday, January 21 at Crystal Chevrolet in Inverness from 11:00 to 3:00. Technicians from Childhood Development Services, Headstart and the Early Learning Coalition will assist.

Jeanette discussed the Recipes for the Road book of non alcoholic drinks. There was very good media coverage, with several TV stations providing publicity.

Steve mentioned a program called “Ghost Bikes,” where a bike is painted white and stationed where a bicyclist was involved in a fatal crash. It is a visual reminder of bike fatalities.

Peter reported on new construction projects for Citrus and Hernando counties. There are 2 for each county. In Citrus—

- 1. US 41 from Watson St to SR 44—reconstruct 2 to 4 lanes Spring 2007
- 2. US 19 from NE 3rd Ave to C.R. mall—complete milling and resurfacing Early 2006

Hernando County

- 1. US 41 from Hviadoslav St. to SWFWMD and then to Powell Road
Multi-lane reconstruction-2 to 4 lanes—ongoing Summer 2006
- 2. SR 50 from CR 575 to Sumter County Line—mill and resurface Begin Jan 2006
approx. 100 day contract—on schedule.

Peter also reported on fatalities for 2005. Citrus had 26 and 30 in Hernando County for a record low number. Out of 67 counties, 33% of fatalities occurred in Miami Dade, Hillsborough, Orange, Broward, and Palm Beach, with a total of 1,158 of the state fatalities of 3,488, or 33%.

Sgt. Walker provided this Traffic report for December, 2005
Hernando County Sheriff’s Office

**Winter’s Fury (Florida Sheriff’s Assoc Task Force)
December 5, 2005 through December 8, 2005
(Commercial Vehicles)**

Response Type	Total
Traffic Stops	49
Traffic Citations	21
Verbal Warnings	15
Written Warnings	2
Civil Citation	2
Criminal Traffic Citation	1
Safety Inspections	15

**Holiday DUI Enforcement Campaign
December 10, 2005 through January 1, 2006
(Agency wide participation)**

Violation	Total
Speeding	264
Safety Belt	116
Uninsured Motorist	148
Suspended License	15
Child Restraint	8
Total Citations	551
DUI Arrests	29
Felony Arrests	15

**DUI Ops Plan 05-4013
December 15, 2005 through December 31, 2005
Eight saturation patrols, One checkpoint
(Traffic Unit Only)
Totals list as follows:**

**DUI Checkpoint December 23, 2005
Northcliffe Blvd / Hearth Road**

176 Vehicles	Stopped for Inspection
49 Vehicles	Diverted for Enforcement
127 Vehicles	Waived Through

6	DUI Investigations
2	DUI Arrests
3	Warrant Arrests
1	Narcotics Arrest
3	Arrest Other (Traffic Offense)

36	Traffic Citations
17	Verbal Warnings
14	Written Warnings
6	Event Form w/ Arrest
4	Criminal Traffic Citations

Saturation Patrols

Saturation Patrol #1
December 15, 16, 17

145	Traffic Citation
124	Verbal Warning
12	Criminal Traffic Citation
6	DUI Arrests
7	Event Form w/Arrest

Saturation Patrol #2
December 22, 24

83	Traffic Citation
57	Verbal Warning
4	Criminal Traffic Citation
1	Written Warning
5	DUI Arrests
6	Event Form w/Arrest

Saturation Patrol #3
December 28, 29, 31

102	Traffic Citation
75	Verbal Warning
6	Criminal Traffic Citation
5	Event Form w/Arrest
2	Written Warning
3	DUI Arrests

**Totals for Session 8 Review Period
(Traffic Unit Only)**

Response Type	Total
Traffic Stops	1169
Citations	1275
Written Warnings	41
Accident Reports	157
DUI Arrests	28
Arrests - Other	45
Traffic Enforcements	23

NEW BUSINESS

Sue reported that 3 Citrus County Child Passenger Safety Technicians attended a one-day recertification class held in Lecanto. Sgt. Ian Hay and Sgt. Brian Coleman of the Crystal River Police Department, and Ingrid Ellis of the Early Learning Coalition have National SAFE KIDS certification and can be contacted for assistance with car seat installation. Seven other participants from other counties also participated in this class.

Sue attended the State Child Passenger Safety Instructors' Conference at All Children's Hospital in St. Pete. More than half of the 49 state instructors attended to learn new safety seats, and share training ideas.

Steve said there are no applications from either Citrus or Hernando County Schools for the Safe Ways to Schools funding. There are many barriers to children walking to or from school. Discussion continued about the fact that not many children walk to school even with protected overpasses.

Donna and Rucell stated that parents do not want their children to walk to school due to sexual predators. The school districts transport kids who live less than 2 miles from school and day care kids as a good will gesture. In order to make bus transportation more efficient, bus stops could be combined, but parents don't even want kids walking 2 blocks to a bus stop and the parents won't do their part and walk the kids to the stop.

Sgt Walker mentioned the problem of large packs of bike riders (40 to 50) on Powell Road and Spring Lake Hwy. Bikers can legally ride 2 abreast, but they are blocking the road causing complaints by motorists who are not able to pass. Steve will check on this. He said that California and Colorado have banned huge bike rides due to this issue.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Littnan
Secretary

The next meeting is
Wednesday Feb. 8, 2006
At the Hernando County Sheriff's Office

WHO DO YOU KNOW THAT WOULD
ADD A NEW VIEWPOINT TO OUR CTST
MEETINGS ?

BRING A NEW MEMBER