



## Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Summary – April 22, 2015

William Porth with the City of Tampa served as CTST Chair and called the meeting to order. The rotation of local governments serving as Chair was explained: City of Tampa, Temple Terrace, Hillsborough County, and Plant City will take turns every year as Chair and Vice Chair and the MPO will serve as Secretary.

Welcome and introductions were made; a motion to approve the March minutes passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee

The pedestrian safety update will be covered later during the East Hillsborough Avenue subcommittee report.

#### Impaired Driver Subcommittee

It was reported that binge drinking is becoming a bigger concern mostly with minors who consume large amounts of alcohol as fast as possible. There were 290 arrests as of March 1 with BAC average increased to 0.152. On the rise are the number of people who refuse to provide a BAC level; now up to a 44% refusal rate.

#### Introduction of Officers/Explain rotation

Earlier in the meeting, Rhonda Grice provided an explanation of how the CTST Chair will be shared among local agencies. This will allow more involvement from various committee members and provide relief for a chairperson who may not be able to make every meeting.

### HSIP SAFETY PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Prior to the meeting, Hillsborough County had requested to delay presenting their HSIP project submittals. In place of the presentation, a video on Florida's Transportation Plan was played. Members were invited to provide input. The video was complimented for its' thoroughness.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Education

St. Joseph's has conducted bike clinics in several elementary and middle schools.

Coast Bike questions – the bike rental program is doing very well with more bicycles being used that anticipated, leading to talk of expanding to Davis Island and Hyde Park. One member who has used the bikes later in the day suggested that adding lights be considered.

As the Riverwalk continues to be expanded, this great asset has become very popular. There appears to be some conflicts with fast moving cyclists and the committee discussed ways that the Riverwalk could have signs or markings to better educate all users.



### Enforcement

Wrong way driving continues to be a concern. A recommendation was made by a committee member that pavement markings versus signage may be more effective as impaired drivers tend to look down at the roadway to stay in lines.

USF Police – students on campus get used to vehicles complying for them at crosswalks leading to less awareness when off-campus. One girl was hit recently on campus but speeds are slow and injuries less severe. Speed enforcement on Fletcher Ave. is another focus area for the USF Police officers.

HCSO – received an impaired driving grant. Have focused lately on 50<sup>th</sup> Street between Fowler and Fletcher where a student was hit and noting that motorists are not stopping for pedestrians. Mike Flick, Hillsborough County Public Works reported they are retrofitting those crossings with flashing beacons and LED lighting. Materials already ordered. Walkwise also reported on an educational outreach they will be doing along 50<sup>th</sup> and with the apartments before school starts in August.

COT – working on pedestrian grant. Had another fatality on East Hillsborough Avenue at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street involving impaired pedestrian. Will be enforcing the Walmart when it opens, concerned about crossings.

FHP – wrong-way driver details. Had several recently, not all due to intoxication – one man entered wrong ramp at Fowler. Video detection working. A driver on Howard Frankland became nervous about the length of bridge and turned around using the emergency lane.

### Engineering

Hillsborough County - installing signs at schools for crossing. Several midblock crossings going in around county, 56<sup>th</sup> Street specifically, as well as other various locations.

The topic of midblock crossings generated a lengthy discussion by committee members. Concern was expressed on the motorists' responsibility to reasonable stop for a pedestrian when flashing beacons are activated. There was discussion on the vagueness of the law and ability to prosecute if/when a judge reviews. Ensuring pedestrians use the crossing and push the activation button was another issue.

Plant City - applying for highway safety funds.

City of Tampa – close to completing construction on the Platt/Cleveland redesign. The community is adjusting to the change. Platt has on street parking that varies from side to side with a bicycle lane adjacent. Cleveland has on-street parking on one side with bike lane on other, may be a smoother transition for all. This project along with the Riverwalk and Cass Street cycle track will help make major connections for non-motorists to move through the city. There is also work to connect to the Cypress Point area.

### **CALENDAR UPDATES**

The regularly scheduled May CTST meeting will be replaced with a meeting on May 12 at FDOT Headquarters Building to review applications for the Highway Safety Improvement Program.



Community Traffic Safety Team  
of Hillsborough County

**OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

FDOT District 7 requested CTST members provide updates on their work using safety grants in order to ensure all work is documented when reporting on grant expenditures.

Domingo Noriega with AECOM (formerly URS) announced the Hillsborough Avenue study they will be kicking off from Memorial Highway to Nebraska Avenue with a focus on multi-modal safety. He would like to continue to update the CTST as the study moves forward.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Hillsborough CTST will be held at the Florida Department of Transportation in the Auditorium. This is the Joint Meeting with the Livable Roadways Committee from the local MPO.