

**West Central Community Traffic Safety Team
Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2003**

Chair Steve Diez called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm, and introductions were made. The minutes were approved after changing Wilson to Wiscon Street on pg. 1.

OLD BUSINESS and PROBLEM LOCATIONS

Keith heard about our favorite intersection of Highway 50 and Spring Lake Road from a "concerned" citizen, who was upset about the trucks running the red light. Even with 3 police agencies enforcing it, the trucks are still running red lights.

The left turn lane on Highway 50 turning on to Sunshine Grove was a concern raised by Rucell. Steve had information that Sam's Club will be providing help with road construction including widening and turn lanes, as the store is going to be built soon in that area.

NEW PROBLEM LOCATIONS

Mike Schlaudraff asked about the intersection at Landfill and Highway 44 in Citrus. Many crashed have occurred at this location, with some at the street coming out of Citrus Hills. The county is putting in an acceleration lane going east. Have DOT look into the request for a signal. Main Street and Apopka is another location that needs to be examined.

NEW BUSINESS

The concept paper forms for DOT safety grants are available on FDOT's website. They include a cover letter and 4 sheets of information regarding the grant. These are due the end of March. Jeanette said that the same areas of safety programming are being considered for funding, and that the federal areas of concentration are impaired driving and seat belt use.

Steve will do a "Share the Road" mini grant for bike/ped education. The \$3.00 fee added to citations will be used for driver ed simulators, not pre-driver ed training in bike safety.

The University of Florida bike/ped education program does have a pre-drivers ed program for middle school students.

Keith reported that monies normally used for widening roads would be used for safety areas like intersection problems (red light running), information services, and pedestrians plus two others. There has been some experimenting with the addition of a white light on signal systems. The white light is wired into the red circuit of the signal head. This tool allows the officers to see the white light come on from the opposite side of the street, and not have to go through the red light to catch red light runners. Law enforcement is highly favorable of this system. DOT is asking for communities to have these lights installed. DOT will supply the light.

According to Terry, all counties are short on officers. Traffic units are the first group drawn from, when the agency is short staffed.

A question was raised if transportation monies were going to be affected now that the class size mandate will draw a considerable amount of funding. Keith said that transportation money comes from gas tax and will not be affected by the class size program.

Sue reported that Child Passenger Safety Week is Feb. 9-15, 2003. In Citrus County, all techs are asked to participate in a Car Seat Check Up Event on Saturday, Feb. 15. It will be held in the parking lot of WTI (Withlacoochee Technical Institute) from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.

The theme of CPS Week this year is "FOUR STEPS FOR KIDS," emphasizing the use of booster seats after a child has outgrown an infant seat and toddler seat. A booster seat should be used for kids approximately 40 - 80 pounds, and under 4 feet 9 inches tall.

There is a 32-hour Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Class in Citrus County on March 27, 28 and April 3 & 4. It will be from 8-5 daily at the Withlacoochee Technical Institute in Inverness. Contact Sue at 352-726-1731 for more information or to register. DOT funds the class.

Terry Hensley announced the Challenge Workshop to be held on January 21 from 11-1 pm at FDOT Headquarters in Tampa. During the workshop the upcoming program will be explained.

Steve and Kris are both certified Bike Ed. Instructors. They will do a bike ed workshop in Citrus at the Auditorium in Inverness on May 23 and 24. There is a fee of \$15 for members of the Bike Association and \$25 for non-members. The opening of the Suncoast Trail will be in March or April.

Kris received the second bike trailer and second set of 30 bikes for her program. She now has 60 bikes of various sizes for bike education in the schools.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Littnan
Secretary

**The next meeting is at the Hernando County
Sheriff's Office
February 12, 2003
1:00 PM**

Members Present:

Keith Crawford	FDOT Safety	813-975-6255
Chris Culbertson	Inverness PD	352-726-2121
Steve Diez	Hernando Co. Planning	352-754-4057x126
Chad Doyle	Inverness Police Dept.	352-726-2121
George Drobina	VFW 10209	352-688-8244
Terry Hensley	Law Enforcement Liaison	727-367-9633
Sue Littnan	Citrus Health Dept.	352-726-1731x242
Paulette Murrin	Hernando Health Dept.	352-754-4067x107
Rucell Nesmith	Hernando Bus Transpt.	352-797-7003
Kristen Reinhard	Citrus Co Envirn Health	352-527-5293
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Mike Schlaudraff	Citrus Co Fire Service	352-527-5412
Donna Young	Citrus Co School Board	352-726-1931
Trooper Inge	Florida Highway Patrol	352-754-6767