



## West Central Community Traffic Safety Team Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2015

The meeting was called to order by chair, Steve Diez. The introductions were made and the minutes approved.

### **OLD PROBLEM LOCATIONS**

Steve Daniels from Hernando Transportation asked about striping on Wiscon and Hwy 50 for the school buses.

Lecanto School complex—gridlock at dismissal. High School students walk through parking lot. More people picking up kids. Not enough parking, but school district is using crossing guards to keep traffic moving.

Hwy 50 and Hwy 19—needs more signage. The travel lane dead ends into the bike lane. There are no messages on the pavement yet. New striping and marking coming.

Withlacoochee State Trail---Mr. van den Berg has requested crossing change in the Townsen Park area. According to the DEP there are 110 bike riders that use that crossing daily and he estimates only about 5 boat users. The crossing has a 4 way stop control which he claims does not comply with the MUTCD's standards or AASHTO's recommendations. Ms. Nasralla from Hernando County engineering said she has again spoken with Mr. O'Dell about his commitment to follow up with Mr. van den Berg about this crossing.

Sidewalks for Safety---Bev Howard discussed the article in the Chronicle regarding the 1,300 middle school petitions for multi-use trail. The project is moved to the top of the list for possible completion. She also mentioned possible fundraisers for this project.

Highway 41 and Independence--- continued conversation about not blocking crosswalk for bike trail. Palm plant removed as only sight obstruction.

Mr. van den Berg gave a slide and video presentation in which he showed how both crosswalks are routinely blocked by vehicles and claims that the reinstalled crosswalk creates a dangerous condition because the sight lines between trail users and motorists is often blocked because of the design of the crossing. His two videos showed that he was almost hit by vehicles while he was legally in the crosswalk--one close call he said was the direct result of the design of the crossing.

Tall fluorescent yellow signs were added to alert motorists. Pat from Highway Department said that people don't think about bikes and pedestrians at crossings.

### **NEW AND REVISITED PROBLEM LOCATIONS**

Michele Tewell reported that a business in Crystal River wants to rent out bikes with 4 wheels that hold several people at a time. They are too wide /big for the standard bike lane. These are



not motorized, but classified as a “personal mobility device.” May look at use on side streets, but will impede traffic. Michele will research.

Chuck Dixon from the school district discussed the Hwy 41 and Middle School Road issue regarding the need for a signal at that intersection as the distance between the signal at Kmart and this new location would be far enough to warrant installation at IPS. The area really needs a left turn lane on Hwy 41 instead to alleviate traffic backup, along with enhanced training for the crossing guard.

Joel P. asked if there was a possibility of changing the start time of school to after 9 am which would greatly reduce traffic when people are going to work at 8 am. There is also a large swale and drainage/retention pond on school property which makes any construction difficult. New turn lane would not be constructed by DOT until road is widened.

### **EVENTS**

The Citrus County Sheriff’s office held the Summer Safety and Youth Expo in April at the auditorium for nearly 1,000 people. Many agencies were represented for all aspects of safety including fire, water and safe transportation.

Steve Daniels reported on the 5<sup>th</sup> national survey regarding legal and illegal passing of school buses. His drivers were conducting the survey today. Citrus County Sheriff’s office did an educational campaign and then did stop motorists who illegally passed a bus, and gave citations. At one time deputies were even put on buses to monitor the traffic.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Walt Eastmond was nominated and elected as the new Vice Chair of the West Central CTST. CONGRATS!

Hernando County Engineer, Heba Nasralla, provided information on grant applications for curve warning signs and fluorescent bright sticks. She picked five roads with dangerous curves for the signs. She is also applying for grants for signal enhancement back plates and reflective material.

Walt Eastmond from Citrus Engineering also submitted similar projects; including: a safety evaluation of Hwy 486 and the Chevron station driveway, two signal warrant locations and evaluation of bridge guardrails and roadway striping.

The area at Hwy 486 at the Chevron station will have the guardrails and roadway striping evaluated.

### **OPEN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rhonda Grice from DOT shared the state transportation plan. Information is available on the DOT website.

There is a new coordinator of the Safe Routes to Schools Program; Danielle Barth.



Community Traffic Safety Team  
of West Central Florida

Sue Littnan reported that there is an upcoming Child Passenger Safety Technician training in Lecanto on June 11, 12, and 13 from 8 am to 5 pm each day. Contact Sue at [slittnan@elc-naturecoast.org](mailto:slittnan@elc-naturecoast.org) if interested in attending. Those who transport children or work in law enforcement or hospital maternity departments are encouraged to take advantage of this certification course.

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