

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

Chairman Steve Diez called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM at the Citrus County Government Center. Introductions were made and Citrus County engineering members and sign shop representatives were welcomed to the CTST. Steve is trying to get the safety team members from the Hernando Government Center to attend the CTST meetings. They produce a newsletter of incidents around the government center.

Jorgensen Company, the contractor for Citrus County highway maintenance, is invited to participate in the traffic safety team. Sgt. Palminteri will contact Jorgensen Co. as the SO is in need of sign boards and cones.

OLD BUSINESS - PROBLEM LOCATIONS

1. Emerson and State Route 50—Left turn on Emerson. DOT investigated based on crash records provided. The southbound through volume is low. Based on data, there was 1 north bound crash in 2002/2003. Rucell said that only a few cars can get through the intersection at a time. Based on the field operation we will work with the Hernando County Signal Shop to adjust the timing.
2. Cowboy Junction on Highway 44—No parking signs put up on the right of way on the south side of 44. Deputy Junker also expressed the need for same signs on north side and Hidden Driveway sign at the entrance to the Cowboy Junction flea market.
3. US 19 and US 98—flashing light at the present time and it should be in full operation by April.
4. US 19 at the entrance to River County is being studied for U-turn concerns.

Enforcements lights—Red Light Running---Peter received 400 lights. He has requests for 676 lights. Inverness would like 16 lights, and Crystal River needs 24. 72 lights went to the Hernando Signal shop on March 10. Two locations that now use the lights show a 50 % reduction in Red Light Running as well as a reduction in overall crashes. The Red Light Running enforcement project has been submitted for a national award. Sgt. Palminteri will contact the Clearwater PD for their video on red light running to show local judges the benefit of the program.

EVENTS

Sue provided a child passenger safety program for 8 parents at the Small World Preschool. Kris provided bike safety programs for 125 6th graders at Citrus Springs Elementary in 10 days and 200 kids at Pope John Paul Catholic School in 2 ½ weeks (from 3 years old to 8th grade). A rodeo in Beverly Hills with the Citrus SO for 31 kids—many volunteers participated including Sheriff Dawsey and 5 other deputies.

NEW BUSINESS-PROBLEM LOCATIONS-

1. West on Highway 44 near the Super Wal-Mart in Inverness. Traveling east, people make a U turn in the turn lane where there is no arrow. A request is made for a protected arrow.
2. Highway 491 in Beverly Hills construction area-- Liability of contractor. Meeting with engineering on Tues at 10 AM. Walt Eastmond to get report.
3. Rock Crusher and Highway 44 Request for protected West bound left turn onto Rock Crusher. A request letter is forthcoming from Citrus Traffic Department to FDOT.
4. A sign is needed on Mildred and Jefferson indicating left turn on red is allowed since it is a one way street.
5. Tracy questioned the speed on truck route east of US 41. A study is being done. The speed limit is now 45 mph—could be raised to 55 mph.

NEW BUSINESS -UPCOMING EVENTS—

During spring break, there will be a bike event at the Koala Tee Day Care for 6-12 yr olds.

April 19-20 will be a bike training class for about 30 teachers.

Saturday, May 8, will be the Sheriff's Summer Safety Day at the Auditorium in Inverness. It will be from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and feature many types of safety education for children. The PTA and the Masonic Lodges will also be coordinating the event. There will be comp-u-kid and video ID for children, a bike rodeo, water safety, safety in the woods, car seat and booster seat use, and other safety issues.

Safety Night will be at Floral City Elementary on Monday, March 15. A free spaghetti dinner will be provided for all families attending. The Masons of Fl City will provide video ID. Sue will provide a car seat -booster seat demonstration and materials.

CPS technical skills update for certified child passenger safety technicians will be from 8:30-11:30 on Friday, March 12, at Whispering Pines Park in Inverness. There will also be an awareness class for those interested in becoming a certified technician on the same day from 1:00- 3:30. Sue and Kim Herrmann from the FL Traffic Safety Resource Center will provide the programs.

Terry Hensley had the most recent statistics on Florida seat belt use listed at 72%. It was 75% the year before and the rate went down 3%. The impact on funding gives us the opportunity to really do a great job of enforcement for Memorial Day. If the Senate Bill regarding primary seat belt use is passed, Florida would gain \$36 million over a 5 yr. period. The NAACP is supporting the bill indicating that profiling is not an issue. Citrus and Hernando Counties are 2 of the worst counties for seat belt use due to the rural area, low income, and use of many pick up trucks.

The start of the Memorial Day Enforcement Wave is May 21 and continues until June 6.

May 27 is the Memorial Day SALE press conference in Pinellas County. All the local sheriffs are invited to attend the press conference. The banquet is scheduled for June 18th in Jacksonville.

OPEN FORUM

Joe Palminteri of the Citrus SO reported that since the helmet law was repealed, there has been a 40% increase in fatalities and severe injuries.

Peter announced that the 402 safety grants are due in Tallahassee by March 31.

A website---safeteedriver.org shows the impact of teen driver who killed the wife and child of the author. Instead of prosecution, the teen does school presentations along with the parent. They are available to come to our high schools to provide this awareness program for our teens.

Peter also thanked both the Hernando and Citrus SO for helping to host the CTST information on their websites.

National Alcohol Screening Day is April 8. It is a day of awareness of the issues of alcohol use and abuse/driving sponsored by (NHTSA) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Sue announced that the misuse rate for child restraints has improved greatly in the last six months in Citrus county. Where it had been 90% or more, the last review of 87 safety seat inspections showed the misuse rate reduced to 69%. 10% of the seats inspected had NO ERRORS and 21 % were new installations. This is a good increase in the amount of people coming to have their child's safety seat inspected before use.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Littnan, Secretary

**The next meeting is Wednesday, April 14, 2004
Hernando County Sheriff's Office
1:00 PM**

Members Present:

David Carr	FDOT, Brooksville	352-797-5700
Ralph Cotier	WCFL Driver Improvement	352-726-8862
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
Steve Dixon	Citrus Co Engineering Div.	352-527-5369
George Drobina	WVF 10209	352-688-8244
Gloria Fribley	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Terry Hensley	Law Enforcement Liaison	727-367-9633
Peter Hsu	FDOT, Safety	813-975-6251
Michael Junker	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Sue Littnan	Citrus Co Health Dept	352-726-1731x242
Glenn Love	Citrus Co Eng. Division	352-527-5446
John Melanson	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6850
Rucell Nesmith	Hernando Co Bus Trans	352-797-7003
Joe Palminteri	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Kristen Reinhard	Citrus Co Environ Health	352-527-5293
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Donna Young	Citrus Co School Board	352-726-1931
Debbie Harrison	Citrus Co Traffic Control	352-527-7638
Bruce Peisterer	Citrus Co Traffic Control	352-527-7638