

West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team
Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2003

Steve Diez called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. The minutes were approved and 4 members of the Citrus County Sheriff's office were welcomed with applause. Glad to have you back.

PROBLEM LOCATIONS

In Hernando Beach on Shoal Line Boulevard, property owners kicked in \$300 along with private contributions to purchase a radar gun for the deputy at that location. Sgt. Corlew said that the owners will be responsible for the radar gun maintenance, and that a hand held radar gun may not be a good choice.

Jeanette mentioned that Deputy Gaffney, the SRO at Citrus High School, will help set up a meeting prior to our March meeting with school representatives to discuss pedestrian traffic. This came after the letter of concern from our CTST was sent to the school superintendent regarding the dangerous crossing situation. Chad Doyle of IPD is a representative from the CTST who is actively involved in this situation, and we would like him to attend.

In Citrus on Hwy 19 and Cypress a signal has gone in, and the timing should be checked. There continues to be a problem on US 19 and 98 and needs a traffic signal according to Citrus SO. There is only a flashing beacon for east and west traffic. A fatality occurred 2 months ago. According to Joe Palminteri of the SO, traffic count is down in that area this year due to the new Suncoast Parkway.

On Hwy 44 turning onto Hwy 486, the timing of the signal at the dedicated turn lane is only good for 5 or 6 cars. Traffic backs up into the safety zone. Asked to have timing changed.

In Hernando----Rucell indicated that the signal at Mitchell and Hwy 50 does not always trip. If a vehicle isn't present, the light does not change.

On Hwy 41 and Lindsey---potholes need to be filled. Rucell called the County and was told to call the state.

In Citrus--- The SO asked when Hwy 19 north of 490 in Homosassa will be resurfaced. An asphalt crew will try to make some improvement as rain has washed out areas. This will be completed in March.

Jeanette provided additional information on the white enforcement lights for Citrus and Hernando Counties. DOT will purchase the equipment and the counties will install and maintain it. Contact Keith Crawford at DOT in Tampa and let him know intersections where Red Light Running violations occur. The white enforcement light is a good tool for traffic officers. Counties need to be sure the courts will uphold citations using this equipment.

NEW BUSINESS----UPCOMING EVENTS

Child Passenger Safety Week is Feb.9-15. Sue handed out flyers promoting the Feb. 15 car seat check in Citrus County. It will be at the WTI parking lot from 11:00 - 2:00 . Officers from Crystal River PD and FHP will assist with the inspections.

The 4 day Child Passenger Safety Certification Class will be held in Citrus County on March 27, 28 and April 3,4 at the law enforcement training rooms at WTI. Contact Sue for more information or to register. There are 7 spaces left in the class.

The \$2.00 difference program for raising car seat funds in each county was explained and a flyer distributed for Citrus County. When you register your vehicle or renew your license tag, check YES for this program to provide child safety seats for needy families.

Terry Hensley reported that the Challenge Banquet will be June 19 in Tampa. The Memorial Day kickoff is also in Tampa. The CTST members should plan to attend and wear their shirts to promote the team efforts in our counties. The February Safety Belt enforcement wave is Feb. 10- 23.

Steve said that the Grand Opening of the Suncoast Trail is scheduled for April 26.

The Citrus SO reported that the flashing signal at the parochial school on Hwy 490 has been operational for 2 weeks, and is working great to alert motorists.

A question was raised whether businesses had to have their addresses any certain size, as many are very hard to read when driving by looking for an address. This is regulated by code enforcement. The other question was regarding the meaning of DUI. The meaning is driving under the influence of prescriptive medications, illegal drugs, and not only alcohol.

In monitoring the "Move Over Law," the Citrus SO does education for motorists to let them know they should move over a lane when approaching a deputy alongside the roadway.

Joe Palminteri made the announcement that Sheriff Dawsey reviewed crashes in Citrus and tasked Joe and a steering committee to reduce crashes in Citrus County by 10% overall next year. The committee will do PSA's and other media releases to educate the public. This will be a community partnership of businesses, schools, etc. There will be new signs placed on the roadside alerting motorists that Citrus County has a zero tolerance policy for violators.

Jeanette reminded agencies that the DOT safety grant concept papers are due by March 31st. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Littnan, Secretary
West Central FL CTST

Members Present:

Frank Byrne	Tri State Carriers	352-799-4103
David Carr	FDOT, Brooksville	352-797-5700
Sgt. Lanny Corlew	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Ralph Cotier	WCFL Driver Improvement	352-726-8862
Steven Diez	Hernando County Planning	352-754-4057x126
George Drobina	VFW Post 10209	352-688-8244
Mike Geier	Citrus County Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Terry Hensley	Law Enforcement Liaison - IPTM	727-367-9633
Mike Baute	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488x295
Sue Littnan	Citrus Health Department	352-726-1731x242
Paulette Murrin	Hernando Co Health Department	352-754-4067x107
Rucell Nesmith	Hernando Co Bus Transportation	352-797-7003
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Irene Shaw	AARP/55 Alive	352-597-8433
Donna Young	Citrus Co School Board	352-726-1931
Joe Palminteri	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488x242
Michael Junker	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488x788
Ronda H. Evan	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488x309