

**West Central Community Traffic Safety Team  
Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Steve Diez. Introductions were made and the minutes of the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

**Problem Locations:**

1. SR 50 and Deltona –Further evaluation needed.
2. SR 50 and Mariner Blvd. needs a sign indicating No U turn. Sign used to be there, but was removed during construction. Crashes have occurred.
3. Breakwater Blvd. will have the timing re-evaluated.
4. The repaving of Hwy 19 in Homosassa to be done before the end of 2007. Jeanette will get date.
5. Hwy 486 and Annapolis in Citrus has two lanes on Annapolis heading North. The left lane should be marked with an arrow for left turn. Cars attempt to cross 486 from both lanes.
6. Hwy 50 and Nightwalker needs a new signal due to many crashes.
7. Royal Highlands off Centralia has no stop signs. These are mostly lime rock county roads.
8. Hill and Dale has speeders on Roper Rd. by East Side Elementary. There is no flashing light at any of the 3 crossing areas. Raised cross walks and flashers at all locations are needed
9. Ridge Manor Blvd. has many speeders. There is only one 30 mph sign by Alancha and one by 301. Many kids play at the park. More speed limit signs and “Children at Play” signs are needed.
10. Spring Park Way between Spring Hill Dr. and Powell has numerous complaints regarding speeding by home construction trucks cutting through this area. The area is posted at 30 mph.
11. Sgt. Palminteri discussed Hwy 44 east of Inverness that has a guard rail blocking sight distance. Marian Scorza reported DOT checked the site and may be able to make some changes. She will get an answer back to Captain Mike Richey, Citrus SO.

**Report of Activities / Events**

Peter reported the crash fatalities for Citrus and Hernando Counties to date.

<b>Citrus County---</b>	<b>2005 = 14</b>	<b>2006 = 27</b>
<b>Hernando County---</b>	<b>2005 = 20</b>	<b>2006 = 24</b>

Kris reported on activities of Aug. She worked at an open house at Tiny Treasures Preschool, and provided 8 free helmets. Aug 7 was a back to school safety craft event at North Oak Baptist. She provided 15 free helmets at the Small World Daycare on Aug 30, and conducted classes at Lecanto Middle School for 215 students on Aug 31 and Sept 1. The Sheriff’s Office also purchased 10 new trek BMX bikes for the safety program. Kris has moved her office to the Renaissance Center.

Sue attended the National Kids in Motion Child Passenger Safety Conference Aug 9-11 in Orlando. It was an opportunity to share ideas with other instructors, attend workshops on varying topics, and meet the different car seat manufacturers.

Sue also participated in the open house at Tiny Treasures preschool, providing car seat information. She provided a half day class for personnel at Kids Central. These people transport children to school, appointments, and family visitation for the Dept. of Children and Families. The management of Kids Central also purchased all new car seats and boosters for each transporter.

Crystal River Police Department won \$10,000 worth of materials and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Chief's Challenge. They conducted an intensive DUI checkpoint over the Labor Day weekend that was very successful at eliminating impaired drivers from the highways.

Sgt. Palminteri reported that Citrus SO is working with the Florida Sheriff's Association to provide a Teen Driver Challenge for 16 to 19 year old high school students. The driving class includes 4 hours of classroom lecture, and 8 hours of behind the wheel defensive driving. The program is available to each county that signs on to participate. The pilot program is in Tallahassee. After the pilot, changes and additions can be considered. Costs for the program will depend on the SO in each county and will vary.

The present slate of officers was unanimously re-elected for 2007.

Steve Diez, Hernando County Planning--Chairperson  
Kris Reinhard, Citrus Sheriff's Office—Vice-Chairperson  
Sue Littnan, Citrus Health Department —Secretary

Larry Hagen provided a power point presentation on the Safety Circuit Rider Program. The program is designed to identify and address crash problems in rural areas and is funded by FHWA and FDOT. As Florida is #1 in intersection crashes, our state was chosen as one of three for the pilot study. To be involved, a county provides in kind contributions of man power and materials they would already be using. The Safety Circuit Rider works with agencies to find low cost solutions such as adding signs, rumble strips, or trimming trees to make signs visible. They provide training and support. They do not provide engineering services, detailed design recommendations and they can't fix all problems. You may contact Larry at [larry@LarryHagen.com](mailto:larry@LarryHagen.com)

### **New Business**

Kris is working at Floral City Elementary from Sept 5 -15 with 440 pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. There is a teacher training on Sept 9. Crest School is the location from Sept 18 -22 for bike safety classes. Inverness Primary is from Sept. 25 to Oct 27 for 740 students, and Sept. 25 to Oct. 13 is Homosassa Elementary for 380 kids.

Karen Gidden of Hernando Health Dept. reported that her office produced a 30 sec. TV ad on Child Passenger Safety which will be aired on local Bright House Channels. She will bring it to the next meeting.

Peter said FDOT has set aside \$700,000 to address run off the road crashes on local roads. FDOT will buy the materials and have the local people install it. Peter is also beginning a pedestrian safety campaign on US 19 in northern Pasco County, Hernando County and a small section in Citrus. He has three separate construction projects along US 19. The construction is to start in 2008. The educational campaign can begin prior to the construction. He is planning billboards, radio, or TV ads.

Steve mentioned that AAA is hosting a bike rodeo at the Spring Hill office parking lot on Sat 9/16 from 10 am to 2 pm.

The Deputies from Hernando SO are providing bike safety tips and ATV education at Chocachatee Elementary School on 9-22.

According to the Sheriff's offices of Citrus and Hernando Counties, both counties are opting out of the new ATV law. This allows adult riders and those younger than 16 with adult supervision to ride on unpaved roads that have a speed limit of 35 mph or less.

Crystal River Police Department is hosting a Kid ID safety program at the Crystal River Mall on 9-30. Sgt. Ian Hay will also provide car seat safety materials and schedule car seat inspections. There will be car seat inspections at LaGrone Park on 10-7 starting at 6 pm. County CPS technicians will assist, and the Health Department will provide replacement seats and check up materials.

Steve reported that the Suncoast Parkway was designated as a Scenic Highway. There will be a bike ride on 11-3 from noon -3pm on the trail and a BBQ,

The Citrus Health Department was approved for the 2007 FDOT Safety Grant for 400 safety seats. There are approx. 25 to 30 car seats provided monthly through the Inverness Health Department office at a cost of \$15 each for financially eligible families.

Sue is providing a Car Seat Safety In service for the two Tax Collector's offices to promote the \$2 Difference Program. When a person renews his tag or registers a vehicle at the tax collector's office, they can donate an additional \$2 to help purchase car seats for very needy families in their county. Citrus was only eligible to receive 6 car seats last year, and Hernando could have received 8. With some publicity, we hope we can increase those numbers. See Sue if you have any questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Littnan  
Secretary

***The next meeting is at 1:00 PM on Oct. 11th  
in the Hernando Co. Sheriff's Office in Brooksville.***

**Members Present:**

David Carr	FDOT Brooksville	352-797-5700
Steven Diez	Hernando Co Planning	352-754-4057
George Drobina	VFW 10209	352-666-0019
Mary Ann Drobina	School System	352-666-0019
Walt Eastmond	Citrus Co Public Works Eng.	352-527-5446
Karen Gidden	Hernando Co Health Dept	352-540-6800
Sue Littnan	Citrus Co Health Dept	352-726-1731 x 242
Rucell Nesmith	Hernando Co Bus Transportation	352-797-7003
Joe Palminteri	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Kristen Reinhard	Citrus Co Sheriff's Office	352-726-4488
Jeanette Rouse	FDOT Safety	813-975-6256
Marian Scorza	FDOT Public Information	813-975-6038
Dane Jenkins	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Jason Deso	Hernando Co Sheriff's Office	352-754-6830
Scott Turner	Crystal River Police Department	352-795-4241
Larry Hagen	Safety Circuit Rider – GA	227-237-3269