

## **West Central Florida Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2003**

Chair Steve Diez called the meeting to order and welcomed those members present. Introductions were given around the room. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as submitted.

Peter Hsu gave a problem location update regarding the following ongoing traffic studies in Citrus County:

- \*US 41 at E Windmill Drive – currently studying for a traffic signal
- \*US 19 at Cypress Blvd – currently reviewing traffic volume data
- \*US 19 at Howard’s Flea Market – currently reviewing crash data
- \*US 19 at Suffolk Terrace – completing final analysis for traffic signal
- \*SR 44 from Turkey Oak to Rock Crusher Rd. – collecting speed data
- \*US 19 at Emerald – replacing signal from span wire to mast arm, extending left turn lane, closing median opening at north hospital entrance, and constructing median opening at West Emerald Oaks.

Steve added one new location to look at putting a left turn on red sign at Mildred and Jefferson in Brooksville. He said it is okay to turn left from a one way street and wants a left turn on red sign westbound on Jefferson.

The Hernando Sheriff’s Office requested 18 white lights for intersections in Hernando County. They said officer safety is the biggest advantage of the white lights. Peter reported they saw a 50% drop in red light crashes as a result of the white lights installed at SR 60 near the Brandon Town Center. He said the overall crashes dropped also during this seven month analysis period.

There were no reports of events held. Sue Littnan was attending a class but passed along information concerning a car seat check at Crystal River Mall on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 12-3.

Terry Hensley reported on the combined wave for Buckle Up Florida and You Drink, You Drive, You Lose from November 21 to January 4. There will be one report for this six week activity. You are to track any event the agency has during this period and brand it under the combined wave. Report all activities conducted during Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years with a focus on child passenger safety events, DUI checkpoints and saturation patrols. Terry has banners, rack cards, and posters to keep the interest up. Next year there will be only three enforcement waves instead of five. Variable message boards may be used during the wave.

We had some group discussion regarding planning an event for our next meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> to host a press conference to combine Red Light Running, Buckle Up and

DUI enforcement. We hope to install the first white enforcement lights in Hernando County at Spring Hill Drive and Mariner. David Carr will bring the variable message board to the press conference. Jeanette will furnish banners.

A motorcycle officer from the Citrus County Sheriff's Office reported on a recent case that was thrown out of Traffic Court. A motorcyclist did not trip the signal to green making a left turn at US 19 onto Cypress. The motorcyclist said he could not wait forever. The deputy also reported on a number of crashes on US 19 with vehicles turning left across the median. The road surface of US 19 north of Yulee is in bad shape. We also had some discussion regarding pedestrians, children on skateboards and in strollers trying to cross US 19 in the Homosassa area.

The Geico video "Can I Borrow the Car?" was shown. Copies can be ordered free of charge at [www.geico.com](http://www.geico.com). This video was designed for parents of teen drivers.

David Carr reported he will participate in the Crystal River Christmas Parade in the evening of December 5<sup>th</sup> and the Brooksville Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> with a float complete with Vince and Larry—the crash test dummies. He plans to pass out candy to the children and asked all team members to join him.

**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
Chad Doyle	Inverness Police Department	352-726-2121
Mike Geier	Citrus County Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Terry Hensley	D-7 – Law Enforcement Liaison	727-367-9633
Peter Hsu	FDOT, Safety	813-975-6251
Paulette Murrin	Hernando Co Health Dept	352-754-4067x107
William Boettger	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Chandler Cole	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256