



West Central Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order by chair, Steve Diez. The introductions were made and the minutes approved with corrections noted per Mr. van den Berg.

OLD PROBLEM LOCATIONS

Discussion was had on the legalities of the 4 wheel self-propelled vehicles first discussed last month.

Discussion was had about the Middle School Road issue. Congestion backs up on 41 South in order to accommodate vehicles turning onto Middle School Road either for the School or for a gym located there. Buses exiting Middle School Road cause a long line of congestion for SB 41. Widening the intersection to allow for a through lane SB and a left turn lane onto Middle School Road would help but is a long term solution due to funding.

Steve Diez introduced the new Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Danielle Barth with All Children's Hospital.

May was National Bike month, Steve discussed a bike issue for the Coast to Coast Trail; Sumter County citizens are VERY opposed to the Southern Alignment.

Discussion was had about the SR 52 project.

Danielle talked about the schools she has visited in the last month. All Children's has distributed 86 helmets to students. There are plans to work with the Cruisin' for Food program and distribute more helmets and bike and pedestrian safety information to students over the summer.

Hernando County School Board has decided to no longer offer courtesy busing, so this will increase students within the one mile buffer to either walk or bike to school or have a vehicle take them. The school District is also looking at closing some schools. There are multiple issues with regard to the school board budget. Discussion followed.

Mr. van den Berg shared more video he had taken on his way to the meeting. There was debris that was a safety hazard for cyclists. Dave Carr took down the location and will have it cleaned up. Ms. Howard reported another location with a similar debris situation. Mr. Carr thanked both for their information so that we can correct these issues as they occur. Mr. van den Berg continued the video with concern about a gored area directly across the intersection, it also had a debris problem as well. Joel or Kevin at HQ need to send Brooksville Office a directive to correct the erroneous goring.



Mr. van den Berg is also very concerned with a “pedestrian enforcement sting training operation” webinar. He has concerns about FHWA training.

Mr. van den Berg showed a picture of a CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP regulatory shaped and colored sign mounted below the STOP sign where the Good Neighbor Trail crosses Mondon Hill Rd. He said that this sign sends the wrong message to trail users and is undoubtedly a misapplication of the sign.

A discussion followed during which he said that pedestrians are not required by the Florida Statutes to obey STOP signs. Members of the committee told him that pedestrians are required to stop because they are some type of "vehicle".

Ms. Bozeman joined us at this time and was asked about the School Board items and school closings. She said no school closings are in discussion for the current year, but did allow that due to the financial situation, it is one of many things that must be considered. No schools would be closed during the 2015-16 school year. There are concerns about deferred maintenance. Discussion was had. Requests for suggestions can be directed to Ms. Boseman at the school board. East Side Elementary School has a Nature Trail that has continued to grow.

Ms. Howard asked about some surveying activity she had observed along US 19 in the vicinity of where she is seeking to have a multi-use trail. Mary Sheets is the project manager of the US 19 project. Ms. Howard has received a letter from Secretary Steinman about projects along US 19. Ms. Howard also discussed updates for the Sidewalks for Safety Facebook page which now has 1,427 Likes.

The MPO meeting is scheduled for June 25th.

Public Workshops at Lecanto High School are scheduled for June 25th as well regarding Suncoast II .

Discussion was had about trails and multi-use paths and new roads and corridors.

NEW AND REVISITED PROBLEM LOCATIONS

Culbreath Road in Hernando County, reports of “heaving asphalt” in the area. North of Mizell Rd.

No other reported problem areas.

EVENTS

A reminder was given about the upcoming Statewide CTST meeting in Jacksonville on June 18th.



Community Traffic Safety Team
of West Central Florida

NEW BUSINESS

A discussion was had on the homeless population. Suggestions to reach out to the Social Services agencies to join our group to assist in the transportation aspects of this issue. Ms. Bozeman reported issues with the Eastside population is in dire need of public transportation.

With no further announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.