



## Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Summary – December 8, 2015

William Porth, CTST Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee

Several CTST members attended the Bike-Walk Coalition meeting and praised the turnout and the dedication by a wide range of agencies, businesses, and citizens.

Mr. Porth described the recently completed rapid-red flashing beacons on E. Hillsborough Avenue. They seem to be working well and will have even more success as the learning curve for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians continues to improve.

#### Impaired Driver Subcommittee

Larry Morrell reported that the Sheriff's Office will be conducting DUI checkpoints on Christmas Eve in the eastern portion of Hillsborough County from 10pm-4am.

There were 17 wrong way drivers, 2 of which had property damage associated with them and all drivers were arrested for DUI. All of the incidents were off the interstate on local roads.

### **HSIP SAFETY PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

Ms. Arasteh reminded the committee that the Safety Summit will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup>. There is approximately \$10 million in 2017-2018 for Safe Routes to School projects in the Safety funding category. The aim is to fund MPO safety priorities.

The City of Tampa needs funding for flashers at hazardous walking locations, Ms. Grice has a list of those locations from last year. Ms. Wheeler reported that the School District submitted a list through Hillsborough Public Works Department and will verify if FDOT's list matches.

Ms. Grice reported that legislation requires a 90-day timeline for acknowledging the safety issues with stronger verbiage on mitigation that expected results need to be identified within 5 years.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Education

Amber Wheeler addressed School District involvement in Bike-Walk and the growing internal relationships that are developing to help improve walking and cycling safety.



Mr. Porth described the Vision Zero efforts, that no loss of life is acceptable. Ms. Torres announced the Student Video Contest underway for peer-to-peer traffic safety messaging with winners receiving Lightning tickets. A second phase is planned to reach out to the over-represented lower-income males, getting safety messages out through local churches.

Tampa General is sponsoring the Battle of the Belts competition at the 27 high schools in the county - More Health will target the younger children. The Texting and driving campaign was successful with the winner attending a Taylor Swift concert.

### Enforcement

Florida Highway Patrol representative works on the commercial vehicle side and reported that they receive poor driver complaints. They have a program, Target Aggressive Drivers & Trucks to specifically address these complaints.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office announced their High Visibility Grant. They will spend two days on Fletcher from US 41 to Bruce B. Downs then Bloomingdale and Waters/Sheldon intersection. The effort goes through May 2016. The educational portion includes handing out pamphlets, stopping cyclists and giving out bike lights, education motorists and pedestrians. The second phase will be enforcement-focused.

City of Tampa Police Department announced their concern over pedestrian fatalities, and reaching a record number in 2015. Nine have been confirmed as intoxicated with 17 results pending. Many of the same roadways are recognized as continuing to be hazardous, high volume/high speed arterials like MLK, Hillsborough, Kennedy, Busch, and Nebraska.

William Porth again spoke to overall trends reducing, even though our area has years that peak with alarmingly high crashes and fatalities. He pointed out that since New York City's adopted Vision Zero and their "Don't Be a Jerk" messaging the number of severe injury crashes have significantly reduced.

### Engineering

The committee discussed the effect that motorist speed has on the severity of injury crashes. The typical engineering methodology of setting roadway speed limits needs a policy change that takes into context adjacent development and the surrounding uses.

Mr. Porth gave an update on the Cass/Tyler cycle track construction from the Hillsborough River to Nebraska and the eventual extending with a buffered bike lane to Howard and east to Palm. The cycle/track ties into the Green Spine to provide safe facilities for cycling across the City.

FDOT has been focusing their efforts on the top 10 pedestrian fatality locations. Much work has already been done along many of the corridors – Fletcher, Hillsborough, Fowler, Florida, 5764, Busch and Bearss. On Busch, the City and FDOT are identifying sidewalk gaps between Armenia and Florida. Bike lanes are being striped throughout the city and follow up speed studies are planned to see if the speed limits can be lowered. MacDill Avenue had the speed



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lowered 5mph from Kennedy to Columbus. Beneficial Drive is being reviewed by the Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority, FDOT and the City of Tampa to address safety in the Channelside area.

Changes proposed in the Plans Preparation manual may give “credit” for engineering roadways with lower design speeds.

Hillsborough County announced safety studies on Waters from Sheldon to Anderson and further to Dale Mabry; 56<sup>th</sup> from Fowler to Fletcher; 42<sup>nd</sup> from Fletcher to Bruce B. Downs; Hillsborough from US 92 to 56<sup>th</sup> Street; Bruce B. Downs from Fletcher to Bearss.

Julie Bond will present in January on the Bike-Walk kickoff and next efforts.

## **CALENDAR UPDATES**

## **OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Hillsborough CTST is planning for January 27, 2016.

Attendees:

Mahshid Arasteh, AQC  
Bala Padmanadda, BCS  
Rhonda Grice, FDOT  
Danielle Joyce, Greenman-Pederson, Inc.  
Larry Morrell, HCSO  
Shirley Ready, SDHC  
Michael Sullivan, HCSO  
Amber Wheeler, SDHC  
Dana Wood, Tampa General Hospital

Cpl Steve Cherpock, HCSO  
Ezra Folsom, FHP  
Susan Joel, Cardno  
Dawn Lewis, Tampa General Hospital  
William Porth, City of Tampa  
James Reiser, TPD  
Gena Torres, Hillsborough MPO  
Swara Farheen, Hillsborough County