

**West Central Community Traffic Safety Team
Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Diez. Introductions were made and the June meeting minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Team building needs to be boosted. Please consider inviting members from community agencies that work on any aspect of traffic safety.

PROBLEM LOCATIONS

Deputy Lee Entrekin reported that US 19 near Eagle Buick and Village Cadillac in Citrus County needs repaving. Dave Carr indicated that the striping and RPM's are also missing. Deputy Entrekin added that there is standing water on that stretch of US 19 after a rain storm, causing additional unsafe driving conditions. Jeanette will check to see when that area of US 19 is due for resurfacing.

Hwy 41 S. at Hwy 48 in Floral City—there is a potential for road rage and collisions due to backed up traffic attempting to make a left turn onto Hwy 48 from Hwy 41. There is no space for a turn lane and there has been resident concern about any changes to that intersection.

US 19 south and north of Crystal River needs additional bright signs warning motorists that the speed limit is 45 mph. Chief Burch said that there are new housing developments going in that area and they will only have access to US 19 from side streets. He would like to see the 45 mph speed limit extended further north on US 19 and also improve compliance with the additional signage.

David Carr reported that the intersections of Truck route and Hwy 41 and Wiscon and Hwy 41 need repaving. The braking of large trucks at these intersections causes the surface to bunch up.

EVENTS OF JUNE

Chief Burch reported that tropical storm Alberto did some road surface damage and lift stations were also damaged in the storm. Citrus County did qualify for FEMA reimbursement, but since the state of Florida did not meet the requirements for disaster funding, Citrus County did not receive FEMA funding.

The Crystal River PD conducted a DUI checkpoint on June 30 at the start of the long 4th of July weekend. They issued citations for violations on Hwy 44 east and westbound during the checkpoint. The Department is also involved in the Operation Summer HEAT enforcement effort.

Sue provided the 4 day Child Passenger Safety technician training in June. This is reported in the June minutes. Sue and Kim Herrmann from the Traffic Safety Resource Center, taught a half-day technical review for CPS technicians from Citrus and Sumter Counties. 47 parents and other caregivers attended car seat safety classes at the health department and at Citrus Memorial Hospital. 22 safety seats and boosters were provided in June at low cost.

Jeanette provided a report on the state CTST Coalition meeting in Sanford. This marks the 10 year anniversary of the CTST's. There were 9 teams at the start, and now there are 58 teams in Florida.

The community of Palm Bay did a presentation on a quick and economical method of producing sidewalks using flexible, reusable plastic forms for the cement.

NEW BUSINESS

The next statewide CTST Coalition meeting will be the second Monday in October. It will be in Gainesville with the location TBA. There will be several workshop sessions to attend.

Sue is attending the Kids in Motion (KIM) conference on Child Passenger Safety - Aug. 9-11 in Orlando. It is a national conference providing updates on new developments in child safety restraints. Car seat manufacturers and vehicle manufacturers participate.

A consulting firm was hired and did a survey of seat belt compliance right after the Click it or Ticket Campaign. The rate before the campaign was 73.6% and 80.7% after the enforcement and education. This survey was done in 12 counties with 3 new counties added. The goal for seat belt compliance is 85%. Fed funding for the state is based on the % of compliance, However, the state of FL would be eligible for many more \$\$\$\$ if there was a primary seat belt law. It's about time !!!

Peter provided information on the street lighting project on US 19 from SR 50 to Spring Hill. It is due to start in 2007. Along with this project is funding for traffic safety education. We need to come up with ideas for this educational effort.

There are 4 guardrail projects upcoming on the interstate. There is funding available for an educational component such as information on the Move Over Law, and the Move It Law.

Chief Burch discussed the installation of medians on US19 from S.E. 1st Terrace to Fort Island Trail. These would replace the center lane used for both left and right turns. There would also be a paved multi-use lane installed.

Jeanette passed out forms to collect recipes for the next edition of "Recipes for the Road." Last year, Citrus and Hernando Counties each had 3 restaurants represented. Let's try for at least a half dozen from each county. If you know a good restaurant that would like to provide a yummy, non-alcoholic drink recipe for the holidays, please let Jeanette know. It's free advertising for the restaurant.

There was no further business.

The next meeting is at 1:00 on Wednesday, Aug. 9

at the Hernando Sheriff's office.