



Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Summary – January 27, 2016

William Porth, CTST Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:36am.

Welcome and introductions were made. The December CTST minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee

Stephen Benson reported that focus groups are being organized to refine the outcomes from the Bike-Walk Coalition Summit, of particular interest were suggestions generated in the education focus groups. Julie Bond will be heading up the effort.

Mr. Porth said the city has been working to complete the Cass Street protected bike lane, a critical piece in the Green Spine envisioned across the City of Tampa.

Ms. Torres shared the MPO's effort in sponsoring a student traffic safety video contest. The idea is to generate peer-to-peer messages that will resonate with teenagers on using our roadways safely. A second phase will be reaching out to middle-age men in low income areas – the more predominant crash victim. This will probably be done through contacting area churches.

Ms. Snelling hopes the media can be encouraged to take a positive spin and highlighting all the efforts from many agencies to reduce pedestrian fatalities. Mr. Porth suggested Vision Zero could focus on that effort as well.

Impaired Driver Subcommittee

Larry Morrell reported that the Sheriff's Office saw a reduction in 2015 of DUI's, down by 574 from 2014. However, 40% refuses the breathalyzer – highest in the state of Florida. The busiest month was August and the lowest June. The majority of DUIs were in the age range of 21-34 years old.

James Reiser reported that the City of Tampa has reorganized their DUI duties into Special Operations. Tampa Police Department has conducted alcohol awareness programs at area colleges, at MacDill AFB, and high schools. Most were focused on upcoming Gasparilla events. Both the Sheriff's Office and Police Department spoke to University of Tampa students on the consequences of drinking and driving.

Mr. Morrell shared the success of their South Tampa Power Forum Town Hall held January 25 at Palma Ceia Presbyterian. With the help of MADD, over 50 Plant High School students and parents, and others, attended to hear about DUI awareness.



Ellen Snelling reiterated that DUI crashes are still happening and affecting many lives. She mentioned a recent case of a drunk driving hitting a Sheriff Deputy who was issuing a ticket at the time and another incident on the Courtney Campbell Causeway that resulted in a fatality.

Mr. Morrell added that new data is showing traffic arrest have Hillsborough County back in first above Miami. Legislation is pending to enhance penalties for refusing BAC test to include an increase in fines and requiring ignition interlock systems. The bill was postponed but may pass this year.

HSIP SAFETY PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Benson updated the team on the success of the Safety Summit. He reminded everyone that the call for applications remain open all year. If pursuing funds for FY19, those applications need to be in by March 31, 2016.

Bob Campbell reported that the county received funding for five Safe Routes to Schools projects, with another 17 pending.

NEW BUSINESS

Education

Amber Wheeler stated that the School District has a list of Safe Routes to School priorities and will check if there is overlap with the local jurisdiction's priority projects. She added that the School District is working to form an internal group to develop these projects. There were 20 students participating in a walking school bus and efforts are underway to start a Bike Train at Mort Elementary.

Enforcement

James Reiser, TPD, expressed concern over the 57 fatalities in the City, 19 of which were pedestrians. He reiterated their focus on getting ready for Gasparilla. The Police Department are also focusing on Sligh Avenue from Armenia to Nebraska for speed enforcement from 9am-noon. They worked together with HCSO to conduct outreach at Tampa Catholic including actual drug testing.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is also gearing up for Gasparilla. They will be focusing on student centers and dorms.

Engineering

Mr. Benson announced that the East Hillsborough Avenue crossings are almost all in place. Landscaping is going in to help with channelization. The full traffic light at Meridian Apartments



will be done soon. Ms. Wheeler was not sure if the buses will continue operating from Meridian Apartments to Middleton High School.

Mr. Benson reported that updates to the engineering guidelines in the Plans Preparation Manual and the Green Book favor safer bicycle and pedestrians treatments. Changes are still needed and being considered for reduction in design speeds and statutes.

Danielle Joyce added that land development codes are being revisited for more and better bike parking requirements.

Mr. Porth announced that the City of Tampa is using Sam Schwartz to look citywide for pedestrian improvements since the focus lately has been on bikeways.

Mr. Reiser reported that the construction on I-275 is causing traffic problems at the Dale Mabry ramp. Peter Hsu responded that FDOT has heard several complaints about this and are their Operations Section is looking into ITS solutions to address the issue.

Mr. Campbell reported that 16 of the 51 pedestrian deaths were on county roads and appear to be in random locations. Motorcycle crashes and fatalities are still very high and more people are using motorcycles for transportation. In 2015, there were 187 traffic fatalities, the highest since 2006. In 2016 there have been 9 fatalities, there were 14 for the same time in 2015. Although pedestrian fatalities are up in Hillsborough County, good news is they are down statewide and bicycle fatalities have also reduced.

Presentation

Mr. Craig Fox with FDOT presented on wrong-way driving crashes. He shared historic crashes and arrest information. There have been 13 fatalities associated with wrong-way driving from 2008-2015. Weekend nights were most common and there was some concentration near drinking locations – Ybor City, Howard Avenue, but no real pattern can be confirmed.

Mr. Fox shared that engineering solutions have been added to the MUTCD. Pavement marking are being used along with wayfinding signs and channelization to avoid entering the highway on an off ramp. He showed cost estimates for signalized and unsignalized intersection improvements.

Mr. Hsu added that in 2014 there were 7 crashes on the interstate system that killed 11 people. There were 0 interstate fatalities in 2015 associated with wrong way driving. Larry Morrell stated that of the 15 off-highway wrong way crashes, 8 people were hurt. Mr. Hsu believes there may have been as many as 50 off-highway wrong way drivers.



Community Traffic Safety Team
of Hillsborough County

CALENDAR UPDATES

Stephen Benson announced a public meeting to be held tomorrow night, January 28th at Ragan Park regarding a redesign of 40th Street which proposes a road diet, roundabouts and a buffered bike lane.

Mr. Stevenson announced that Temple Terrace will be holding its 3rd Annual Ride with the Mayor event on March 11th at 8am. Arrive early for t-shirts and refreshments while they last.

OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Hillsborough CTST is planning for February 24, 2016.

Attendees

Ann Andersen, HCSB

John Bennett, TPD

Rhonda Grice, FDOT

Peter Hsu, FDOT

Danielle Joyce, Greenman- Pederson, Inc.

Jessica Jombai, DKS Associates

David O'Neil, 6th AMW/ SEG (USAF)

Kristina Quenneville, FHP

Michelle Schofner, ICON

Charles Stevenson, City of Temple Terrace

Gena Torres, Hillsborough MPO

Chad Polk, CH2M Hill

Ashton Grimsley, FHP

Mahshid Arasteh, AQC

Ezra Folsom, FHP

Hayley Harmon, More Health

Susan Joel, CARDNO

Carolyn Kinsey, HC Schools

Larry Morrell, HCSO

William Porth, City of Tampa

James Riser, TPD

Ellen Snelling, TAC

Craig Fox, FDOT

Amber Wheeler, HC Schools

Lucy Gonzalez- Barr, CUTR