



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

William Porth with the City of Tampa called the meeting to order.

Welcome and introductions were made and both the May and June CTST meeting minutes were approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee

Mr. Porth shared an update from the City of Tampa's implementation of their Walk-Bike Plans which have tended to focus on safe cycling connections. The work to begin on Walk-Bike Phase V will focus on making Tampa a walkable city.

#### Impaired Driver Subcommittee

Sheriff's office announced that the Amalie Arena won the Sheriffs Alcohol Vendor Enforcement (SAVE) compliance award. It was explained that the SAVE program involves HCSO training alcohol vendors to stop serving at a certain time, encouraging safe ride home programs, checking ID's, etc. An establishment is evaluated based on the number of people served versus the number of DUI citations given to their patrons. If an establishment tends to be in violation, training is offered from the Sheriff's Office.

Ellen Snelling reported on the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office program of going to driver's education classes at local high schools, bringing the bat mobile, DUI goggles and engaging the youth on the danger of driving will impaired.

James Reiser with the City of Tampa Police Department announced that TPD is getting more involved as well. Compliance testing is being done where alcohol is sold in retail stores. Working with TPD, young adults will attempt to purchase alcohol and if they are not asked for their ID and served, TPD will follow up, often offering training as well. TPD has been focusing efforts in the South Howard area (SOHO) where there is a concentration of bars and restaurants in close proximity. A new business alliance has formed and working to compliance.

TPD is also focusing on Memorial Highway near Hogan's where a pedestrian recently died who had a BAC over .31. They will repeat their efforts over the Labor Day weekend. Overall, TPD has seen a decrease in pedestrian crashes and fatalities.

Ms. Snelling announced the blood alcohol content testing statistics. There has been a sharp decline in people charged with DUI – in June of 2014 there were 401, and only 275 in June of 2015. There has also been a decline in the number of people tested. These results could be due to the outstanding efforts by law enforcement to curb driving while impaired. There is concern with the number of people who refuse to be tested – almost 40% refusal rate.



The Profile of Alcohol and Drug Indicators for Hillsborough County has been published. It contains a wealth of data on alcohol and drug topics: number of licenses issued to establishments, arrests, student usage, deaths, crashes, injuries, etc.

Several CTST members were interested in being involved with the Impaired Driver Subcommittee. Rhonda Grice will post the next meeting date on the CTST website.

### **HSIP SAFETY PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

Ms. Grice reported that the FDOT Safety Office reviewed applications in June and July and will finalize awards before August.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Education

Amber Wheeler announced that Steinbrenner High School has been working to reduce the number of students parking off-site and walking through zoning changes. Public schools will be starting August 25<sup>th</sup> and there is an effort to promote TBARTA's school pool tool where parents can identify intersections to meet to walk or carpool.

More Health announced a texting campaign to promote Drive Safe Tampa Bay, giving away 6 Taylor Swift concert tickets.

Julie Bond handed out pedestrian flashing beacon instruction cards that will be distributed around East Hillsborough Avenue crossings expected to be completed and operational in the next few months. Walk-Wise made observations recently where people were crossing and asked the pedestrians what made them decide to cross where they did. 20,000 door hangars were distributed.

Ms. Bond added that Stephen Benson contacted the Caspers Company, owner of McDonald's to add tip card in bags and include a free drink. USF developed a marketing plan that included: billboards, benches, mobile apps.

Ms. Bond announced that a before and after observations of pedestrian behavior along Fletcher Avenue at the new crossings have been completed. Dr. Amy Lester completed the study and will also have results for East Hillsborough later to compare both corridors.



### Enforcement

The committee continues to be concerned with enforcing the new crossing beacons. Particularly the solid red phase versus flashing red. The concern is that motorists will be confused as to when to proceed. A judge is likely to dismiss a case if a motorist goes through a red light if no pedestrian is present at the time.

Don Rainard added that a motorist will tend to stop when the light is not activated treating it like a real signal that is not operating. Could lead to more rear-end crashes.

William Porth suggested a roundtable with law enforcement and the courts.

Florida Highway Patrol reported on their work to end wrong-way driving. Good news was the latest occurrences were drivers who made a legitimate error and were backing off a ramp before entering into the flow of traffic. Roadway construction was noted as a big contributing factor, especially with the elderly or those new to the area.

Others on the committee noted wrong-way driving happening on local roads predominantly by intoxicated drivers. There was discussion of emerging technology such as phone app that measures blood alcohol content and other technology with roadway cameras.

### Engineering

Gena Torres announced the recent kickoff of a study to determine the traffic, safety, and economic impacts if the Tampa/Florida one-way pairs could be reconfigured to possibly two-way or another design.

### **CALENDAR UPDATES**

No updates were given.

### **OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Hillsborough CTST is planning for August 26, 2015 and will be held at the Florida Highway Patrol – Troop C Headquarters.



Community Traffic Safety Team  
of Hillsborough County

**Attendees:**

Mahshid Arasteh

Susan Boda

Julie Bond

Ezra Folsom

Scott Friedman

Rhonda Grice

Susan Joel

Dawn Lewis

Michael Mattiza

William Porth

Don Rainard

James Reiser

Michelle Schofner

Ellen Snelling

David Thatcher

Gena Torres

Amber Wheeler

Lucy Gonzalez

Amanda Correia

American Quality Consultants

Tindale Oliver

CUTR

FHP

HDR / ICA

FDOT

Cardno, Inc.

Tampa General Hospital

FHP

City of Tampa

City of Plant City

TPD

ICON

TAC

HCSO

Hillsborough MPO

Hillsborough County School District

CUTR

Parsons Brinkerhoff