

West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team January 12, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Steve Diez called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm at the Government Center in Lecanto. Introductions were made and the minutes from the December 8, 2004 meeting were approved.

PROBLEM LOCATIONS

1. US 41 and SR 50 in Hernando county has a dual left turn lane west bound on SR 50. The proposal from Hernando County is to increase to a triple left turn, as traffic stacks up heavily in the morning.
2. Peter Hsu also said both counties are ready to add more enforcement lights. DOT is preparing a training video on the enforcement lights to train those officers who are outside the traffic units.
3. George Drobina asked for signs on Spring Hill Drive going east of the Suncoast Parkway. There are reduced speed signs west of the parkway, but none east at this time.
4. Donna Young said the school buses still can't turn with cars in the left turn lane on Line Street in Inverness. The "No left turn" sign is in the wrong place and too small. It should be moved closer to Main Street. Buses are forced to go onto the sidewalk to make the turn. Marilyn Farmer called the sign shop, but no action yet. She will call again.
5. Tracy DiMuro asked about the flashing beacon on Powell and Culberth. Steve will check and see when it should be installed. She also asked if Mariner and Quality will get a light near the hospital. Steve said this was part of the Quality Drive improvement project.
6. The location of several teen deaths on Mondon Hill Road will be repaired with dirt and sod to make a higher embankment.
7. Peter reported that there are citizen requests for additional street lighting on US 19. This will be done in 2008. Hernando County will maintain these new lights. Citrus County is starting the intersection street lighting program and working with FDOT on the maintenance agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

Tracy reported that District #2 will do speed enforcement in Spring Hill and Hernando Beach using ATVs. Deputies will also participate dressed as trash pick up people for the enforcement effort.

Steve asked about the news article on ticketing fellow officers. As with any person stopped for a violation, the officer issuing a ticket will do so at his discretion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Steve mentioned the grand opening of the trail head at SR 50 and the Suncoast Trail on Saturday, February 19. It has an open pavilion. It is a well-lit facility, open from dawn to dusk. He asked the Sheriff's Office to patrol the area.

Karen Gidden discussed the upcoming STEP UP FLORIDA event scheduled for February 22. It is a flag hand off relay from county to county. Hernando County will hand off to Citrus County at highway 491 and Stagecoach Road. Contact Karen at the Hernando County Health Department or Tom O'Brien at Citrus Health Department for more information. Hernando EMS personnel are concerned with inactive people participating in this event. Steve said trail mile markers are visible from the road, and can be used to locate anyone who needs assistance on the trail. This will provide a good cross reference with the road mile markers.

This event ties in with the "Fitness in Citrus" team competition in Citrus County . This program is to encourage active, healthy exercise. It is a 5 week program from January 17 to February 19. Each team member scores ten points for each ten minutes of physical exercise and the team reports their total score once a week to Tom O'Brien at the Health Department. It is sponsored by Citrus Memorial Hospital, Citrus Chronicle, and the Health Department. Weekly team scores are published in the Chronicle. Awards, recognition and prizes will be presented at the end of the program.

Steve reported that a deputy from Pasco County requested a bike safety training for all the Community Resource officers. He would like to provide the same training in Citrus and Hernando Counties.

Shirlee Cox from AAA announced a bike rodeo on Saturday, May 7 in the plaza at Spring Hill Drive and Pinehurst. Contact AAA for more information.

Kris reported that she will conduct a bike safety class for 734 students at Rock Crusher Elementary from Jan 10 - Feb 11. She will be starting kids on bikes earlier at the pre-k level. Pedestrian safety will still be a focus for the pre-k students. Bikes and trikes will be used. Another class will be at Inverness Primary from Jan 24 through Feb 25 for 760 3rd -5th grade students. On January 22, she will conduct a bike rodeo for Cub Scout pack 571 in Dunnellon. There will be 3 learning stations set up for the 60 participants to earn badges. The Sheriff's Safety for the Summer Event will be April 30 at the Citrus Fairgrounds. Mark your calendar and provide help fitting bike helmets. Kris will train volunteers.

Steve presented a certificate to Sgt. Phil Royal and one for Dr. Brockett, a local dental surgeon, for their efforts in pursuing a change in the bike helmet law for children in Citrus County. As it stands now, Citrus and St. Lucie Counties are the only two counties in the state that do NOT require children to wear a bike helmet. The County Board will vote to change this for Citrus County. Although there is some opposition as reported in the Chronicle, we are hoping this will pass.

Jeanette mentioned the primary seat belt law effort. Once again there is the question of profiling as a result if there a primary seat belt law is passed

Tracy announced the Law Enforcement Challenge will take place this June, along with the Memorial Day Enforcement Wave.

Deputy Carlo Daleo will be featured on radio station WWJB in Brooksville on January 18 at 1:00. He will discuss red light running and answer prepared questions. He also conducted a program on drunk driving in December and seat belt use in November. He will be on the air once a month, and hopefully discuss Child Passenger Safety in February. Let him know interesting topics.

Tracy and Carlo would like to see some of the signs 'Buckle Up---It's the Law" near the schools. There has been good feedback on the law enforcement trading cards at the Hernando SO. We still need pictures of fire rescue personnel in Citrus County, and also to encourage the Citrus SO to have pictures taken for this DOT funded project.

Sue reported on the \$2 dollar difference program and handed out posters. When you register your vehicle or renew your tag, you can donate \$2 to help purchase safety seats for needy children in YOUR County. All monies collected in your county stays in your county. PLEASE HELP next time you renew your car tag. Child Passenger Safety Week is February 13-19, 2005. Booster seats are the focus of this event, since most 4 to 8 year olds do not ride in a booster. Sue will provide a Car Seat Question and Answer table at the Super Wal-Mart during that week. The Citrus Health Department offers FREE car seat check-ups by appointment at the Inverness office. Call Sue for more information.

AAA reported 900 tows over the holidays. Tow truck drivers in Citrus County also went together to provide tows from Thanksgiving to New Years.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Littnan
Secretary

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS.

- Feb. 9 Hernando Sheriff's Office - Brooksville
- Mar. 9 Citrus County Health Dept.- Lecanto
- Apr.13 Hernando Sheriff's Office - Brooksville
- May 11 Citrus County Health Dept.-Lecanto
- June 8 Hernando Sheriff's Office - Brooksville
- July 13 Citrus County Government Center-Lecanto
- Aug. 10 Hernando Sheriff's Office - Brooksville
- Sept.14 Citrus County Government Center-Lecanto

Oct. 12 Hernando Sheriff's Office - Brooksville
Nov. 9 Citrus County Government Center-Lecanto
Dec. 14 Hernando Sheriff's Office - Brooksville

Members Present:

Christi Brown	Hernando County Risk Management	352-754-4429
David Carr	FDOT, Brooksville Maintenance	352-797-5700
Ralph Cotier	WCFL Driver Improvement	352-726-8862
Shirlee Cox	AAA Auto Club South	352-683-3446
Carlo Daleo	Hernando County Sheriff's Office	352-754-6850
Steve Diez	Hernando County Planning	352-754-4057 x 126
Tracy DiMuro	Hernando County Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
George Drobina	VFW 10209	352-688-8244
Karen Gidden	Hernando County Health Department	352-754-4067 x 149
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Michael Junker	Citrus Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Sue Littnan	Citrus County Health Department	352-726-1731 x 242
Denny Pedrick	Traffic Incident Management	813-975-6259
Kristen Reinhard	Citrus County Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Patrick Taylor	Hernando County Fire	352-540-4353
Donna Young	Citrus County School Board	352-726-1931
Keith Brown	Hernando County Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Philip Royal	Citrus County Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488