



**PINELLAS TRAIL SECURITY TASK FORCE
(PTSTF) MEETING AGENDA**

January 14, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

Pinellas County Emergency Services Center, Room 130
12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774
(Telephone: 727-582-2000)

THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 8, 2019**
3. **PRESENTATION: TRENDS AND CONDITIONS REPORT**
4. **QUARTERLY REPORT FROM PINELLAS TRAIL PARK RANGER**
5. **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AGENCY REPORTS**
 - Sheriff's Office
 - Belleair
 - Clearwater
 - Gulfport
 - Largo
 - St. Petersburg
 - Tarpon Springs
 - Animal Services
 - Public Safety Services
 - Pinellas County Risk Management
 - Volunteer Patrol Programs and Updates
6. **REPORT ON TRAIL USER COUNT DATA**
7. **REPORT ON TRAIL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY**
8. **REPORT ON TRAIL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES**
9. **OTHER BUSINESS**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**
 - **NOTICE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT REPRESENTATIVES - IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR INCIDENT/OFFENSE REPORT TO ANGELA RYAN, aryan@forwardpinellas.org IF YOU WOULD PREFER, YOU CAN FAX THE REPORT TO THE PINELLAS COUNTY MPO at (727) 464-8212.**
THANK YOU.

NEXT PTSTF MEETING – APRIL 14, 2020

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Appeals: Certain public meetings result in actions taken by the public board, commission or agency that may be appealed; in such case persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at a public meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Pinellas Trail Security Task Force – January 14, 2020

2. Approval of Minutes – October 8, 2019



SUMMARY

The summary minutes of the October 8, 2019 Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting are attached.

ATTACHMENTS: Pinellas Trail Security Task Force Summary Minutes – October 8, 2019

ACTION: Approval of the October Meeting Summary

PINELLAS TRAIL SECURITY TASK FORCE
MEETING Summary
October 8, 2019

The following is a summary of the October 8, 2019 Forward Pinellas - Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting, which was held in the Pinellas County Public Safety Services Department, Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida 33774. The Security Task Force meets at least quarterly during the year.

IN ATTENDANCE

Officer Ron Wolfson, Chairman	St. Petersburg Police Department & Volunteer Coordinator
Officer Zachary Cissell	St. Petersburg Police Department
Officer Raniel Heredia	Clearwater Police Department
Officer V. Tran	Largo Police Department
Deputy Terrance Fallahee	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Carol Gray	Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources Chief Ranger
Caroline Lanford	Pinellas County Planning
James Abaka	Pinellas County Risk Management
Craig Queen	Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration
Lynn Abbott	Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration
Joan Rice	Pinellas County Public Works Traffic Division
Stu Schwartzreich	Pinellas Trail Auxiliary Ranger
Carmen Vera	Student, St. Petersburg College
Susan J. Miller	Forward Pinellas Staff
Maria Kelly	Forward Pinellas Staff

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Ronald Wolfson, St. Petersburg Police Officer, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Self-introductions were provided.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY – July 9, 2019

The summary from the July 9, 2019 meeting was approved, with no corrections.

3. PRESENTATION: ADVANTAGE PINELLAS: THE 2019 PINELLAS TRAIL USERS SURVEY

Ms. Susan Miller, Forward Pinellas Staff, shared a review of the Pinellas Trail Users Survey which was conducted on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27 at six locations along the Pinellas Trail Loop. An online survey was developed to supplement the in-field surveys to increase participation from a wider audience. Forward Pinellas staff and County employees were among the many volunteers who assisted with the survey at the Trail locations. Nearly 1,000 surveys were collected over the weekend, with an additional 500 from the online survey resulting in 1,516 total responses. The survey was conducted at the end of the snowbird season and with the rain on Friday, staff feels the numbers would have been greater without those two obstacles. Approximately two-thirds of users bicycled on the Trail, one-fourth walked, and about one-tenth jogged or ran. About 60% of respondents reside within 2-miles of the Trail, an increase of 4% from the 2014 survey, and 12% from the 1999 survey. Discussion ensued where questions were taken and appropriately answered.

4. A. QUARTERLY REPORT FROM PINELLAS TRAIL PARK RANGER

Chief Ranger Carol Gray, Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR), reported several incidents related to the Trail over the last quarter. June 12th, south of Belleview Street, a subject was reported as unconscious and the Clearwater PD and EMS responded. On July 11th, at the US 19 underpass, there were signs of someone camping and Tarpon Springs PD was called upon for assistance. Also,

on July 11th, damage to a fence south of Turner Street was found, possibly related to a vehicle crash. The Trail Ranger was able to repair it. Also, on July 11th, at the Bear Creek Bridge, in St. Petersburg, evidence of after hour activity was found. July 23rd, a Ranger discovered damage to a trash can, and it was removed for repairs. On August 6th, Risk Management enlisted the help of Ranger Gray to investigate damage to a wall on the Trail (she did not give the location of the wall), but it is still being investigated. August 25th cleanup was done in the area of Eldridge and Jones Streets. Quite a bit of garbage, in the form of alcohol containers and drug paraphernalia, was removed. On August 28th, south of Eldridge, Clearwater PD was contacted for possible drug activity. Prior to their ability to respond, the crowd dissipated. September 8th, the Trail Ranger issued his second warning for a golf cart driver on the Trail. September 22nd, south of Eldridge, Clearwater PD was notified for the possession and consumption of alcohol and probable public intoxication. September 24th, Officer Cissel of the St. Petersburg PD contacted Ranger Gray by phone to issue a trespass warning on two subjects. Ranger Gray met with him two days later to sign the paperwork. September 26th, damaged property found by Park Ranger. Property damage report will be completed. October 7th, Park Rangers received an email and photos from a citizen showing camping and defecation at the 38th Avenue overpass. An Auxiliary Ranger reported quite a bit of graffiti and vandalism on the walls of the US 19 underpass. Ranger Gray also passed out information regarding the job description of the Park Ranger and a copy of the Pinellas County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 90, Parks and Conservation Resources for the purpose of assisting law enforcement. The City of Belleair asked that additional signs be posted stating the Trail is closed at sunset and Ranger Gray shared a visual of the new sign with the committee, stating that if anyone is in need of additional signs, PCR would be happy to provide them. She also shared a sign supporting the Chapter 90 ordinances, that restricts activities on the trail and in the parks.

5. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AGENCY REPORTS

A. Sheriff's Office

Pinellas County Sheriff Deputy Terrance Fallahee reported he was finally able to get the first and second quarter reports and the reporting was incorrect at previous meetings. Quarter one had 119 events, quarter two had 81 events and quarter three had 52 events with a majority of these being suspicious person reports. There were three arrests in quarter three.

B. Belleair

An email was received indicating there were 21 field interview reports on the Trail from July 1st – September 30. One of those originated as a person down and the fire department responded only to find out it was a person sleeping so it was changed to a suspicious person call. Another incident was a person who ran from officers, which resulted in an arrest and the subject being bitten by the Sheriffs' K-9.

C. Clearwater

Officer Raniel Heredia from the Clearwater Police Department reported 73 events for quarter three. The only calls of note were a couple of drug calls in the Eldridge and Jones area and one intoxicated person. No arrests. Auxiliary Ranger Stu Schwartzreich addressed a concern with Officer Heredia about the extensive alcohol litter in the area of the Homeless Center he saw traveling north toward Dunedin. Officer Heredia identified the area as possibly being around Myrtle Avenue. He expressed that there are a lot of homes in that area and residents will have a tendency to drink on the Trail instead of in their homes. At this time Chief Ranger Gray asked

the law enforcement members on the PTSTF if she could consider them her liaison for Trail enforcement issues.

D. Gulfport

No one attended from the Gulfport Police Department, but a non-incident report was received.

E. Largo

Officer V. Tran reported for the last quarter. There were 11 calls of various nature. Two reports were taken, one was a traffic crash on July 18 and the Trail was used as a landmark. The second report was a suspicious activity report on September 14. It appears the person was trying to make a false allegation about losing \$600 on the Trail. On September 30, there was a call about animal abuse. A Trail user saw a malnourished dog tied up and law enforcement took the dog to the animal shelter vet.

F. St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg Police Officer Zack Cissell reported there were 43 events pulled from the Trail. Most of those were officer initiated with traffic stops and car crashes and there were six calls for service.

G. Tarpon Springs

No one attended from the Tarpon Springs Police Department.

H. Animal Services

No one attended from Animal Services.

I. Public Safety Services

Mr. Craig Queen, Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration, introduced Ms. Lynn Abbot as the new committee attendee for Public Safety Services. There were 30 calls for this third quarter, however 10 were duplicates. Only two points were used on the Trail. A call on August 30 reported that two people were fighting, however the call was immediately cancelled. Ms. Caroline Lanford, Pinellas County Planning, spoke regarding an incident she was involved in on September 23 at 7:45am. The incident happened on the Trail, that was recorded as a fall, but was actually a failure to yield right-of-way. It was never changed on the reports. Mr. Queen will do a follow up on this call. Ms. Lanford also suggested other calls may be miscategorized.

J. Pinellas County Risk Management

Mr. James Abaka, Pinellas County Risk Management, noted there was nothing to report.

K. Volunteer Patrol Programs and Updates

Chair Wolfson stated that the volunteers are good, and he had nothing to report. Chief Ranger Gray stated the Ranger office is in the process of moving from Ridgecrest Park to Taylor Park. As soon as the system is set up and the carts are moved, everyone will report to Taylor Park. There are about 35 active Auxiliary Rangers biking and walking.

6. AUTOMATIC TRAIL COUNTERS

Ms. Miller briefly discussed the automatic counter reports, which are included in the agenda packet. All counters were working in June and July, but August had three counters down. Ms. Lanford inquired about lighting on the Trail. She noted the counter charts indicate activity before dawn and after dark, and that pedestrian-level lighting has been included in the new Florida Greenbook.

7. REPORT ON TRAIL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Ms. Miller reviewed the Trail Construction Activity report with the Security Task Force. The weblink for the agenda has been updated to show additional construction information. The North Gap and the South Gap for the Duke Energy Trail: The North Loop Gap is in design/build phase with 90% of the design completed. Due to a small alignment adjustment in the Countryside area, Pinellas County Public Works is holding a public information meeting at the Countryside Golf Course Country Club on October 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the location regarding the Pinellas Trail in their community. Construction will be underway soon and will be completed in 2020. The South Loop Phase 3 & 4, Haines Bayshore to Ulmerton Road to 126th Avenue, Public Works has applied for SUNTrail funding for some areas while they investigate right-of-way in other areas. The first alignment meeting regarding the PD&E Study was recently held for 126th Avenue from the Duke Energy Corridor to 34th Avenue by PSTA. The Pinellas Trail Loop connection at NE Coachman/Old Coachman Road and the Ream Wilson Clearwater Trail is scheduled for trail widening and bridge improvements over Alligator Creek. The NE Coachman to Sunset Point section of the loop is being funded by Penny for Pinellas. Construction of this section has been pushed back due to Duke Energy installing new towers along the trail segment. Construction should begin in January 2020. On the 71st Street Trail Connector, Pinellas Trail to 38th Avenue, design is scheduled for 2022. Construction is scheduled for 2024. The San Martin Trail and bridge connection includes a bridge currently undergoing a PD&E study on sea level rise impacts. Construction has not yet been funded, however San Martin Boulevard to Gandy Boulevard has been striped with sharrows. The design of the Courtney Campbell Trail Overpass at Bayshore Boulevard has been funded under the SUNTrail program, with construction scheduled in 2024. FDOT shared a few design options with the Forward Pinellas committees and will attempt to move this project up on the priority list. FDOT is including a trail with the new Howard Frankland Bridge design. This is a design-build project scheduled for construction in 2020. A suggestion was made to add sharrow's at the Gandy Bridge connection west of the bridge. The Orange Street Pedestrian Overpass has been completed. On the Harn Boulevard Overpass, design is underway with construction scheduled for 2020/21. The Bayway Trail South, SR682 and Tierra Verde Bridge Replacement, is currently under construction with the trail to be included in the bridge construction with a round-about at the southern end of the bridge at Madonna Boulevard and 1st Street. Regarding the Treasure Island Causeway project, the City of St. Petersburg has been coordinating and helping to connect the Pinellas Trail with the Treasure Island Causeway. Phase I has been completed. Phase II has been postponed due to funding. Design on the Oldsmar Trail, Phase 6, along Douglas Road from Haynes Road to Race Track Road, is underway with construction scheduled for 2019. This is being funded by Penny for Pinellas. The Gandy Bridge Project will include a bike trail, and a PD&E Study is underway.

8. REPORT ON TRAIL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

The 30th Anniversary of the Pinellas Trail is in the process of being planned for December, 2020.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Correspondence included in the agenda packet references the automatic sensor which was recently installed at Skinner Boulevard at the Pinellas Trail crossing. This is a FDOT pilot project where the sensors light up the RFFB's when a pedestrian or bicyclist approaches. Also included is a schematic of the area for reference. Deputy Fallahee indicated that the feedback he has received from motorists in the area on the additional motorist's notification flashers is that the flashers are too far away, and the motorists do not know what they mean, especially the one for west bound traffic (further than Douglas Street). Deputy Fallahee also stated there will be more directed patrols on the north side and with additional High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) grant funding from USF, there will be more pedestrian safety awareness.

The Coast to Coast Trail in the northeast quadrant of the county, connects to a segment in Pasco County, which will be completed by the end of the year. Bicyclists will then be able to ride the Coast to Coast Trail from Pinellas County into Pasco County, into the Starkey Wilderness Trail and Park and connect to the Suncoast Trail.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wolfson adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m. The next PTSTF meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2020.

Pinellas Trail Security Task Force – January 14, 2020



3. Presentation: Trends and Conditions Report

SUMMARY

Forward Pinellas provides an annual snapshot of the transportation, land use and socioeconomic conditions in Pinellas County through its annual Countywide Trends and Conditions Report. The most recent report was released in November 2019. It presents information on socioeconomic and land use trends, roadway and transit performance, crash analysis, commuting patterns, waterborne transportation services, intelligent transportation system (ITS) technologies, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The report serves as a tool to evaluate progress toward achieving the objectives of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, identify improvements to address safety concerns and congestion problems, inform transportation safety studies and transportation project design, and target law enforcement activities related to safety. Forward Pinellas staff will present a summary of the 2019 Trends and Conditions Report at the meeting. The full report is available at the link below.

http://forwardpinellas.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Countywide_Trends_and_Conditions_Report.pdf

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None, Informational Only

Pinellas Trail Security Task Force – January 14, 2020



6. Report on Monthly Trail User Count Data

SUMMARY

This item will include the monthly data summary reports for the automatic trail counters along the Pinellas Trail. Note that average hourly data has been included with the reports.

ATTACHMENT: Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary Reports:

- September 2019
- October 2019

ACTION: No Action Required, informational item only

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period:
September 1 – September 30, 2019 (30 days)

Total Usage

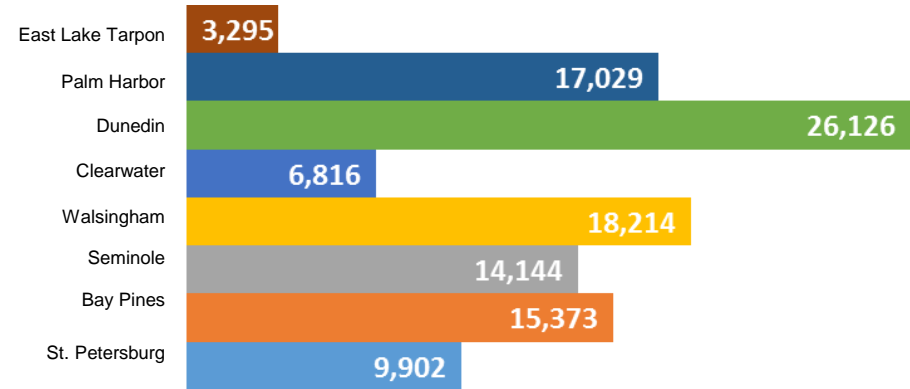
30-Day Count Total: 110,899
Daily Average Users: 3,697

Highest Daily Totals:

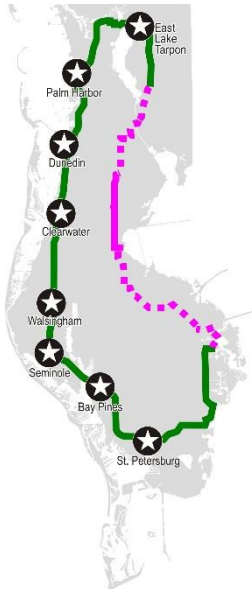
- #1 – Saturday, September 28th (Walsingham - 2,182)
- #2 – Monday, September 2nd (Dunedin - 1,711)
- #3 – Saturday, September 21st (Palm Harbor - 1,128)

* Technical issues with Dunedin & Palm Harbor Counters, Sept 2019.

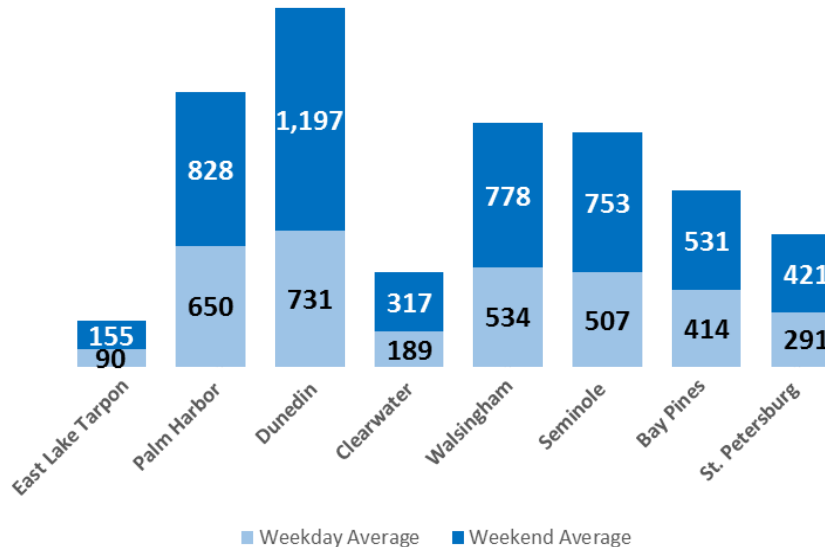
Monthly Trail Users by Counter Location





Counter Locations



Weekday & Weekend Profile

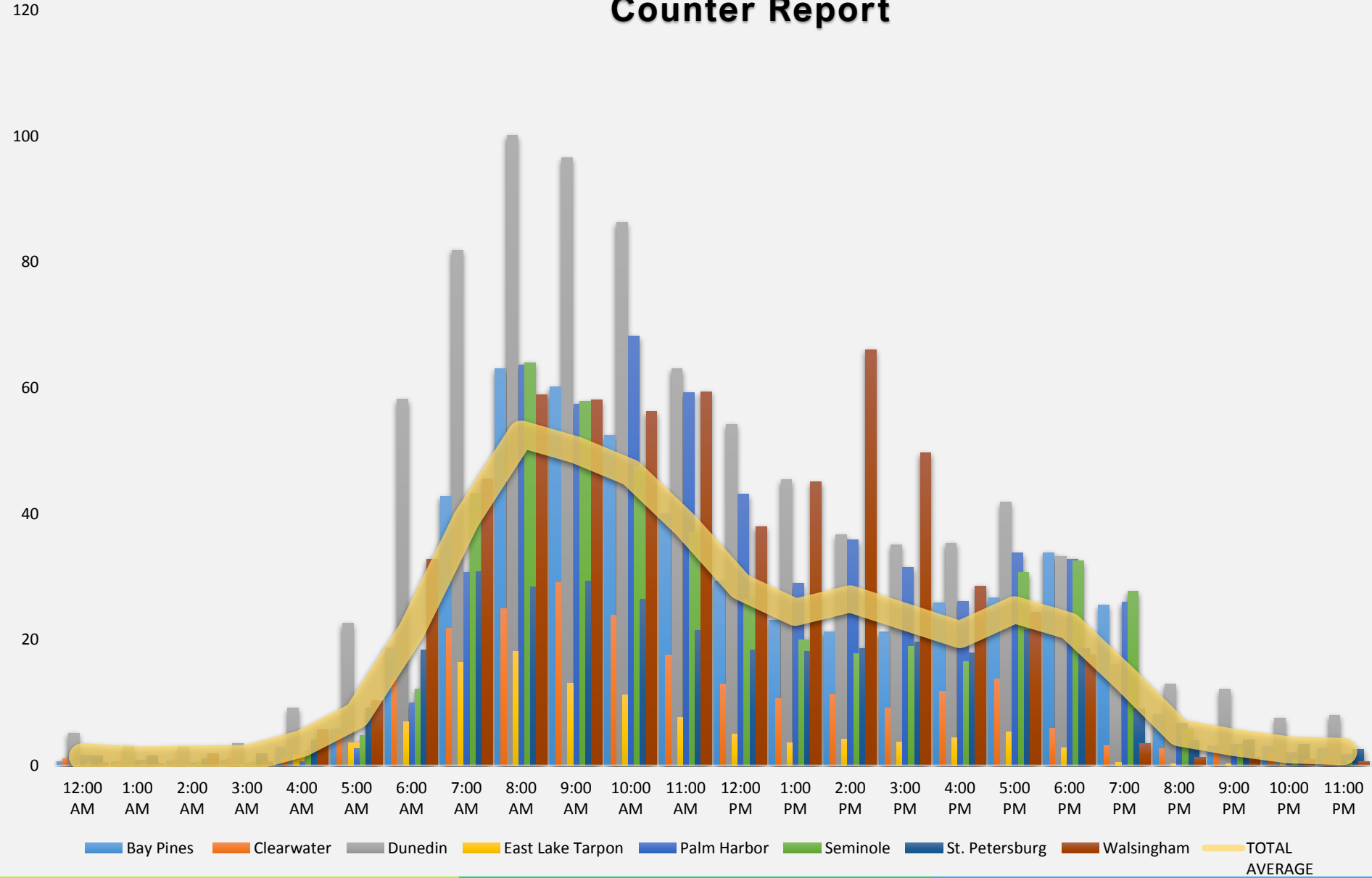


Trail User Mode Split

			Other
East Lake Tarpon:	1%	99%	--
Palm Harbor:	16%	84%	--
Dunedin:	31%	69%	--
Clearwater:	20%	80%	--
Walsingham:	37%	63%	--
Seminole:	30%	70%	--
Bay Pines:	11%	86%	3%
St. Petersburg:	14%	86%	--

Source: Forward Pinellas September 2019
National Weather Service: [September 2019](#)

September 2019 Average Hourly Counter Report



Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period:
October 1 – October 31, 2019 (31 days)

Total Usage

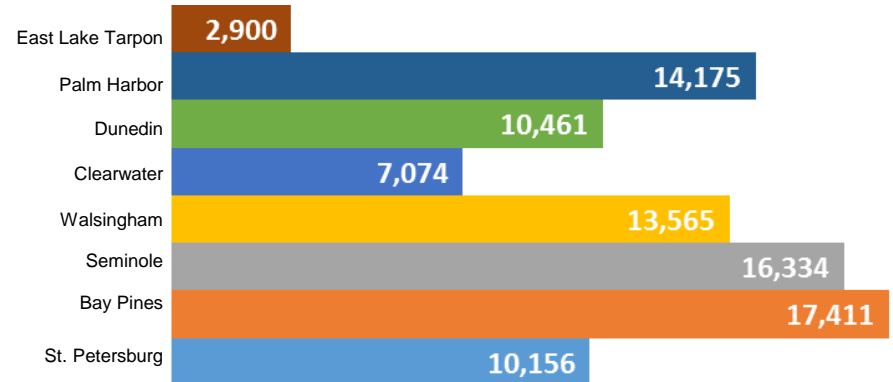
31-Day Count Total: 92,076
Daily Average Users: 2,970

Highest Daily Totals:

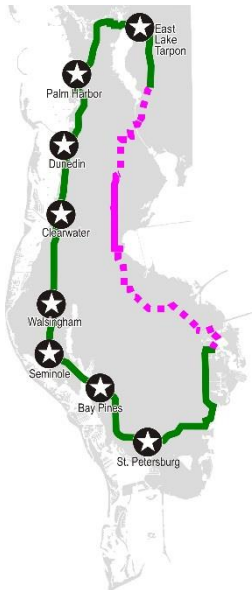
- #1 – Saturday, October 26th (Dunedin - 1,796)
- #2 – Sunday, October 20th (Palm Harbor - 1,035)
- #3 – Sunday, October 13th (Bay Pines - 938)

* Technical issues with the Palm Harbor & Dunedin Counters resulting in several missing days of data during October 2019.

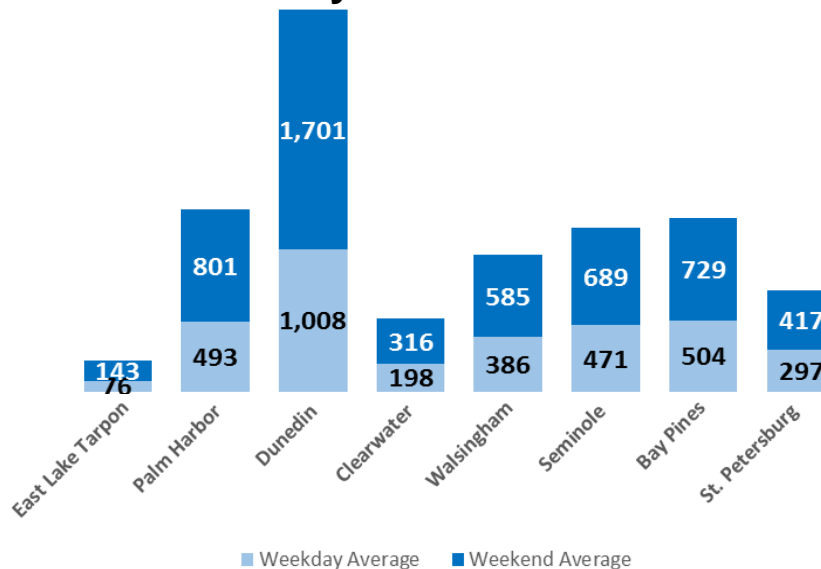
Monthly Trail Users by Counter Location





Counter Locations



Weekday & Weekend Profile



Trail User Mode Split

			Other
East Lake Tarpon:	1%	97%	2%
Palm Harbor:	13%	86%	1%
Dunedin:	32%	67%	1%
Clearwater:	22%	78%	--
Walsingham:	29%	69%	1%
Seminole:	27%	72%	1%
Bay Pines:	19%	79%	1%
St. Petersburg:	15%	85%	--

Source: Forward Pinellas October 2019
National Weather Service: [October 2019](#)

7. Trail Construction Activity Report

**TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
JANUARY 2020**

Pinellas Trail North Loop Gap Countryside	Enterprise Rd to Chesnut Sr. Park; SUN Trail; Proposed Alignment Change June 20, 2019, Design-Build Underway with delay, Est. Complete 2020 (link)
Pinellas Trail South Loop Phase 3 & 4	Haines Bayshore to Ulmerton Rd to 126th Ave; Segment of South Loop has application for SUN Trail Funding; Construction 2024
Pinellas Trail Loop - Ream Wilson Connection (Old Coachman Bridge)	Trail widening and bridge improvements over Alligator Creek; Construction 2020 (link)
Pinellas Trail Loop – Duke Energy Trail	NE Coachman to Sunset Point; Penny for Pinellas funded; Construction should begin January 2020 (link)
71st Street Trail Connector	Pinellas Trail to 38th Avenue N; Design 2022, Construction 2024
San Martin Bridge & Trail connection	PD&E Study for Detailed Analysis of approved alignment to be complete June 2020 (link) Sharrows were installed summer 2019
Courtney Campbell Trail Overpass	Trail Overpass at S.R. 60/Bayshore Blvd; SUN Trail; Design Underway; Construction 2024
Howard Frankland Bridge Trail	FDOT include trail with new bridge construction; Design-Build Project; Est. Construction 2020 (link)
Gandy Bridge Trail	FDOT to include trail with new bridge construction; PD&E Study Underway
Harn Boulevard Overpass	Pedestrian Overpass; Design Underway; Construction 2021 (link)
Bayway Trail South	SR 679 & Tierra Verde Bridge Replacement Est. Complete 2021 (link)
Oldsmar Trail Phase 6	Douglas Rd (Hayes Rd to Race Track Rd, approx. 1.2 miles) Design underway; Construction 2019 (link)

9. Other Business

A. Correspondence, Publications, Articles of Interest

Clearwater Announces Plans for E-Scooters on City Streets – November 21, 2019

Mandatory Helmet Laws Make Cyclists Less Safe - November 14, 2019

2020 Meeting Schedule

B. Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics

This item is provided to allow Committee members to suggest topics for future BPAC agendas.

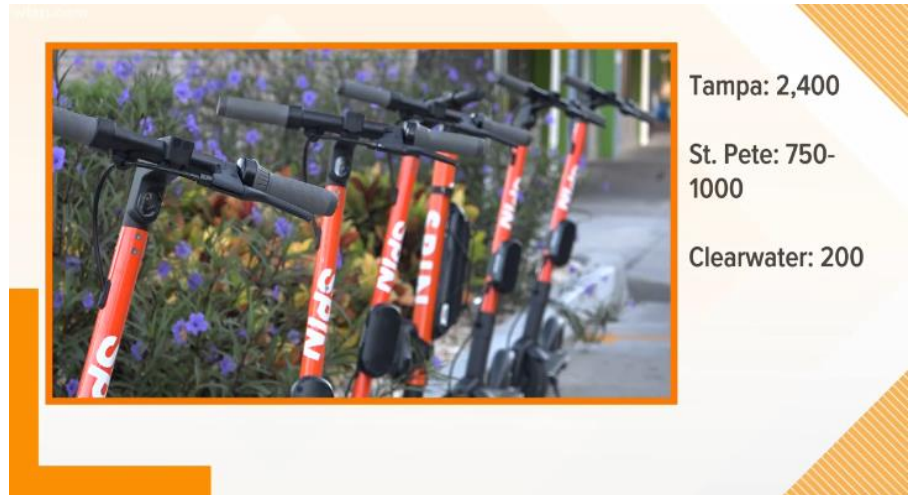
C. Other

If any member has other business to discuss, they may address it under this item.

CLEARWATER ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR E-SCOOTERS ON CITY STREETS

The City Council will vote on a one-year pilot program to bring the popular scooters to the streets.

by Thuy Lan Nguyen
November 21, 2019



CLEARWATER, Fla. — Love them or hate them, the popular e-scooters could be coming to Clearwater.

The city is [reversing course from its decision in January](#) of 2019 to ban the scooters for 180 days. The city council will vote at its board meeting Thursday on regulations for its one-year pilot program.

Tampa was the first city in the area to allow scooters. Many people have complained about the scooters in Tampa, saying they're unsightly, dangerous and strewn all about the city. St. Petersburg recently voted on their e-scooter pilot program, factoring in some complaints about the scooters in Tampa.

Clearwater is doing the same, making some changes to its proposal to differ from Tampa. Some of the key differences include the number of scooters and operating hours. Tampa has more than 2,000 e-scooters on its streets from all four vendors: Jump, Lime, Spin and Bird. St. Pete has about 750 to 1,000 scooters. Clearwater is proposing a limit of 200 e-scooters from only two vendors.

Tampa doesn't have a scooter curfew. St. Pete stops riders at 10 p.m. Clearwater wants people to ride only between 6 a.m. and midnight.

The city doesn't want scooters on Chestnut Street, Court Street, Drew Street between Myrtle and Missouri and the Memorial Causeway Bridge.

Clearwater, St. Pete and Tampa all have the same regulations when it comes to the 15 mile an hour speed limit and age requirement of at least 16 years old.

Turns Out, Mandatory Helmet Laws Make Cyclists Less Safe

REQUIRING ALL RIDERS TO WEAR A HELMET HAS PROVEN NEGATIVE EFFECTS.

BY THOMAS DEVITO Nov 14, 2019



If you're just tuning in, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended last week that [all 50 states adopt laws mandating bicycle helmet](#) use for adults.

There's a huge problem with that: It actually makes streets less safe for cyclists. I work for Transportation Alternatives and Families for Safe Streets, two organizations dedicated to keeping cyclists safe. And we directly oppose these laws.

Of course, we encourage riders to wear helmets and take safety precautions while cycling. But when cities mandate and enforce helmet usage, evidence suggests a series of negative consequences to riders and ridership.

We have seen over and over again that the following outcomes result from even the best-intentioned mandatory helmet laws:

- A reduction in the number of cyclists on streets;
- Financial struggle for popular bike sharing systems; and
- More exposure among vulnerable populations to unnecessary interactions with police.

When the Australian cities of Melbourne and Brisbane mandated helmet use, it actually made streets less safe for cyclists. The number of people riding bikes [dropped precipitously](#), which reduced the “Safety in Numbers” effect.

[Safety in Numbers](#) is a straightforward concept: More people on bikes creates safer conditions on our streets. The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), which represents professional planners from 81 cities from around the United States, pointed this out in their [own pushback](#) on NTSB’s recommendations.

As far as killing bike share systems, look no further than Seattle, Washington. After they implemented similar policies, their [bike share system floundered](#). The same has been seen in [cities across Australia](#).

Lastly, we know these “quality of life” laws are disproportionately enforced in communities of color and in lower income communities. In Austin and Dallas, Texas, for example, mandatory helmet laws were either [repealed or changed](#) after disturbing racial disparities became evident based on who was ticketed for not wearing a helmet. In Tampa, Florida, nearly 80 percent of bicycling-related citations [issued by police](#) during a three-year period were to African-Americans, even though African-Americans made up only 25 percent of the population. And in New York City, racial disparities in criminal summonses for bicycling-related offenses led *The Village Voice* to describe them as [“the new stop-and-frisk”](#)

As advocates for safe streets, Transportation Alternatives and Families for Safe Streets will continue to encourage voluntary helmet usage and allow data and experience to be our guide when it comes to mandatory adult helmet laws. Right now, with nearly 40,000 people killed on American roads every year, that means we need to keep our leaders’ attention focused on structural reforms like complete street redesigns, which are *proven* to make our public spaces safe for everybody, whether they are walking, biking, taking transit, and yes, driving too.

The unfortunate truth is mandatory helmet laws simply don’t lead to their purported goal, which is to make streets safer. In fact, and perhaps counter-intuitively for many of us, the opposite remains the case across a growing number of cities around the world.

Thomas DeVito is Senior Director of Advocacy at Transportation Alternatives, where he promotes a people-oriented city through grassroots activism and practical research.

Conversation (31)



Sort by Best

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Add a comment...



CyanGuitar · 2d

Just more proof freedom is dying and it's always under the guise of safety. I wear a helmet but I don't need the government to tell me how to do something. They have a bad habit of that.

Reply · Share · 20 Likes ·



CyanCarrot · 2d

NHSTA takes the easy way out to improve cyclist fatality statistics without troubling vehicle operators.

Reply · Share · 9 Likes ·

COMMITTEES MEETING SCHEDULE 2020

PAC (Planners Advisory Committee) 1:30 pm	CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee) 7:00 pm	TCC (Technical Coordinating Committee) 2:00 pm	BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee) 8:30 am	LCB (Local Coordinating Board) 9:15 am	STSC (School Transportation Safety Committee) 9:00 am	PTSTF (Pinellas Trail Security Task Force) at the Pinellas County Public Safety Services Office - 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Rm 130) 9:00 am
12/30/2019	01/23/2020	01/22/2020	(4 th Mon) 01/27/2020	-----	-----	01/14/2020 Meeting Room 130
02/03/2020	02/27/2020	02/26/2020	(4 th Mon) 02/24/2020	02/18/2020	-----	-----
03/02/2020	03/26/2020	03/25/2020	03/16/2020	-----	03/04/2020	-----
03/30/2020	04/23/2020	04/22/2020	04/20/2020	-----	-----	04/14/2020 Meeting Room 130
05/04/2020	05/28/2020	05/27/2020	05/18/2020	05/19/2020	-----	-----
06/01/2020	*06/25/2020	06/24/2020	06/15/2020	-----	06/03/2020	-----
06/29/2020	*07/23/2020	*07/22/2020	*07/20/2020	-----	-----	07/14/2020 Meeting Room 130
*08/03/2020	08/27/2020	08/26/2020	08/17/2020	-----	-----	-----
08/31/2020	09/24/2020	09/23/2020	09/21/2020	09/15/2020	-----	-----
10/05/2020	10/22/2020	10/28/2020	10/19/2020	-----	10/07/2020	10/13/2020 Meeting Room 130
11/02/2020	Nov/Dec Combined	Nov/Dec Combined	11/16/2020	11/17/2020	-----	-----
11/30/2020	12/10/2020	12/09/2020	*12/21/2020	-----	-----	-----

(These dates are subject to change)

*Meeting Subject to Cancellation