

**West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team
Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2004**

Chair Steve Diez called the meeting to order at the Citrus County Government Center. Introductions were made. Minutes of the April meeting were approved as submitted.

Bradley Foran with Greenhorne and O'Mara gave a presentation on the planned improvements to US 19 in Citrus County. The construction value of the project is \$40 million and the project length is 2.2 miles. \$11.2 million is for the roadway. There is right of way acquisition to do. The project runs through Homosassa Springs. The proposal includes a 12 foot multi-use path with sidewalks as well. This is a proposed 6 lane divided federal intrastate highway. The four lane rural will go to six lane urban and will provide for left turn lanes at Yulee and US 19. There will be a signal at Grover Cleveland and at the Homosassa Trail. G&O plans to build and design a website where you can log on and obtain project information, the design plans, and a monthly status report. Adam Perez is the DOT project manager. It is understood that there are drainage issues around Grover Cleveland. All existing drainage will be upgraded. US 19 is currently an evacuation route and one lane must be kept open at all times.

OLD BUSINESS—PROBLEM LOCATIONS

1. In Citrus - There will be 6 signals on county road 486 after the new construction. They will be at Forest Ridge Blvd., Essex Ave., Citrus Hills Blvd., Annapolis, Croft Road, and US 41.
2. The US 41 bike lane will be signed and striped. The MPO requested this 3-4 mile stretch be marked and have signs and this has been approved by FDOT. David Carr is awaiting a Traffic Services Request to complete this work.
3. The 4-way stop intersection of Cutler Spur and Paradise Point will be investigated by the County signal shop and the City of Crystal River.
4. In Hernando County, the speed limit will be raised from 45 mph to 50 mph east of SR 41 on the Highway 50 bypass.
5. At River County and US 19 the rain issue at Outback Steak House - ponding is not a problem. The u-turn situation is still being monitored. Areas where there are median cuts in roadway differ in height from the roadway due to the top layer of friction course

not being applied by design. This layer of small rock is eliminated as it can be ripped off when cars make a turn on that surface. See Dave Carr for further explanation.

OLD BUSINESS - EVENT REPORTS

The Citrus County Health Department sponsored the "World's Greatest Baby Shower" on Thursday, May 6 at the County Auditorium. There were 500 participants who visited booths such as Childhood Development Services, Citrus Co. Schools, WIC, Healthy Start and Car Seat Safety to find out information on services for parents to be, and young children. A car seat safety check up was provided. The technicians at the check up event were: Kurt Lynn of Citrus SO, Ian Hay of CR Police Dept., Bill Villanova of Citrus Schools Transportation, Heather Young of CDS, Vernon Waldron from Hernando County and Sue Littnan of the Health Department. Only 6 families took advantage of this free service. Five of the six seats had misuse and one was a new installation.

The Citrus County Sheriff's Safety for the Summer Event was held at the Auditorium on Saturday, May 8. Over 300 people attended. Kris Reinhard and a cast of many volunteers provided a great bike rodeo. Ralph Cotier had a booth providing materials on safe driving and bike safety. Sue Littnan provided a car seat display and handed out materials for families.

Kris provided a 2-day bike training for a dozen elementary teachers and law enforcement personnel. She also taught a pilot program using a curriculum for middle school students. Included in the training was a bike rodeo. May is National Bike Month, and May 17 is Ride Your Bike to Work Day. Steve encouraged us to save gas and see how different your trip becomes when you bike to work!

NEW BUSINESS

Peter announced that the West Central CTST web site is linked to the Citrus and Hernando Counties Sheriff's Offices. The web site addresses are as follows: <http://www.hernandosheriff.or/CTSTWEB> and <http://sheriffcitrus.org/webpages/CTST>. Please send dates of upcoming events and pictures to Peter to be posted on the NEW site.

Terry announced that the Memorial Day Way starts May 24 and goes through June 6. It is the most important WAVE of the year. Dave Carr will try to get the "Click it or Ticket" message on all DOT message boards. \$1.2 million in advertising is being spent in the state during this period. The press conference for the WAVE is on May 27 near the Pinellas County airport at 10:30 AM. The new FDOT Assistant Secretary and Governor's Highway Safety Representative will attend the press conference.

June 18 is the Law Enforcement Challenge Banquet in Jacksonville. Contact Terry for more information.

Sue announced that the Citrus Health Department is sponsoring the next Child Passenger Safety Technician training July 22, 23, 29 and 30 at Central Florida Community College. Contact Sue at 352-726-1731 ext. 242 for a registration packet or register online at www.safekids.org. The course fee of \$60 includes all materials and 2-year certification. The class is limited to 20 participants, so register as early as possible.

NEW PROBLEM LOCATIONS

1. In Hernando—Powell and Colbruth. The intersection is very dark, and it is hard to see the stop sign. The intersection is at the bottom of a valley. Area needs a flashing beacon or warning sign.
2. Emerson and Hwy 50—The turn lane only allows 2 cars through the intersection. The traffic volume is heavy at the beginning and end of the school day.
3. Spring Hill Drive and Candy Drive—Need a turn lane for the Deerfield subdivision to allow turns into Candy Drive off Spring Hill. Traffic on Spring Hill is moving at 50 + mph. and cars attempting a turn are causing congestion and possibility of crashes.
4. Striping needs to be redone on Spring Hill Drive, US 41 to the Suncoast Parkway. When it rains, it looks like it is all one lane; the area needs work.

Peter explained a product that combines reflective striping with rumble strips on the edge of roadways. It is applied to prevent drivers from driving off the edge of the road due to drifting/falling asleep/drunken. The noise of the mini-rumble strips wakes the driver before they drift off the road.

The edge of Hwy 491, north of Cardinal in Citrus County is worn away, including the reflective white striping in some areas. In the dark, drivers can easily veer off the edge of the road. Karen indicated this happened to her, causing 2 flat tires. She needs to file a complaint with the Citrus County road division.

According to Deputy Mike Geier, Highway 98 has one speed limit on the east side of the road and a different speed limit sign on the west side in a construction zone. He said this does cause problems with speed control. He also mentioned that the off duty enforcement officer is no longer located near the landfill on Highway 44. The job is completed.

Karen from Hernando CHD would like to initiate plans for the Walk to School Day in Hernando County. Jeanette suggested she contact the school board and principals at several schools that do have pedestrian traffic and start with them. Peter will provide hand out materials for any event.

We have election of CTST officers coming up at our July meeting.

It was announced that there will be waterline placement work ongoing in Citrus County 28 feet from the edge of the roadway, starting in two weeks by the Utilities Division.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Littnan, Secretary

Members Present:

Cristi Brown	Hernando County Risk Management	352-754-4429
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
Steve Dixon	Citrus Co Engineering Division	352-527-5369
George Drobina	VFW 10209	352-688-8244
Gloria Fribley	Hernando County Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Mike Geier	Citrus County Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Karen Gidden	Hernando County Health Department	352-754-4067x149
Terry Hensley	District 7 - Law Enforcement Liaison	727-367-9633
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Sue Littnan	Citrus County Health Department	352-726-1731x242
Paulette Murrin	Hernando County Health Department	352-754-4067x107
Rucelle Nesmith	Hernando County Bus Transportation	352-797-7003
Bala Padmanabhan	Greenhorne & O'Mara	727-576-0402
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Herman A. Sinemus	AARP/55 Alive	352-344-1901
Donna Young	Citrus County School Board	352-726-1931x2495

