



Florida Department of Transportation
District 7
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

CTST MEETING SCHEDULE

- Hillsborough County CTST - 4th Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- Pasco County CTST - 4th Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.
- Pinellas County CTST - 1st Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
- West Central Florida CTST - 2nd Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

TRAFFIC SAFETY EVENTS:

- National Bike Safety Month
- National Transportation Week (May 16th-22nd)
- Click It or Ticket Mobilization (May 24th-June 6th)
- 3rd Annual Tampa Bay SALE (Sea, Air, Land, Enforcement)
- Press Conference in Pinellas County (May 27th)
- CTST Statewide Coalition Meeting (July 12th)

For information on location of meetings /events contact Jeanette Rouse at 813-975-6256 or jeanette.rouse@dot.state.fl.us

State CTST Coalition Update Continued from Page 3 . . .

While many of Mr. Fechter's responsibilities with TEI involve improving Traffic Safety in District Seven, District One and statewide, he would like to see the State CTST Coalition become more active in several areas. Those include:

The development of an expert speaker network. The Coalition has many members with a wealth of knowledge in many areas the CTST is active in. Often, the need arises for presentations at conferences, seminars, and luncheons where a Coalition member's knowledge would be helpful in the form of a presentation. Such an example would be the Annual Lifesavers Conference.

Greater involvement in the State Legislative issues. The Coalition does have a Legislative sub-committee that is effective and chaired by team member Nina Barker. More work can be done through this important process, however.

The coordination of a bi-annual conference or seminar workshop. The most recent workshops the Coalition presented included the 2001 Best Practices Seminar in Kissimmee and the 1999 CTST Coalition Seminar in Tampa. Both workshops were excellent opportunities for CTST Team members to come together to learn and share successes.

Promotion of the State CTST Coalition. Dave's feeling is that many of the State's 59 County CTST members are not included in the process and are simply unaware of what is going on at the Coalition level. Mr. Fechter's belief is that many more CTST members can participate at the Coalition level.

There are several other areas in which the State CTST Coalition can be an effective vehicle. Mr. Fechter intends to work closely with Vice-Chair Robin Butler, who for many years has chaired the State CTST Coalition and has a wealth of experience and knowledge, and newly elected Secretary Sheryl Bradley in this effort. He looks forward to working with all Coalition members and encourages participation from CTST County members statewide.

The Florida Department of Transportation is an equal opportunity employer without regard for race, religion, sex, or age.

CTST Upcoming Awareness Events:

- Plan on attending two Tampa Bay Storm games and having a display table at them with handouts and promotional items.
- Tampa Bay Storm Remaining Home Games:
- May 9, 2004 @ 3:00
- May 23, 2004 @ 3:00
- Radio public announcements at two of the away games for Tampa Bay Storm.

May 2004

Newsletter published by the Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTST), Sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation, District 7.

Local People Solving Local Problems

Inside this issue:

- Improve School Travel Safety
- Operation 3D: Don't Drink and Drive in Hillsborough County
- Safe Kids Tampa
- State CTST Coalition Update

CTST JOINS THE "HIGH TECH" RANKS

CTST is proud to announce the creation/ implementation of a new form of communication for CTST news.....websites! Four websites have been created and will be hosted by the following agencies:

- Hillsborough County CTST:** Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
- Pasco County CTST:** Pasco County Sheriff's Office
- Pinellas County CTST:** Pinellas County MPO
- West Central CTST:** Hernando and Citrus County Sheriff's Offices

All websites will provide an FAQ section (Frequently Asked Questions) and will provide links to find answers on specific questions, i.e. traffic engineering, safety, Buckle Up Florida.

If you would like to contribute information to the websites, please email your CTST chair person.



CITRUS COUNTY DRIVERS BEWARE

Citrus County will have 72 helpers in their effort to catch red-light runners. The state Department of Transportation has donated 72 special lights that they and Citrus County Sheriff's officials say will reduce the number of traffic crashes and make intersections safer.

The lights are mounted on- and wired to- traffic signals. The lights illuminate when the signal is red, allowing law enforcement officers to safely observe whether a driver has disregarded the traffic signal. The officers may then execute a traffic stop without having to run the light themselves.

"I think it's really going to enhance the safety of our community," said Sheriff Jeff Dawsy, whose agency has announced a commitment to decrease the number of crashes.

Members of the West Central CTST were present at an April 15th press conference to support the enforcement efforts.



Citrus County installs their first "white" light to decrease the number of red-light runners.

AAA TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD WINNERS

Each year AAA sponsors the Community Traffic Safety Awards. These awards are presented to participating communities for their efforts to improve local traffic safety. Award levels are bronze, silver, gold, and platinum.

This year, Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties were two of six CTST which won the statewide awards!

Hats off to Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties for each winning the GOLD level AAA award!



Susan Viola, Hillsborough County CTST Chair accepts award



David Fechter, Pinellas County CTST Chair accepts award



FOLLOW TRAFFIC RULES TO IMPROVE SCHOOL TRAVEL SAFETY

By: Dwight Kingsbury
State Safety Office

Recently someone asked the Safety Office for the number of students injured in Florida in traffic crashes at school bus stops. There was no way to provide the information since there is no code for "school bus stop zone" that can be entered in a crash report's Site Location Field.

A few years ago, the Center for Urban Transportation Research at USF conducted a study of student pedestrian and cyclist safety in Brevard County. The CUTR study

found 353 crashes in a five-year period which involved children aged 5-8 who were walking or cycling during school commute times. In 63 percent of the 264 bicycle crashes and in 72 percent of the 89 pedestrian crashes, the students appeared to have violated traffic rules. In 27 percent of the crashes, the motorist was deemed not to have exercised due care (e.g., was speeding, swerved out of lane, encroached on crosswalk, backed out of driveway without yielding, etc.).

Most commonly, these crashes occurred on dry,

paved, local two-lane roadways with a posted speed of 25 mph. In 5 percent of the crashes, a youth was cycling in the wrong direction (riding against traffic). In 1.3 percent of cases, a youth was walking in the wrong direction (i.e., walking on roadway in same direction as traffic).

Where no sidewalk is present, a pedestrian may walk on a roadway shoulder, but should walk so as to face oncoming traffic if practical. A student walking to a bus stop in St. John's County was recently struck in the back of the head by the error of a passing car.

Operation 3-D: Don't Drink and Drive in Hillsborough County

Within Florida during 1996-1998, Hillsborough County was the highest ranked County for traffic crashes, speed-related crashes, and alcohol-related crashes. Hillsborough County also leads the State in having the greatest total number of alcohol related fatalities for 1998-2000. In 2000, Hillsborough County became, for the first year in five, the Florida County with the greatest number of alcohol related crashes, to accompany its existing ranking as the County with the greatest number of alcohol related fatalities.

In response to these alarming statistics, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office requested funding from the Florida Department of Transportation, State Safety Office, Traffic Safety Section for a program calculated to dramatically increase DUI enforcement within unincorporated Hillsborough County. This funding helped establish the Anti-Drunk Driving Task Force "Operation 3-D: Don't Drink & Drive in Hillsborough County". This three-year grant began on October 1, 2001.

The stated goals of the grant included the following:

- Conduct at least two Checkpoints/Blitz Patrols each month.
- Increase DUI-related arrests by 40% in the first year.
- Begin policy of seizing vehicles of repeat offenders, under provisions of Florida Statute.
- Increase by 10% the number of alcohol vendors who become a "Responsible Vendor", under provisions of Florida Statute.
- Pursue an intensified public awareness program with the Crime Prevention Bureau.

As you can see, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office will continue moving forward in its goal of reducing the amount of impaired driving in order to reduce traffic-related crashes and fatalities. We have joined together with public agencies and private organizations to develop and implement strategies to make the county safer against drunk or drug impaired drivers. This effort will attack Hillsborough County's impaired driving problem from many directions. We hope these efforts can reduce alcohol-related crashes and deaths on the roadways of Hillsborough County.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

THE LAW

Legal drinking age - 21 years old

Level of Blood Alcohol .08 - DUI

.20 Blood Alcohol Content - increased penalties for DUI

PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 21

Possession of an alcoholic beverage under the age of 21 - arrestable 2nd degree misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$500.00

Operating or in physical control of a motor vehicle with a Blood Alcohol Content of .02 or greater - automatic 6 month suspension of Driver's License

A refusal to submit to a breath test requested by law enforcement - 1 year automatic suspension of Driver's License

DRIVER'S LICENSE PENALTIES FOR DUI

Blood Alcohol Content of .08 or greater - 6 months automatic suspension of Driver's License

Refusal to submit to any chemical testing to include breath, blood, and/or urine testing - 1 year automatic Driver's License suspension for the first refusal and 18 months suspension for a second or subsequent refusal

Your Community
Traffic Safety Team
www.ctst.org

STATE CTST COALITION UPDATE

General elections for State CTST Coalition officers were held at the April Quarterly meeting in Orlando on April 12, 2004. The newly elected officers are:

Chairperson: Dave Fechter, TEI Engineers and Planners, Tampa
Vice Chair: Robin Butler, Seminole County Traffic Engineering
Secretary: Sheryl Bradley, City of Orlando

District Seven is very happy to have one of its representatives chair the State CTST Coalition for the first time. Mr. Fechter has been a member of the Coalition and attending meetings since 1999. Additionally, Mr. Fechter has been a member of the Pinellas CTST since it's inception in August 1995 and is the current chair. He has held chairing and co-chairing duties for the Pinellas Team in 1998-2000 as well. Mr. Fechter is also an active member of the Hillsborough CTST and has been since February 2003. Finally, Mr. Fechter recently represented the State CTST Coalition at the annual Lifesavers Conference, which took place this year in San Diego.

Mr. Fechter is employed by TEI Engineers and Planners and works in the Tampa Office. TEI fully supports the State and County-level CTST effort. The current chair for the Hillsborough CTST is Susan Viola, TEI Tampa Area Manager. Additionally, Angela Garland, TEI Sarasota Area Manager will be assisting with the Sarasota/Manatee CTST duties, previously performed by a FDOT District One CTST Coordinator who's position was recently eliminated. Finally, TEI Tampa office Senior Associate Pete Yauch chaired the Pinellas CTST from 2000-2003 and is still an active Pinellas member.

[Continued on page 4](#)

SAFE — Safe Kids/FedEx Walk This Way KIDS Pedestrian Safety Task Force Tampa

SAFE KIDS Tampa has an established pedestrian safety task force. The task force has concentrated on International Walk Your Child to School Day. SAFE KIDS Tampa has identified an area with a high number of child (ages 14 and under) pedestrian-related injuries and deaths. SAFE KIDS Tampa has also been and will continue to work with Peter Hsu, traffic engineer with the Florida Department of Transportation and Gary Tait, with the Hillsborough County Traffic Services Division, School Safety Program on identifying safety concerns for child pedestrians. The coalition will use their recommendations for traffic-calming interventions, enforcement campaigns, implementing school safety programs at hot spot school locations, and identifying areas other than schools with high risk of pedestrian/vehicle collision. Through these partnerships SAFE KIDS Tampa has access to crash data for Hillsborough County. Easy access to this information will assist with ongoing evaluation.

Thanks to the generosity of Federal Express, a complimentary breakfast was provided for parents who walked to school with their children on "Walk to School Day". Also, two children's bikes with bike helmets were awarded to the two top students with the Most Outstanding Pedestrian Safety Poster.

Here are some helpful tips for walking safely with your child:

- Never allow children under age 10 to cross streets alone. Children need to be old enough to cross streets safely.
- Always model and teach proper pedestrian behavior.
- Instruct children to look left, right, and left again when crossing streets, and to continue looking as they cross.
- Make sure children don't run into streets or dart from between parked cars.
- Require children to wear retro-reflective materials and carry a flashlight at dawn, at dusk and in bad weather.



Mark Your Calendar!

June 18, 2004- Buckle Up Florida Challenge Awards Banquet

**Jacksonville, Florida
You don't want to miss it!**