

**West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team
Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2004**

Chairman Steve Diez called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as read.

TEAM BUILDING

Introductions were made and Lt. Doug Dodd from the Citrus SO and Anthony Chaumont were welcomed to the CTST. Anthony is a new Traffic Ops employee with the DOT office in Tampa.

PROBLEM LOCATIONS

There are 3 Hernando Fire stations, which have hazardous traffic access for fire trucks. Highway access conditions for stations 11 and 12 will be examined by the County.

In Citrus, FDOT will check the school crossing issue at US 41 and Line Ave.

EVENTS

Steve reminded the members to update and add to their events form on a monthly basis. In this way we can keep accurate data on activities from all organizations in the CTST.

Tracy DiMuro mentioned that the southbound turn lane signal on Spring Hill Dr. and Hwy 19 doesn't allow enough cars to make the turn. This area will be checked.

Peter said the DOT is able to put up street lighting on US 19 from Spring Hill Drive to SR 50. Hernando County will need to maintain the lights once they are installed. Peter will work with Citrus County to install street lighting, with the county's agreement to maintain the lights.

George asked about the policy on the enforcement lights. Hernando SO has all intersections targeted for enforcement when time permits. Peter said the DOT is working on a training video that will show enforcement personnel outside the traffic units how the white enforcement light works. The fine for running a red light is \$115.50 and 3 points -a moving violation.

Sgt. Joe Palminteri asked about producing a commercial to educate the public on the enforcement lights. Other PSA's would also help to inform citizens.

Kris, who is now a bike safety specialist with the Citrus SO, reported on her events for September and early October.

Sept 14-17 -Ped and Bike safety for 420 Pre-K - 5th grade students at Floral City Elem. School .

Sept. 21-23 - 115 students at Lecanto Middle School

Oct. 1—Bike Fest 2004 in West Palm Beach- she taught 2 students in community training.

Oct. 9—Beverly Hills bike rodeo for 2 students.

Oct. 4-22 ---Bike, Ped, and Bus safety for 650 students at Forest Ridge Elementary.

Sue provided a Car seat Question and Answer program at the Inverness Wal-Mart on Sept.28 for Baby Week for 25 people.

Car Seat Safety Technicians Sgt. Dave DeCarlis—Crystal River PD, Deputy Kurt Lynn—Citrus SO, Bill Villanova—Citrus Schools Transportation, and Sue Littnan—Health Dept. conducted a car seat check at the Homosassa Wal-Mart on Sat., Oct. 2 . Ten (10) safety seats were inspected, one was replaced and the others needed adjustments.

Steve Diez was featured on a half hour bike safety program on Channel 19 the government television station.

Tracy said the bike safety program for 1,500 3rd graders in the Hernando Schools has started. This is a classroom program, but she is hoping to expand it to include on-bike training.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Steve mentioned the "Howl at the Moon" night bike ride on Oct. 29th at 8:00 pm. It will start at dusk at the Cruze Lake Park and go to Starkey Wilderness.

Kris and Sue will both participate in a Safety and Wellness Day on Sunday, October 17, for the fire protection volunteers and their families. It will be at Whispering Pines Park from 11:30 - 4:00. Kris will conduct a bike rodeo and Sue will provide car seat inspections and information.

Sue is conducting a car seat safety awareness class for the OB staff and volunteers at Citrus Memorial Hospital. It will be for 27 people on Thurs., Oct. 28 from 2:00-3:00 PM.

Kris will conduct a bike rodeo at the Homosassa Wal-Mart on Oct. 23rd. On Oct. 28th, Kris will start bike safety classes for 2nd and 3rd graders at Seven Rivers Christian School, and pedestrian safety for the kindergarten and 1st graders. This is a new school for the bike program.

The DOT office will work with the School Resource Officer at Hernando High School to acquire cones for the teen driving program.

TRADING CARD PROJECT UPDATE

Peter showed samples of trading cards. The photographer at Hernando SO office will take pictures of Crystal River police officers. The graphics for the Hernando SO deputies are completed. DOT is also printing bookmarks for the DUI enforcement. There is space for an agency logo.

Jeanette discussed the "Recipes for the Road" booklet, a collection of non-alcoholic drinks to be distributed in time for the holidays.

Terry Hensley recognized David Carr of the Brooksville DOT office and presented him with a Buckle Up Florida tote bag including several gifts. Dave is always first in line to help out when there are traffic safety events. Thanks DAVE.

Jeff Novotny from American Consulting Engineers provided a power point presentation on the Cable Barrier System used on I-75 Alligator Alley in Collier County, east of Naples. This system of cables stretches 50 miles, and provides support along the wildlife fence. This system prevents vehicles from going into the canal in a crash situation. There are crash locator lights every 2,000 feet, which are triggered if the cable is hit. The cable has been hit 30 -35 times in the past year, with no fatalities.

Peter reminded members that there is a \$500,000 yearly budget set aside by DOT to help with traffic safety projects to reduce run off the road fatalities on the local roadway system. Citrus and Hernando Counties can hire consultants to design and construct safety projects. The county engineers need to initiate these projects.

Lt. Doug Dodd explained a 2 year plan to construct a "SAFETY TOWN" in Citrus County. The county already has a 12 acre parcel of land and a \$50,000 grant for planning. WTI will assist by constructing some of the small scaled, child-sized buildings, like a car dealership, insurance agency, etc. Bike and pedestrian safety programs will be provided, with the curriculum geared for K through 3rd graders. There will be a classroom/meeting room on the grounds. A suggestion was made to conduct car seat check up events there too.

Jeanette invited members to visit the Safety Town in Pasco County. The CTST in Pasco meets there on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM. It is on Hwy 52, west of the Suncoast Pkwy. Contact Jeanette for directions.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Littnan

Secretary

**The next meeting is at 1:00PM
Wednesday, November 10
Government Center in Lecanto.**

Members Present:

Cristi Brown	Hernando Co Risk Management	352-754-4429
David Carr	FDOT, Brooksville	352-797-5700
Ralph Cotier	WCFL Driver Improvement	352-726-8862
Purce Dahlin	AARP	352-799-3658
David DeCarlis	Crystal River Police Dept	352-795-4241
Steven Diez	Hernando Co Planning	352-754-4057x126
Tracy DiMuro	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
George Drobina	VFW 10209	352-688-8244
Gloria Fribley	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Terry Hensley	Law Enforcement Liaison	727-367-9633
Sue Littnan	Citrus Co Health Department	352-726-1731x242
Paulette Murrin	Hernando Co Health Department	352-754-4067x107
Joe Palminteri	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488x242
Kristen Reinhard	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Patrick Taylor	Hernando Co Fire	352-540-4353
Donna Young	Citrus Co School Board	352-726-1931
Jeff Novotny	American Consulting Engineers of FL	
Doug Dodd	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488x281
James R Davis	Crystal River Police Department	352-795-4241
Kenneth Lakatis	Crystal River Police Department	352-795-4241
Kellie Reese	Crystal River Police Department	352-795-4241