

West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team  
Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2004

Chair Steve Diez called the meeting to order at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. Introductions were made around the room and several representatives from River Country were present. The minutes of the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted.

Problem Locations:

- 1) US 19 at River Country – their concern is with the no u-turn signs taken down at this location. Peter Hsu will discuss this issue with the DOT signing engineer and will notify the representatives through email or at the next meeting.
- 2) Speed limit on the bypass was a concern. A speed limit study was conducted over a year ago. In the City of Brooksville area the City Manager concurs to raise the speed limit from 45 mph to 50 mph to balance the entire corridor. Peter gave a copy of an email to Bill Geiger concerning this issue. FDOT will work with the locals on this concern.
- 3) Enforcement lights – Hernando County has 20 locations with lights. Citrus County will have 17 locations and were just given their white lights to install about ten days ago. Citrus Sheriff's Office will host a press conference tomorrow on 4/15/05 at SR 44 and Kroft Avenue to highlight their first white enforcement light installation. The signal shop has installed this white light first. They expect Bay News 9 and the local newspapers. The Stop Red Light Running banner will be erected and the Sheriff will be present. The press conference is scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM and should last about one-half hour. Everyone was invited to come to support the team's efforts. Peter gave a brief explanation on the white enforcement lights.
- 4) David Carr expressed concern on Veterans Boulevard in front of Central High School. They have iron gates with poles that could impale a vehicle if they would hit it. He felt they should be changed so they would swing if hit.

There was a fatality on US 19 by the Outback Restaurant about one-half mile south of River Country. There was a pond in the road. The drainage in the area needs to be improved to prevent ponding. Peter stated he could check with the Gainesville office about conducting a skid hazard test to check this area and we could possibly post a sign in the interim. The northbound direction seems to drain well, but of the three southbound lanes, the ponding occurs on the inside lane.

Peter reported we delivered 72 white lights to the Hernando Signal Shop. Steve and Tracy will check with the signal shop and Steve will contact David Bland.

Paulette Murrin reported a local talk radio show was discussing the white light at Mariner and Spring Hill Drive was being activated on yellow and this might need to be checked. It was explained that the white light is wired directly to the red, so it only activates when the signal turns red.

David Carr reported they are working on the shoulders along US 19 by Outback and this should help with the ponding in the roadway.

We discussed the probability of the primary seat belt bill being passed. It seems unlikely that it will make it through the legislative process this session.

Joe Palminteri asked about the No Parking Signs along SR 44 at Cowboy Junction. He wanted to make sure they were erected on both sides of the roadway.

Terry Hensley announced the Memorial Day Wave will run from May 24<sup>th</sup> through June 6<sup>th</sup> for two weeks. This seat belt enforcement wave will have a press conference in Tallahassee. The local press conference will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> south of the Pinellas County airport and everyone is invited. All the local Sheriffs are invited to participate. Special equipment will be displayed such as boats, trailers, airplanes to gain media attention. Terry also stated there would be \$1.3 million spent in advertising for the wave. Education plus enforcement makes them buckle up. The Challenge Luncheon will be held in Jacksonville on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The first place winners will receive \$15,000 worth of equipment, second place will receive \$10,000 and third place will receive \$5,000 worth of equipment.

Kris Reinhard reported on upcoming bike events. She instructed a two day camp at a local Day Care. Kris also filmed a thirty second public service announcement for WKEY-TV on bicycle safety. She is currently working at Inverness Primary and Pleasant Grove Elementary. On April 19 -20, she will conduct a two-day training for home school parents at the Citrus County Auditorium. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, she will hold a bike rodeo training experience at K-Mart in Inverness. She will begin working at Rock Crusher Elementary on April 19-23. The Sheriff's Safety for the Summer event will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Citrus County Auditorium. Kris reported she has received two adaptive bicycles for special need children and ten specialty tricycles. She is trying to put out a new middle school curriculum. She said that Citrus has a middle school program and Hernando does not.

Steve Diez announced that during Take Your Child to Work Day in Hernando County, he will talk about bike safety. He is trying to do a monthly program to get more adults to ride their bikes. Steve said he sent a letter to FDOT asking that existing bike lanes in Brooksville be signed and marked.

Peter said that federal safety dollars can be used on local roads. Brooksville is almost ready to be LAP certified. That means the City of Brooksville can spend the money and FDOT will reimburse them if we know there is a crash problem.

Jeanette read an announcement from Sue about the car seat check at the World's Greatest Baby Shower to be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 PM at the Citrus Auditorium in Inverness. No appointment is needed.

**Members Present:**

David Carr	FDOT Brooksville	352-797-5700
Ralph Cotier	WCFL Driver Improvement	352-726-8862
Purce Dahlin	AARP	352-799-3658
Steven Diez	Hernando County Planning	352-754-4057x126
Tracy DiMuro	Hernando County Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
George Drobina	VFW 10209	352-688-8244
Gloria Fribley	Hernando County Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Bill Geiger	City of Brooksville	352-544-5430

Terry Hensley	Law Enforcement Liaison	727-367-9633
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Paulette Murrin	Hernando Co Health Department	352-754-4067x107
Bala Padmanabhan	Greenhorne & O'Mara	727-576-0402
Joe Palminteri	Citrus County Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Kristen Reinhard	Citrus Co Environmental Health	352-527-5293
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Cristi Brown	Hernando County Risk Management	352-754-4429
Eileen Bernard	River Country Estates	352-596-2631
Kathleen Mellen	River Country Estates	352-592-0635
Kay Orsic	River Country Estates	352-596-6515
William Malone	River Country Estates	352-596-7729
Joseph Mellen	River Country Estates	352-592-0635
Carl McGiffin	River Country Estates	352-592-2830
Karen Gidden	Hernando County Health Department	352-754-4067x149