



## Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Summary – September 23, 2015

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

Welcome and introductions were made. Action on the approval of the August minutes will be delayed until the following CTST meeting in October.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee

Stephen Benson reported that the E. Hillsborough HAWKS are up and running. Although compliance was expected to start out low, observations show that motorists are stopping. Some even remained stopped after the pedestrian has cleared the roadway.

Julie Bond added that WalkWise has conducted quite a bit of educational outreach for the E. Hillsborough HAWK crossings have been advertised on bus benches and door hangers. They have also been walking the corridor speaking directly with pedestrians.

#### Impaired Driver Subcommittee

There was discussion that wrong-way driving may have declined on major highways but are still occurring on non-limited access roadways.

Ellen Snelling reported that the DUI squad made 347 arrests in the month of August 2015, which is 17% less than the same time in 2014. An impaired motorist was recently arrested for hitting a construction worker on E. Hillsborough Ave.

### **HSIP SAFETY PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

It was announced that the cycle for new safety funded projects begins in January. Letters requesting project applications are being rolled out so that not all applications are received at the same time.

Several million dollars of safety funds were awarded to St. Petersburg for pedestrian bulb outs on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Bob Campbell suggested the \$100,000 law enforcement grants would be a good use of the funding.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Education



More Health announced they will be participating in a bike rodeo at the end of October. They are currently working in several schools partnering with Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. A successful event was held with the Sulpher Springs Community focused on walking and cycling safety.

It was announced that City Council will be hearing a request from Raymond James Stadium that full liquor to be allowed to be sold beyond box seating. Raymond James continues to ensure a large law enforcement presence, train their servers on all the rules regarding serving alcohol, discontinue alcohol sales at 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of Bucs games, and safe rides are announced regularly.

DEA is holding prescription take-backs around the county for unneeded or outdated medical prescriptions.

#### Enforcement

Florida Highway Patrol reported that excessive speeding continues to be a big concern as well as aggressive and careless driving.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office announced their focus on 50<sup>th</sup> Street where they have pulled people over, given warnings, and distributed the pedestrian safety pamphlets. They are also working with AAA at the high-school football games during Friday Night Lights providing anti-texting messages. HCSO have made a request to GEICO to sponsor the next Battle of the Belts.

City of Tampa Police Department announced that pedestrian fatalities were alarmingly up 400-500%. Total crashes had only increased 14% in comparison. There did not seem to be a pattern to the pedestrian deaths that could be solved by an focused education or engineering solution. It was also mentioned that the number of complaints about Platt Street have diminished.

#### Engineering

Bob Campbell, Hillsborough County Public Works announced the completion of the first round of projects identified from the MPO's Pedestrian & Bicycle High Crash Areas Plan funded by a \$8.5 million budget allocation. The next 18 highest crash corridors are being assessed now for streetlights, midblock crossing, etc. Rapid flashing beacons have also recently been installed in Carrollwood on South Village Drive.

Don Rainard from Plant City was concerned about the pedestrian crossing treatment on SR 574, which is currently rapid flashing beacons. The crossing is very active during the strawberry festival and motorists continue to speed through the area.



William Porth announced that the City's first cycle track will be built on Cass St between the Hillsborough River and Nebraska Av south side of the road. We also have an FDOT funded off system bike facilities project on Willow St between Swann Av and Main St which is a mix of bike lanes and share the road symbols.

#### CUTR – Experience on 50<sup>th</sup> Street with new RRFB's

Julie Bond presented the results of observations made over a two-day sweep on 50<sup>th</sup> Street after the installation of RRFB's, pedestrian warning signs, and LED street lights.

There was great media coverage with a large viewership. This was due partly in response to the severe pedestrian crash that occurred with a person (Courtney) who did everything correctly – crossing in the crosswalk.

WalkWise and HCSO worked together, with officers pulling people over. Materials were handed out to the varied people in the area – not just students in the apartments, but families of all ages. Motorist behavior was observed and speeding was a continual problem along with texting, talking on phones, and not yielding to pedestrians. People crossing on foot did not always use the sidewalk or crosswalk, many wore earbuds. Cyclists too had ear buds, rode against the flow of traffic but quite a few wore helmets.

Next steps will be to ask USF to consider a USF Safe Driving Campaign, continue targeted enforcement, add permanent markings, raised crosswalks, connect sidewalks, and lower the speed below 35mph.

#### Discussion on team field trip (informal RSA) for October

William Porth suggested the CTST do this hands on exercise Road Safety Audit. Rhonda Grice suggested the Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee could pick a few locations and then offer to the rest of the CTST when the date and location are confirmed.

### **CALENDAR UPDATES**

Safe Kids announced October 7<sup>th</sup> will be International Safe Walk to School. Volunteers can sign up on the list of schools participating.

There is a meeting at FDOT District 7 offices in the Executive Conference Room on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 9am to discuss Safe Routes to School funding. SR2S was not reallocated as a dedicated fund. Projects for the last year of funding will be discussed, such as TBARTA's work on kids carpooling.

October 8<sup>th</sup> is the statewide CTST meeting in Melbourne, FL. An update is expected on the SR2S funding issues. Some 402 Safety Grant money may be approved that can be used more freely but it is not a large amount.



Community Traffic Safety Team  
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October 25<sup>th</sup> will be Cyclovia Tampa Bay on Kennedy Boulevard downtown. The event will be held from 9am-2pm with all sorts of fun family activities.

### **OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Hillsborough CTST is planning for October 28<sup>th</sup> and the team was reminded that there will not be a November meeting.

Attendees:

Julie Bond, CUTR

Bob Campbell, Hillsborough County Public Works

Kristi Nalls, St. Joe's Hospital

Ellen Snelling, Tampa Alcohol Coalition

Jessica Jombai, DKS

Ginger Brengle, MADD

Larry Morrell, HCSO

Don Rainard, Plant City

Amy Lester, CUTR

Rhonda Grice, FDOT