

## **West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2005**

Steve Diez called the meeting to order at the Citrus County Health Department and welcomed those members present. Introductions were given. Our April meeting minutes had two spelling errors, one was Yontz Road and the other should have been Howell, not Powell. The minutes were approved with those two notations in spellings.

Problem Location Discussion: California Street – speed signs at the schools, still checking with Hernando County. Howell Ave. – is scheduled to be resurfaced. They will leave the two school zones as they are when they are repainted.

Steve Burch reported on a traffic safety blitz conducted in April by Crystal River Police Department. The department has 18 sworn officers, including the Chief. They handed out over 170 citations and several DUI arrests. Steve said every month each squad is tasked with a safety blitz. They city's population is 3600. In 2003, they had 142 crash reports on long forms and showed a 14% alcohol involved crash rate.

The US 19 project is coming through Hernando and Citrus counties. Steve mentioned along US 19 in Homosassa the medians have no decelerations lanes and they have experienced several bad crashes.

Dave Carr mentioned he witnessed a crossing guard on SR 44 in Crystal River stopping traffic for school buses and so kids can cross. Steve Burch explained the school board pays for the crossing guards. Guards can stop traffic for school buses, it is in their contract.

Steve said the recent Bike Across Florida event began near Cocoa Beach and ended in Crystal River. About 60 participants were in the bike ride and only a handful of people showed up to greet the riders.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Department's teen driving class is going well. They are supposed to have a spot on Channel 13 news tonight. The class size is limited to 10 and held every other Friday and Saturday. They are currently averaging 8-9 kids. This collision avoidance class is for 16-18 year olds and teaches evasive driving. It is limited to Hernando County residents and the class is free of charge. They have booked dates for this year and next year. They was some discussion regarding tracking the students to see how they do after they complete the course. The results of their citation record would be good justification for the course.

Sgt. Walker reported they have 14 in the Traffic Unit at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office with one vacancy. Their goal is to be data driven. They are in the initial stages of getting and tracking data. Peter Hsu discussed the TRACS system of electronic transfer of data. He says engineering is trying to promote using this system. The state of Iowa uses the TRACS system. All the data is scanned in and you have a 48 hour turn

around to have all your crash records in the system. Peter said he was committed to seeing this system go through.

Jeanette Rouse briefly discussed the CTST statewide Coalition meeting held in April in Gainesville. She has created a brochure on go-peds and mopeds that are a hot topic of discussion now. One case is being challenged in Orange County.

AAA held their first annual bike rodeo at the Spring Hill office. They had about 50-75 kids complete the rodeo. Helmets were given to the participants. They want to repeat the event next year. Steve said they experienced some parking lot problems.

The Memorial Day Buckle Up press conference was held on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office and FHP will be conducting blitzes. Crystal River PD will be doing a week-long blitz in the City.

Peter asked about the trading cards. Tracy said Mel will send the files to be printed.

David Carr asked about the need for cones, variable message boards, etc for checkpoints. The Sheriff's Office said they use their data to do a county-wide blitz in their 3 districts. They have a press release prepared. Dave said they have 4 message boards and could most likely lend out 2 and they have a number of cones. He suggested they contact Jo Ellen Guthrie at the FDOT office on Spring Hill Drive at 352-797-5700. It was also noted the Sheriff White in Pasco County may have equipment that he can loan out.

Terry Hensley reported on the one day seminar on Traffic Incident Management to be held on June 7<sup>th</sup>. This one day course will be taught by PB Farradyne at the FDOT office in Tampa. The course is free to enforcement personnel on critical incident management.

One last problem location was identified as Castle Avenue from Elwood to Dead End near Wider Horizons Day School. The amount of activity from the school especially during drop off and pick up times for the families has peaked.

**Members Present:**

Cristi Brown	Hernando Co Risk Mgmt	352-754-4429
Steve Burch	Crystal River Police Dept	352-795-4241
David Carr	FDOT Brooksville	352-797-5700
Ralph Cotier	WCFL Driver Improvement	352-726-8862
David DeCarlis	Crystal River Police Dept	352-795-4241
Steven Diez	Hernando Co Planning	352-754-4057
Tracy DiMuro	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Karen Gidden	Hernando Co Health Dept	352-754-4067x149
Terry Hensley	FDOT Traffic Incident Mgmt	813-975-6259
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
James Walker	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830