

**West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team
Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2003**

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

OLD BUSINESS

Steve reported that the primary seat belt law is working its way through the House. If passed and made a law, the fine would be \$30 for noncompliance.

Jeanette has posters printed for distribution that will be excellent for display. They are on various traffic safety issues.

Tracy DiMuro of the Hernando SO has approval from the sheriff to link a CTST website to the Hernando Sheriff's Office web site. Peter will follow up, and continue working with Citrus County to add the CTST as a link on their web site.

The white enforcement lights are available and are being distributed to Pasco County. Citrus County is adding video tracking to the signal system to improve their operation. The engineering department did not want the enforcement lights to interfere with the installation and operation of the tracking system, so the County is not adding the enforcement lights at this time. The SO and Crystal River PD both want to add the enforcement lights, so the engineering department will be contacted to explain the need and use of these lights. Hernando County engineering will also be contacted to provide them with information and encourage them to add the lights. The lights are provided by FDOT at no cost. Each county is responsible for their installation and maintenance.

The percentage of crashes and fatalities has gone up considerably in the past year. Peter reported that types of fatalities are tracked in both counties and all agencies can use this data.

Tracy DiMuro checked with the Sheriff's Office for use of the garage for Child Passenger Safety Classes. The 3-stall garage and a tent are both available if a technician certification class facility is needed.

The cross walk signs are up at Citrus High School, and should help with the safety issue of students crossing at the wrong area of the block. There has been no further action regarding vendors and other individuals parking on the highway right of way in Citrus County, especially near the fairgrounds on Hwy 41 in Inverness. There have been no events scheduled that would provide an opportunity for people to park there.

Terry Hensley -Law Enforcement Liaison- announced that the DUI wave press conference is at 10:30 on June 20. The DUI Wave is from June 27 through July 13. The press conference is at the A La Carte Pavilion before the Buckle Up Awards luncheon. So far there are 512 people registered for the luncheon. Contact Terry for more information.

NEW BUSINESS / OPEN FORUM

Peter announced that there are additional federal dollars for the 402 safety grants. All applying agencies will most likely get funded for their FY '04 projects, which will start Oct. 1, 2003. Dollars are available just for DUI projects.

Dave DeCarlis of Crystal River PD informed us that there is a state statute making seatbelts optional for drivers and passengers (over age 18) who are in trucks over 5,000 pounds. Who thinks they are safe just because their truck is heavy????

SAFE KIDS partnered with the Boys and Girls clubs in Hillsborough County to conduct bike safety rodeos. The 12 and 13 year olds are trained as bike safety instructors for the younger children. The SAFE KIDS grant pays the student instructors a small hourly salary plus provides bike helmets and other items like water bottles for the rodeo events.

Jeanette also provided information on the Pasco County Safety Town and invited members of our CTST to visit on the 4th Wed. of the month during the Pasco CTST meeting beginning at 1:30 pm. Hernando County is interested in building a Safety Town and may model it after the Pasco design.

Deputy Carlo Daleo of the Hernando SO announced that traffic fines are increased by \$3 as of July 1, 2003. The additional revenue will be used to fund driver education programs.

Have you ever noticed a child riding unrestrained in a vehicle and wanted to do something about it? **NOW YOU CAN!** *Call the Buckle Up Hotline—1-800-699-SAFE* to report the Florida license tag number of a vehicle containing an unsecured child. The driver will receive a packet of information advising them of the severe consequences of not properly using child safety seats. The Buckle-Up Hotline is strictly a public service education effort. No records are kept.

The next CTST meeting will be in Citrus County at the Government building in Lecanto.
We will elect officers for the upcoming year.

Next Meeting-----Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Littnan
Secretary

Members Present:

Frank Byrne	Tri State Carriers	352-799-4103
David Carr	FDOT, Brooksville	352-797-5700
Ralph Cotier	WCFL Driver Improvement	352-726-8862
Carlo Daleo	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6850
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
Terry Hensley	D-7 – Law Enforcement Liaison	727-367-9633
Peter Hsu	FDOT Safety	813-975-6251
Sue Littnan	Citrus Co Health Department	352-726-1731x242
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Gordon K. Rowland	Crystal River Police Department	352-795-4241