

**West Central FL Community Traffic Safety Team
Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 by Chair, Steve Diez. Introductions were made and the February minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS—PROBLEM LOCATIONS

1. Hwy 44 in Citrus near Citrus High School needs to encourage students to cross at the appropriate area instead of jaywalking. FDOT will work with Citrus County to install a flashing beacon on top of the existing school sign. It may be solar powered.
2. Hwy 98 and Cobb in Brooksville—Southbound on 98—attempt to turn onto Cobb. There is a signal at the intersection and a yield sign. This situation is also on US 10 and Spring Hill Drive. Which direction is followed when the yield sign is that close to the signal?
3. Cobb Road and Youth Drive near Parrott Middle School---blinking light doesn't work.
4. SR 50 and US 98--- Ridge Manor—Friction course (top layer of roadway) is coming apart. Dave Carr said it will be repaved in March.
5. Cortez Ave. and Suncoast Pkwy.---The turn lane light is very long. Drivers have to sit more than 5 min. waiting for the light after hours, when there is no traffic.
6. Hwy. 491 at 44 and 486--- Check the yellow light timing, as it only flashes and doesn't stay on.

*Citrus SO has been ticketing for RED LIGHT RUNNING at these intersections. Timing for the yellow lights are either 4 or 6 seconds.

7. Hwy 19 & 44—Drivers who turn into the CVS pharmacy are making a left turn cutting across oncoming traffic. Dave Carr suggested flex posts or a NO LEFT TURN sign to block entrance.
8. Hwy 44 near the landfill—Peter said there is no justification for a signal according to DOT. However, the county can install and maintain a signal with county funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Hwy 486 and Pine Ridge Blvd.—The entrance now has a stop sign, but increase in traffic flow makes left turns onto 486 very difficult. Look into signal at this entrance. The signal shop in Citrus will have to make this determination. Contact Debbie Harrison

Peter reported on **SAFE ROUTES to SCHOOL FUNDING**. There are 134 projects requested by Pasco, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties, but none from Hernando and Citrus. Marilyn Farmer from Citrus Schools is the only person from these counties on task force. There are 2 meeting date choices for school board personnel who are interested in applying for these funds. March 21 from 1 -3:00 at DOT office in Tampa or March 27 from 1 - 3:00 at same location.

Projects considered for funding are crossing guard equipment, construction projects like speed bumps, signals, flashers at school zones, sidewalks and sidewalk repair, street lighting, striping etc. Schools or engineering must nominate projects. This meeting will provide ideas on projects that are covered. The goal of the program is to increase the number of students who bike and walk to school.

Peter--The second annual Pro Bike Pro Walk Florida conference is April 19-21 in St. Augustine. For more information go to www.probikeprowalkflorida.com

Steve—Two new bills—1. to increase speeding fines in high risk roadways. 2. prohibit 501 (c) 3 Groups like churches, from blocking roadways.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Sue reported on a car seat check up event in Feb. at Childhood Development Services. Seven safety seats were checked and 4 were installed correctly. ☺

82 parents and other caregivers attended car seat safety classes in Feb. The increase is due to 42 participants at hospital childbirth classes. 23 car seats were provided at the Inverness Health department.

A question was raised about a car seat program in Hernando County. The SO still does rent car seats, but does not provide low cost seats on a permanent basis. Sue will work with Sgt. Powers to get staff registered for the four day technician class. Non deputy staff are a good choice of participants for this class, as they are available in the office. This class will be after June. Applying for the DOT safety grant for is a way for the SO to obtain car seats for a distribution program. Sue will contact Sgt. Lillibridge to provide information on writing the concept paper which is due March 31. The SO has 2 certified technicians at this time.

Kris reported the following activities for Feb.

1-23 to			
2-24	Rock Crusher Elem	Homosassa	750 - Pre K to 5th
2-6	Step Up Florida	Rock Crusher Elem	-
2-13	Citrus Spgs Middle Bikeathon	Citrus Spgs	- 6th to 8th
2-27 to			
3-10	Pope John Paul Catholic	Lecanto	- Pre K to 8th

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kris and Sue will both participate in the Sheriff's Safety for the Summer event on Sat., April 29. It is at the Inverness auditorium from 10 -2

Peter mentioned two new upcoming brochures, one on yielding to visually impaired pedestrians with a white cane, and the other on street racing. Hernando SO would like more of the Move Over brochures for community education.

Dave noted that there needs to be more education to remind motorists to “move over “ in construction zones. Sgt. Palminteri of Citrus SO has done a Key TV spot on the move over law. This needs to be on ongoing campaign.

Peter said there is \$8,000 available for a pedestrian safety media campaign.

Steve—Signal pre-emption is where emergency vehicles (EMS) can change a traffic signal to “Green,” to allow them to cross an intersection. Usage is limited and works on a receiver / transponder system similar to Sunpass transponders.

Frank from Tri –State has the “No Zone” program ready to go. He has the decals for the trailers and set to provide this program to schools. It shows motorists the “blind” zone, where truck drivers cannot see a vehicle on the side of their truck.

Peter---There are 150 enforcement lights (white lights) available for installation. This will be enough for about 40 intersections. Contact him to obtain for Citrus and Hernando Counties.

“Sleep driving” was discussed, where motorists have used sleep aids, like Ambien, and are driving while sleeping. Most cases show that the person took more than the allowable dose.

Kris has events planned for Pope John Paul School, and Grace Awana for March, along with a parent program in Citronelle, and an event at Crystal Chevrolet.

The Citrus Car Seat Safety Program is receiving a shipment of 200 safety seats and boosters in March as the first of two shipments for the 2006 safety grant project.

No further business—the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Littnan
Secretary

**The next meeting is at 1:00 pm
Wed., April 12 at the Hernando Sheriff’s office.**

Members Present:

Frank Byrne	Tri State Carriers	352-799-4103
David Carr	FDOT, Brooksville	352-797-5700
Terry Corbin	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-736-4488
Purce Dahlin	AARP	352-799-3658
Steven Diez	Hernando Co Planning	352-754-4057
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Sue Littnan	Citrus Co Health Dept	352-726-1731 x 242
Rucell Nesmith	Hernando Co Bus Transp	352-797-7003
Kristen Reinhard	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-622-6991
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
James Walker	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-585-5999
Donna Young	Citrus Co School Board	352-726-1931 x 2495
Orin Browning	FDOT Brooksville	352-797-5700
Richard Stover	Citrus Co Fire Rescue	352-527-5406
Matt Lillibridge	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-279-9933
Anthony Chaumont	FDOT Traffic Operations	813-975-6250