

**West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team**  
**Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2003**

Steve Diez called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. Introductions were made and the minutes were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Problem Locations In Citrus County

1. Hwy 44 and 486—There is stacking problem in the eastbound left turn lane. There is heavy eastbound left turn movement in the range of 450 to 500 vehicles per hour. This volume warrants double left turn lanes on SR 44. A lack of receiving lanes on 486 makes this improvement infeasible at this time. The FDOT recommends adding a double left turn on SR 44 when CR 486 is widened in 07/08. The DOT will reassess the signal timing to determine if additional time can be provided for the eastbound left turn lane.
2. Hwy 44 and 491—Also stacking problem with traffic on left turn lane. The study completed in 04/02 concluded that the signal timing be adjusted and that eastbound and westbound right turn lanes are not needed.
3. Hwy 44 and 490—Stacking westbound turn lane. The study, completed in 03/02, recommended signal-timing changes to give more green time to the SR 44 left turn phase.
4. Hwy 19 and 98—Hwy 98 has flashing signal only. A resurfacing project is underway now and the signal will be upgraded to a full signal as there is a large amount of truck traffic.
5. Hwy 200 and 491—Now under construction, should be completed around August. A flashing beacon will be added.
6. Kensington Blvd. from SR 44- Expedite the right turn lane into Kensington. This project is currently in the work program for 06/07
7. SR 44 and Rock Crusher—Continuous, non-stop through lanes were requested. These would degrade pedestrian safety; therefore, the DOT does not recommend this type of operation.
8. Hwy 44 and Turkey Oak -Seems to be a problem with the timing of the signal. The traffic operation staff field reviewed the intersection and found the signal to be operating properly.
9. Hwy 41 and Julia St. has had 3 fatalities since November. Needs a warning sign.

Inverness Police Department representatives were not at the meeting to report on the monitoring of the Citrus H.S. dangerous crossing issue. Signs ordered to warn students not to cross. Another set of pavement signs were added.

Hwy. 19 and Cypress—The SO wants the amber light to be longer. Motorists don't have time to stop. The amber light should be 5 seconds long in a 55 MPH zone.

The area north of Forest Oaks on Deltona has a merge problem. Traffic now has to merge left then make a right turn only. Steve will check.

David asked the Citrus and Hernando Sheriff's Office to please help regarding no parking on the right of way. Areas like the Citrus Fairgrounds and Howard's Flea Market are especially problematic. If a citation is issued, the judge usually drops the case, as the person does not understand what "right of way" means. Vendors using electronic message boards for advertising used cars are in violation of an ordinance. These signs are an obstruction when put in the right of way. DOT personnel ask vendors to remove the signs and DOT does monitor and keep records of violations. DOT would never grant permits for signage or sale of vehicles on the right of way.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Terry reported on the upcoming Memorial Day Wave. The press conference is scheduled for May 22 -location TBA. The Challenge Banquet will be in Tampa on June 20 at the Ala Carte Pavilion at 11:30. Press conference at 10:30 AM will include the Governor and Dr. Runge, the head of NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). This luncheon is free to those invited.

Jeanette reported on the state CTST meeting in Heathrow. Robin Butler was elected chair of the statewide CTST Coalition. There was a presentation from the Orlando DOT regarding the 90 minute rule to "Clear the Road" after crashes to minimize the danger of secondary crashes. There was also sharing of ideas from all CTST groups.

The new CTST newsletter was handed out, and a contest to "Name the Newsletter" is open until May 9. Come up with a catchy title, and win a \$25 gift certificate from Red Lobster. All entries should be emailed to Jeanette at [jeanette.rouse@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:jeanette.rouse@dot.state.fl.us).

Passage of a primary seat belt law looks promising this year, although it is somewhat limited to people age 18 and under in it's current form.

Steve reported on a letter received from a citizen regarding requested improvements to County Line Road in Hernando County. The concerns were speeding, tailgating, and aggressive driving. The concerned person felt that making this a 4-lane road would only increase these problems.

A question was raised from the floor regarding the red light running law. The response was that if a vehicle enters the intersection on red, they are in violation.

It was also mentioned that there is no licensing law for RV drivers. They do not have to take a driving skills test or a class on RV driving in order to purchase and drive an RV off a lot. These vehicles are not involved in a large amount of collisions, as they are very large and most other drivers are cautious around them.

Sue reported on the Child Passenger Safety Program. She finished teaching the 32-hour CPS technician class, with 8 new techs completing the class. There were also 3 new instructor candidates who successfully completed the requirements to become additional instructors in this area. The car seat check at WTI had 21 seats inspected by the new techs. There were 2 with no errors. The other 19 seats each had more than one error in use or installation. Thanks to Bill Villanova of the Citrus Schools Transportation Dept. and Joanne Black of the Dunnellon PD for their help as seasoned technicians.

The Citrus Health Dept. is sponsoring the 8<sup>th</sup> annual "World's Greatest Baby Shower" on Thursday, May 8. It will be from 5-8 PM at the Citrus County Auditorium (fairgrounds). There will also be a car seat check up event from 2-4 PM in the parking lot. There is no cost for this event. Parents-to-be and parents of infants up to 6 months old are invited to attend.

Steve reported that the League of American Bicycle is having a Road One course on May 21/22 in Citrus County. Contact Steve for more information. He also gave information on bike/ped training that can be sponsored for law enforcement agencies.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Littnan  
Secretary

**Members Present:**

David Carr	FDOT, Brooksville	352-797-5700
Allan Carter	FL Highway Patrol	352-754-6767
Sgt. Lanny Corlew	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Ralph Cotier	WCFL Driver Improvement	352-726-8862
Keith Crawford	FDOT, Safety	813-975-6255
Corey Davidson	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-736-4488
Steven Diez	Hernando Co Planning	352-754-4057x126

Tracy DiMuro	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
George Drobina	VFW 10209	352-688-8244
Terry Hensley	Law Enforcement Liaison	727-367-9633
Peter Hsu	FDOT, Safety	813-975-6251
Michael Junker	Citrus Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Sue Littnan	Citrus Health Department	352-726-1731x242
Paulette Murrin	Hernando Co Health Dept	352-754-4067x107
Rucell Nesmith	Hernando Co Bus Transport.	352-797-7003
Bala Padmanabhan	Greenhorne & O'Mara	727-576-0402
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT, Safety	813-975-6256
Irene Shaw	AARP/55 Alive	352-597-8433
Herman Sinemus	AARP/55 Alive	352-344-1901
Connie Michaels	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830