

West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2004

Chairman Steve Diez called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM at the government center in Lecanto. Roll call was taken. A correction in the spelling of Crews Lake was made to the October minutes and the minutes were approved as corrected.

October Events

Steve reported that the Howl at the Moon nighttime bike ride was a great success, with 42 registered riders. There were 7 mile, 20 mile and 30 mile loops for riders. Another evening ride may be planned for spring.

Sue reported on events for October. Thirty-eight parents and other caregivers attended car seat safety classes, and 37 safety seats were provided. A car seat check was held at the Wal-Mart in Homosassa where 9 seats were inspected. A question and answer session on car seat safety was held at the Inverness Wal-Mart Super Center on Oct. 2. A fundraising presentation was made to the Fairview Estates Property Owners Association to help obtain funds to purchase additional car seats; however, they voted not to donate.

Problem Locations

Peter Hsu stated the FDOT will provide more street lighting in Hernando County along the US 19 corridor. FDOT will conduct lighting studies to justify the areas in Citrus County; they can do localized intersections through the LAP agreement.

New Business

Peter showed a power point presentation on the new Crash Data Management System. He said the technology is here to benefit EMS and enforcement. It uses geographical aerial photos for reference to problem locations. The crash reports are also input into the data base with the geographic information system. It can identify all traffic characteristics, do an inventory of how many lanes, the traffic volume and line up all the crashes. Data can be utilized to show how many crashes occur on a particular intersection, and on which part of that intersection. Time of day, type of collision, etc. can also be monitored. This is an excellent tool for engineering departments and also for any agency obtaining data for grant writing. The FDOT can help with consultants to link the new system to already existing geo maps of our counties. In Hillsborough County, they were able to use to the data to redirect their enforcement priorities and shift their work schedules. Subsequently, fatalities in Hillsborough County have dropped 15%. The FDOT has determined that a problem area equals an average of 8 crashes per year for 3 years. In the 5 county FDOT district, we have identified over 500 locations.

The FDOT Traffic Incident Manager Denny Pedrick explained the ITS or Intelligent Transportation System monitoring. It is an attempt to reduce the time lanes are closed and traffic is stopped after a crash or incident. A new traffic management system building is being constructed behind the DOT office on McKinley Avenue. They hope to break ground in February and have it completed in two years.

Steve showed a new Safety News Newsletter produced by Tindall – Oliver consulting firm in Hillsborough County. Members should receive one in the mail.

Upcoming Events for November

Steve mentioned that he was participating in the Keys Bike Ride in November.

Sgt. Joe Palminteri of Citrus SO reported that there will be stationary DUI checkpoints starting the end of November and continuing into early December.

Hernando County Health Department is participating in the "STEP UP FLORIDA" relay on Feb. 17 to increase physical activity.

Sue will provide a car seat safety awareness for the 27 member OB staff of Citrus Memorial Hospital on Thursday, November 18. Sue, along with Deputy Kurt Lynn, and Bill Villanova of the Citrus Schools Transportation Dept. provided a car seat safety class for 6 students in the Teen Parent program at WTI. Four safety seats were provided. There will be a safety presentation for 20 parents at Promise Village for the Even Start Program on Tuesday, Nov. 16. Funding requests to purchase car seats were also made at the Elks Club and the Knights of Columbus.

Trading Card Update

All photos are complete for Hernando County Sheriff's Office. We may have additional cards for EMS, fire department staff, and the police department. Citrus SO has declined the offer.

Open Forum

Joe Palminteri will be out for the next 3 months with neck surgery and Deputy Mike Junker will attend the meetings in his absence.

Joe also reported on the CARS program, which is a computerized Crash Avoidance Reduction System at the Citrus SO. Through this system, deputies and detectives can access various zones by officer, by area, and by time of day. Response time will be faster. All activity data is stored off site daily.

Dave Carr asked about a possible problem location right on Sovereign Path outside the government center. There is a tractor-trailer parked on the road, which could be a hazard at night. Sgt. Joe P. said there was little or no traffic on that street after the government center and health department close for the night.

Donna Young asked Joe to check on the intersection of Line Ave. and Hwy 44. There is a sign that prohibits left turns during school hours, but it is not enforced. Cars are often in the left turn lane when buses are present, forcing the buses up on the curb to avoid them. This is a danger to children and crossing guards on the sidewalk. The sign is not very visible and with the school hours being the only time a left turn is not permitted, most motorists are probably not aware of it. Joe will check.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Littnan
Secretary

**Next meeting is Wednesday, December 8, 2004
Hernando County Sheriff's Office
Brooksville**

Members Present:

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| Cristi Brown | Hernando Co Risk Management | 352-754-4429 |
| David Carr | FDOT, Brooksville | 352-797-5700 |
| Ralph Cotier | WCFL Driver Improvement | 352-726-8862 |
| Steven Diez | Hernando Co Planning | 352-754-4057x126 |
| Gloria Fribley | Hernando Co Sheriff's Office | 352-754-6830 |
| Karen Gidden | Hernando Co Health Department | 352-754-4067x149 |
| Debbie Harrison | Citrus Co Traffic Control | 352-527-7638 |
| Peter Hsu | FDOT Safety | 813-975-6251 |
| Sue Littnan | Citrus Co Health Department | 352-726-1731x242 |
| Joe Palminteri | Citrus Co Sheriff's Office | 352-726-4488 |
| Jeanette Rouse | FDOT Safety | 813-975-6256 |
| Patrick Taylor | Hernando Co Fire | 352-540-4353 |
| Donna Young | Citrus Co School Board | 352-726-1931 |
| Robert Young | Citrus Co Traffic Control | 352-527-7638 |
| Denny Pedrick | FDOT Traffic Incident Management | 813-975-6259 |