

**West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team**  
**Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Diez at 1:00 at the Citrus County Health Dept. office in Lecanto. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**PROBLEM LOCATIONS**

1. Spring Hill Dr. and SunCoast Parkway still has no speed signage. Steve will check.
2. Cedar Lane and Powell—There is no plan to install a signal as there is not enough call for it.
3. Street lighting along US 19 from Oakridge Dr. to Industrial Lane in Citrus County is justified. We need county maintenance agreement.
4. DOT will install street lights on state highways if the street lights are justified. Each county will fund the maintenance and energy cost and be reimbursed by DOT.
5. US 19 from Toucan Trail to SR 50 –Complaint from residents for street lighting. It is in the FDOT work program for FY 08.
6. US 41 and SR 200 in Citrus will have a signal in 2 years.
7. US 41 and CR 488 in Citrus will also have a signal in approx. 2 years
8. US 19 and CR 488 in Citrus will have a flashing beacon in approx. 2 years.
9. US 41 and County Line Road in Hernando will have signal in approx. 2 years.
10. Nightwalker and SR 50 in Hernando County will have signal in 2 years.

Donna Young from Citrus Schools Transportation asked again for west bound turn arrow at Montgomery Ave and US 41. School buses are not able to get across 41 to the bus garage. An observation done at this intersection determined that it does not need a turn arrow; however, the area was not observed during time of school bus use. The hours will need to be identified.

I-75 in Hernando County has only a few areas where there are no median guard rails. Soon all areas will have this feature. There still need to be openings for emergency vehicles. 87% of interstate has guardrails. I-75 south of Powell Rd to County Line Rd. approx. 1.3 miles will be widened from 4 lanes to 6 lanes in 2012.

**CRASHES ON RURAL HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC FATALITIES (2004 DATA)**

% of fatality crashes happened on Local roadway system.

50% ---Hernando County.                      42%----Citrus County

% of Traffic fatalities happened on Rural on/off system roadway

26%--Hernando County                      55%---Citrus County

Signage, lighting and rumble strips can reduce fatalities in these areas.

Peter discussed street lighting costs. He received a citizen complaint to study Citrus County from US 19 between Industrial Lane to Oakridge Drive. One mile of this section was justified for street lighting. However, there is not an agency agreement to maintain the street lighting by the County. It costs \$400,000 a mile to do street lighting. If we work with the local power company it costs 80% of that cost and is faster. So some of those dollars can be shifted to other projects.

Steve asked about the US 41 widening job and if an emergency signal will be installed at the Fire Station at the airport south of Spring Hill Drive. Peter will check to see if a flashing light will be installed.

The triple left turn on US 41 off SR 50 truck route was opened yesterday at 3:00 PM south out of Brooksville.

Tracy reported there have been several crashes on Linden Drive near Drysdale. There is a large curve and it is posted at 35 mph. Drivers are using it as a cut through. Sgt. Walker suggested a stop sign as you enter the turn at the first

intersection on the corner of Coronado at Amity Woods. That would slow them down before entering the curve. Steve will check with the county engineering department.

Dave Carr had a report from Frank of Tri State Carrier about the sign on Hwy 491 and US 98. Truck drivers cannot see around sign. Dave will see if the Adopt a Highway sign can be moved.

Rucell from Hernando Schools Transportation asked about speed signage and school signs on California Street near the high school and elementary school. The buses cannot exit onto a road way with a speed limit of 55 mph. Cars also park along the roadway to pick up students, causing another traffic safety problem. She would also like to see a lower speed limit at Sun Coast Elementary by the Wellington subdivision.

Donna asked if the curb can be cut back on US 41 west of Line Street to move the left turn lane back. This would provide a wider turn for school buses. It is Citrus High School property. The left turn off Line onto US 41 is a signalized turn.

#### REPORT ON EVENTS OF FEBRUARY

Kris did a poster of her dog as "Safety Dog" on how to keep safe when approached by a dog. She will bring a copy.

Sue and Sheriff Nugent were on WWJB radio for Child Passenger Safety Week providing answers to questions on correct use and installation of child safety seats.

The Community Bike Safety Training Workshop on 2/21 at Pasco SO Safety Town had 30 deputies attend. The focus was to learn how to do a bike rodeo and properly fit helmets, and perform bike activities. Steve Diez, Mandy Hall, and Tina Russo were the trainers.

Step Up Florida was on 2/22 in Hernando County with all activities on the SunCoast Trail. It was on 2/23 in Citrus County with 400 participants involved in 12 activities including biking, walking, horse back riding, and canoeing.

Tracy said there has been an increased effort in Feb. to target aggressive drivers and speeders on Hwy 50. They also targeted school zones.

Rucell called the SO regarding people speeding and passing school buses. At one point, 27 drivers went through the stop arm of the buses on a road that was not divided. Deputy Walker will provide education and enforcement. Jeanette will bring posters on bus safety.

Tracy reported that the CATS defensive driving program for 16 – 19 year old drivers began last weekend. A 2 day pilot class was held for students of employees. Students must be licensed drivers and use their own vehicle. They practice how to regain control of a vehicle if you go off the roadway. This is an enhancement to driver education classes and not a substitute program. It has been very well received with parents calling to enroll their teen drivers.

Peter again reminded members that the deadline for all concept papers for the 402 safety grants is March 31. Go to [CTST.org](http://CTST.org) for instructions and forms. School districts, law enforcement agencies, health departments, etc. can apply.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Peter provided the new DOT safety calendar. Additional calendars and small first aid kits can be ordered at no cost as long as supplies last. Go to the following website to order: [WWW.TAKETHELEADFLORIDA.COM](http://WWW.TAKETHELEADFLORIDA.COM)

DOT Safety Office staff plans to meet with the County Sheriff. Terry Hensley would provide information on what the FDOT can do to help each Sheriff's Office, especially funded projects to work together.

Terry is now with the Traffic Incident Management Program (TIMS) with DOT. This department deals with clearing a roadway as efficiently, safety and as soon as possible after a crash or other incident. He works to coordinate all areas involved, such as fire rescue, law enforcement, wreckers, and EMS.

Sue is now providing a monthly CPS class for expectant parents at Citrus Memorial Hospital in Inverness. The class is provided during the prenatal classes. Since starting this class 2 months ago, car seat inspections have almost doubled, going from 5 or 6 a month to 10 or more. Car seat inspections are provided free of charge at the Inverness office of the Health Department by appointment. Contact Sue for more information.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Jeanette distributed copies of the Traffic Times newsletter, which is provided for the 5 counties in the area. Included in this edition is an article on the bike helmet law being passed in Citrus County -- Hurray! And an article and picture of Sue doing a car seat program at Wal-Mart for Child Passenger Safety Week.

Kris had a meeting with the Citrus SO deputies regarding enforcement of the bike helmet law. She will develop a flyer for kids to act as a reminder that it is now a law in Citrus County. Enforcement will start about Nov. 1, 2005.

Jeanette suggested that the School Resource Officers at the various schools do a morning announcement regarding the helmet law, and also an article could run in a school newsletter. Stickers could be handed out to kids regarding helmet use.

Steve discussed "Share the Road" educational materials, which will be provided for counties. Public service announcements can be added. This will help bike riders and vehicles to share space on roadways.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Littnan  
Secretary

**The next meeting is**  
**Wednesday, April 13**  
**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     |
| Steven Diez      | Hernando County Planning         | 352-754-4057x126 |
| Tracy DiMuro     | Hernando County Sheriff's Office | 352-754-6830     |
| Terry Hensley    | FDOT, Traffic Incident Mgmt.     | 813-975-6259     |
| Peter Hsu        | FDOT Safety                      | 813-975-6251     |
| Sue Littnan      | Citrus County Health Department  | 352-726-1731x242 |
| Rucell Nesmith   | Hernando Co Bus Transportation   | 352-797-7003     |
| Kristen Reinhard | Citrus Co Sheriff's Office       | 352-726-4488     |
| Jeanette Rouse   | FDOT Safety                      | 813-975-6256     |
| James Walker     | Hernando County Sheriff's Office | 352-754-6830     |
| Donna Young      | Citrus County School Board       | 352-726-1931     |