Join the PTSTF Zoom Meeting

Forward Pinellas is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Pinellas Trail Security Task Force Time: Oct 13, 2020 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87868228791?pwd=SHpLT1dDYVFiaFVINnVFTC9mSzII dz09

Meeting ID: 878 6822 8791 Passcode: 256305

One tap mobile +13017158592,,87868228791#,,,,,0#,,256305# US (Germantown) +13126266799,,87868228791#,,,,,0#,,256305# US (Chicago)

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Meeting ID: 878 6822 8791 Passcode: 256305 Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcptIYpH38



### **VIRTUAL MEETING**

THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES July 14, 2020
- 3. ROAD TO ZERO SAFE SYSTEM INNOVATION GRANT
- 4. RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACONS
- 5. QUARTERLY REPORT FROM PINELLAS TRAIL PARK RANGER
- 6. 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

## 7. REPORT ON TRAIL USER COUNT DATA

### 8. REPORT ON TRAIL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

### 9. REPORT ON TRAIL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

- 10. OTHER BUSINESS
- 11. 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 – JANUARY 13, 2021

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Office of Human Rights, 400 South Fort Harrison Avenue, Suite 300, Clearwater, Florida 33756; [(727) 464-4062 (V/TDD)] at least seven days prior to the meeting.

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 – October 13, 2020

2. Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2020



#### SUMMARY

The summary minutes of the July 14, 2020 Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting are attached.

ATTACHMENTS: Pinellas Trail Security Task Force Summary Minutes – July 14, 2020

ACTION: Approval of the July Meeting Summary

#### PINELLAS TRAIL SECURITY TASK FORCE MEETING Summary July 14, 2020

The following is a summary of the July 14, 2020 Forward Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting, which was held virtually, via Zoom platform. The Security Task Force meets at least quarterly during the year.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Officer Ron Wolfson, Chairman	St. Petersburg Police Department & Volunteer
Chief Doyle	Coordinator Belleair Police Department
Tony Boone	Tarpon Springs Police Department
Carol Gray	Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources
Calor Gray	Chief Ranger
Caroline Lanford	Pinellas County Planning
Larry Thomas	Pinellas County Animal Services
James Abaka	Pinellas County Risk Management
Lynn Abbott	Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration
Joan Rice	Pinellas County Public Works Traffic Division
Scott Daniels	Friends of the Pinellas Trail
Bert Valery	Friends of the Pinellas Trail
Jim Wedlake	Pinellas Trail Auxiliary Ranger
Bill Romanski	Pinellas Trail Auxiliary Ranger
Phyllis Romanski	Pinellas Trail Auxiliary Ranger
Stuart Schwartzreich	Pinellas Trail Auxiliary Ranger
Steve Edwards	Guest
Robert Feigel	Forward Pinellas Staff
Al Bartolotta	Forward Pinellas Staff
Sarah Caper	Forward Pinellas Staff
Angela Ryan	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. Ms. Angela Ryan reviewed the Zoom meeting guidelines and the attendees were announced by Ms. Maria Kelly, there were 20 attendees.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY – January 14, 2020

The summary from the January 14, 2020 meeting was approved with no corrections.

#### 3. PRESENTATION: SAFE STREETS PINELLAS

Mr. Sarah Caper, Forward Pinellas Staff, shared a presentation with the committee regarding launching the local Vision Zero initiative called, "Safe Streets Pinellas". Vision Zero is a safety strategy connected by communities across the world with the idea that no one should be killed or seriously injured while using public roadways. Safe Streets Pinellas will bring people together to analyze collision data, test theories, conduct demonstration projects and develop an Action Plan

that will help Pinellas County get to zero deaths on its roadways. The original Safe Streets Pinellas kick-off event was scheduled for March but was postponed due to COVID-19. Plans are underway to develop engagement strategies that are appropriate for the current situation. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

#### 4. 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 two quarters. In January, there was a bike accident at Orange Street and Shore Drive whereby the biker veered off the pavement. The Palm Harbor Fire and Rescue and Sunstar responded to the situation, but there was no report on whether the subject was transported. Right-of-way inspections were conducted and on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Contractors were laying fiber optic cable near Wall Springs Park which was reported to Public Works. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, a male biker was stung by a wasp which caused a crash near Bear Creek in St. Petersburg. A ranger rendered first-aid. A wasp swarm was reported by a citizen near Gibbs High School. A ranger monitored it. There was a report of possible illegal burning on a property adjacent to 116<sup>th</sup> & 124<sup>th</sup> Terrace in Largo. Largo PD assisted. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, a person was passed out on the trail at the 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue overpass. It was reported to the St. Petersburg Police Department. Activity in a Duke Energy right-of-way activity was reported to Developmental Review Services. Graffiti was found on private property at the Belleair Forest Condo. A ranger has attempted to notify the property owner to have it removed. On April 8<sup>th</sup> there was a possible fall at Stevenson's Creek Bridge. Clearwater Fire and Rescue and Sunstar responded. They transported a female from the scene. On April 14<sup>th</sup> potentially, illegal dumping of vegetation was found just north of the Tyrone Boulevard overpass. The adjacent property owner was advised that the debris must be removed. He was issued a copy of the county's tree trimming guidelines. On April 23rd, a citizen's complaint identified transient activity behind their privacy fence at 400 Crystal Beach Avenue. A trail ranger responded. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, there was a report of a person sleeping on the trail at 20<sup>th</sup> Street in St. Petersburg. He was likely intoxicated. This incident was reported to the St. Petersburg Police Department. On May 14<sup>th</sup> there was a potential encroachment at 651 Alternate US 19 in Palm Harbor. This incident was reported to Public Works. On May 26th, possible illegal dumping was reported south of Walsingham Road. A park ranger found palm clippings but was unable to determine where they came from. On May 29th, signage was installed at Stevenson's Creek Bridge. The signage is intended to support park rangers and Clearwater Police Department officers with posted rules. Recently, an electric scooter caught fire and was abandoned in the area of Ulmerton Road near Taylor Park, leaving a large charred marking on the trail. It was also noted that 911 markers are continually being added to the trail.

#### 5. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AGENCY REPORTS

#### A. Sheriff's Office

No one attended from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department.

#### **B.** Belleair

Chief Rick Doyle from the Belleair Police Department, shared Officer Daniels report indicating they had eight contacts. The only significant one was a woman who was intoxicated and fell off her bike. Chief Doyle also responded to Bert Valery's comment regarding lack of information as to who is at fault for bike/ped accidents involving a motor vehicle. He said most of the time there are conflicting stories, and this makes it difficult to determine who was at fault. Most of the time it is left up to the parties involved to work it out, unless there is witness collaboration. In that case they can fault someone.

#### C. Clearwater

No one attended from the City of Clearwater Police Department.

#### D. Gulfport

No one attended from the Gulfport Police Department.

#### E. Largo

No one attended from the Largo Police Department. However, a report was received by Forward Pinellas staff. Officer V. Tran reported 37 incidents, but there was no indication if any were trail related or if it was just the trail marker being referenced in the report.

#### F. St. Petersburg

No report was provided by the St. Petersburg Police Department.

#### G. Tarpon Springs

Officer Tony Boone, from the Tarpon Springs Police Department, reported an assist fire call and an assist citizen call for someone in a sleeping bag under the bridge at U.S.19 and the trail. There was a crash at MLK and the trail with no indication as to who was at fault. Officer Boone would like to get the bike officers and vehicle officers more involved with the violations along the trail for some better education and enforcement.

#### H. Animal Services

Mr. Larry Thomas, Pinellas County Animal Services, stated there were no reported calls for service on the Trail.

#### I. Public Safety Services

Ms. Lynn Abbott, Pinellas County EMS and Fire Administration, reported receiving 121 calls. There were 70 incidents. Twenty of them were bike related and involved intoxication. There were six motor vehicle/bike involved

incidents. Calls have gone down since this time last year, probably due to COVID.

#### J. Pinellas County Risk Management

Mr. James Abaka, Pinellas County Risk Management, reported that his department does a comprehensive trail inspection twice a year. They begin at Ulmerton and then head north to Tarpon Springs and then south to Tropicana Field. They completed the first inspection on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Heading south first, using yellow spray paint, they identified cracks and hazards on the trail. Once identified, they notify Public Works. Underneath the Park Boulevard underpass, they identified a large area of bat droppings which have created a very strong smell in the area. Drainage issues were identified on the Tyrone Boulevard overpass. Both incidents were turned over to Public Works. On the north section, old and new cracks were identified. The next inspection is scheduled for the fall, in September or October.

#### K. Volunteer Patrol Programs and Updates

Chair Wolfson stated that the volunteers have not been active since March due to COVID and hopes to bring them back soon as conditions allow. Chief Ranger Gray noted that the volunteer program has been suspended due to COVID for the safety of the volunteers. Bert Valery commented on the Auxiliary Rangers. The rangers are outdoors in carts assisting with the Trail and keeping within the CDC guidelines.

#### 6. AUTOMATIC TRAIL COUNTERS

Ms. Angela Ryan, Forward Pinellas staff, reviewed the counter reports for January through May 2020 which are included in the agenda packet. She pointed out the new year-to-date (YTD) summary report. Included with the summary was a report on the increase of trail users since COVID began. There was a 134% increase of trail uses YTD in May.

#### 7. REPORT ON TRAIL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Ms. Joan Rice, Pinellas County Public Works (PCPW), shared an update on the Trail construction activity. One item not in the report, but that will be added in the future, is the intersection of Live Oaks Street and Disston Avenue where the Trail will be closed for resurfacing. Specific attention was directed to the North Gap and the South Gap sections of the Pinellas Trail Loop (items 3, 4 & 5). Regarding the North Loop Gap at Countryside Boulevard, design plans are 100% complete and being reviewed. Construction will begin before the end of the year with completion expected in 2022. Some funding for design and all construction funding has been received for the South loop between Haines Bayshore and 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Design for this project will begin in 2022, construction in 2025. At the Ream Wilson Trail, the bridge over Alligator Creek is now completed. The section south of Sunset Point Road will be completed by November 2020. The 71<sup>st</sup> Street trail connector is a City of St. Petersburg job with design scheduled in 2022 and construction in 2024. The PD&E study is almost complete on the San

Martin Bridge connection between Gandy Boulevard and the St. Petersburg Trail section. A public hearing on this project had to be postponed due to COVID. Design work on the Courtney Campbell Trail overpass project is continuing and construction is planned for 2024. The Howard Frankland Bridge Trail construction is scheduled for 2024. The Gandy Bridge Trail is in the PD&E stage. The Harn Boulevard overpass design work is underway and construction is planned for 2021. The Bayway South Trail construction will be completed in 2021. Construction on the Stevens Avenue to Race Track Road section of the Oldsmar Trail will begin by the end of the year. Work on the section between Hayes Road and Stevens Avenue has been postponed.

#### 8. REPORT ON TRAIL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Ms. Ryan shared information on the virtual Bike Your City event planned for October. More information to come. Mr. Scott Daniels added information regarding the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pinellas Trail. It had been planned for December 5, 2020. However, due to the corona virus, the gathering cannot take place. Friends of Pinellas Trail has been working with Pinellas County to be sure the word gets out to get people regarding the 30 year anniversary.

#### 9. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Ryan shared a letter from a citizen and frequent user of the Pinellas Trail, regarding the reckless behavior of bicycle groups on the Pinellas Trail and at Fred Howard Park. BPAC and Security Task Force members are encouraged to remind bicyclists about the importance of obeying the rules of the road and reporting any misconduct.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Wolfson adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m. The next PTSTF meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2020.



#### SUMMARY

The University of South Florida Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) was awarded a Road to Zero Safe System Innovation grant in 2019 to examine public narratives on bicycle and pedestrian deaths. The project recognizes the inherent bias in the way pedestrian and bicycle fatalities are presented in the media. This is reflected in the common practice of placing the responsibility for safety in a crash event on the bicyclist or pedestrian. CUTR analyzed over nine years of media reports for the project to identify trends in written and oral reports on bicycle and pedestrian crashes. The results of this research have been presented in public workshops designed to educate people on the topic while identifying ways to provide a revised framework for communicating with the public on bicycle and pedestrian fatalities resulting from vehicle collisions.

"Road to Zero" is a national initiative launched in October 2016 as a joint effort between the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and the National Safety Council. The goal is to eliminate roadway deaths by 2050. The Department of Transportation committed \$1 million annually from 2017 to 2019 and an additional \$500,000 in 2018 to fund Safe System Innovation Grants. The National Safety Council, a leading non-profit safety advocacy organization, is managing the grant process.

CUTR staff will present information on this Road to Zero project and will be available to answer questions.

#### ATTACHMENT(S): None

**ACTION:** None required; informational item only



#### SUMMARY

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) are pedestrian activated traffic control devices typically installed at mid-block crosswalk locations to help people safely cross the street. Florida Law requires motorists to stop for a pedestrian who enters a crosswalk. An RRFB helps to protect the pedestrian using a crosswalk by alerting oncoming motorists of their presence. There are currently over 400 RRFBs in Pinellas County, most of them within the City of St. Petersburg.

The RRFBs have proven to be highly effective in Pinellas County and around the country. A 2016 Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) RRFB study showed a motorist yielding rate as high as 98% under certain roadway design conditions. The rate of motorists yielding for pedestrians at mid-block crossings in the City of St. Petersburg increased from 2% to 90% over a three-year period after the RRFBs were installed.

Despite the proven effectiveness of the RRFBs, two bills were filed during the 2020 Florida legislative session that would have effectively disallowed them in the state. They included Senate Bill 1000 and House Bill 1371. Although neither of the bills were passed, it is anticipated that similar versions will be proposed in the 2021 legislature. Forward Pinellas, other MPOs in the state, local governments and others voiced their opposition regarding these bills to Florida legislators last year. Given the likelihood that there will be another push to remove RRFBs in the state, Forward Pinellas will again be engaging its committees and partners to support the continued use of RRFBs and to help educate the public about their purpose and importance.

Forward Pinellas staff will provide an overview of RRFBs and the efforts of the Florida Legislature to remove them.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None required; informational item only



#### 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:

- June 2020
- July 2020
- August 2020

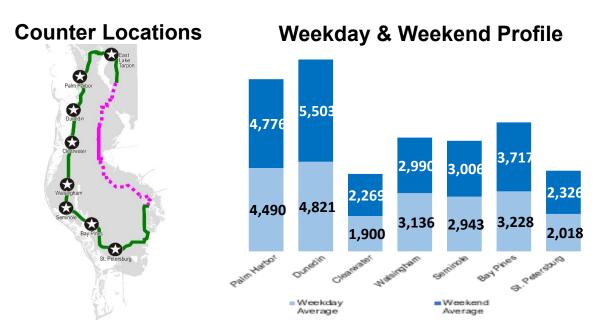
ACTION: No Action Required, informational item only

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period: June 1 – June 30, 2020 (30 days)



## June 2020

30-Day Count Total: <b>160,781</b> * Daily Average Users: <b>3,281</b>	Palm Harbor	32,006
	Dunedin	35,113
Highest Daily Totals:	Clearwater	14,043
#1 – Saturday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Dunedin - 3,296)	Walsingham	21,663
#2 – Saturday, May 16 <sup>th</sup> (Palm Harbor - 2,366)	Seminole	20,728
#3 – Saturday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Bay Pines - 2,213)	Bay Pines	22,482
$\frac{1}{10} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{10} \frac$	St. Petersburg	14,746



#### \*East Lake / Tarpon Counter Data Not Available for June 2020

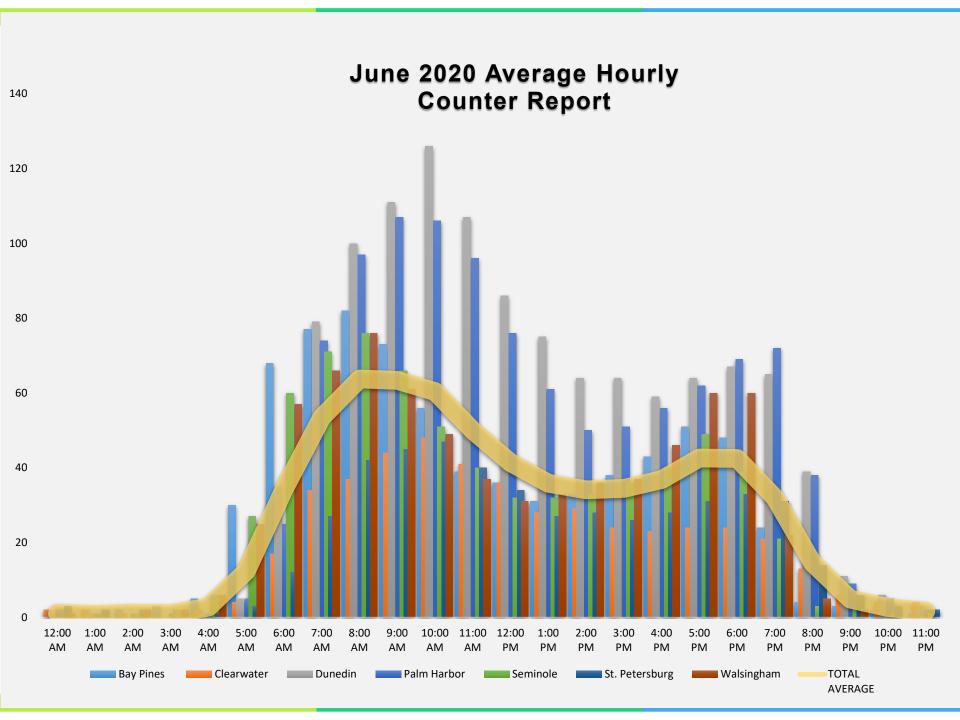
## June Trail Users by Counter Location

# Trail User Mode Split

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Palm Harbor:	18%	82%
Dunedin:	8%	92%
Clearwater:	20%	80%
Walsingham:	21%	79%
Seminole:	15%	85%
Bay Pines:	5%	95%
St. Petersburg:	2%	98%

Source: Forward Pinellas June 2020 National Weather Service: <u>June 2020</u>



Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period: January – June, 2020 Data\*

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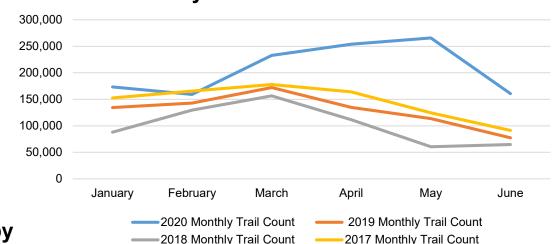
Jan-June, 2020 Total Count:

1,246,105

\* Technical issues with the Clearwater and East Lake / Tarpon Counters resulting in several missing days of data

during February, March and June.

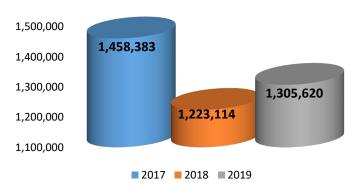


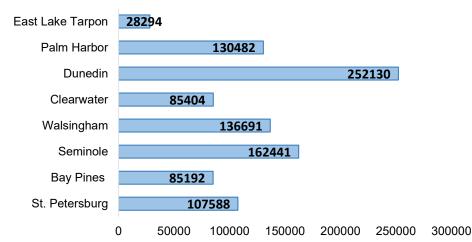


## Monthly Trail Counts 2017 - 2020

## Counter Data Year to Date by Location







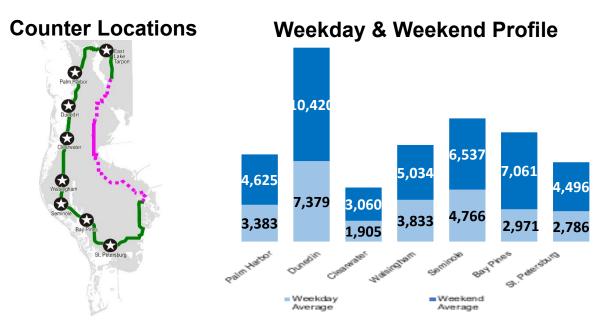
\* 2010 – 2016 Survey Data & 2017-2019 Counter Data. Technical issues with several counters in 2019 resulting in several missing days of data during 2019.

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period: July 1 – July 31, 2020 (31 days)



## July 2020





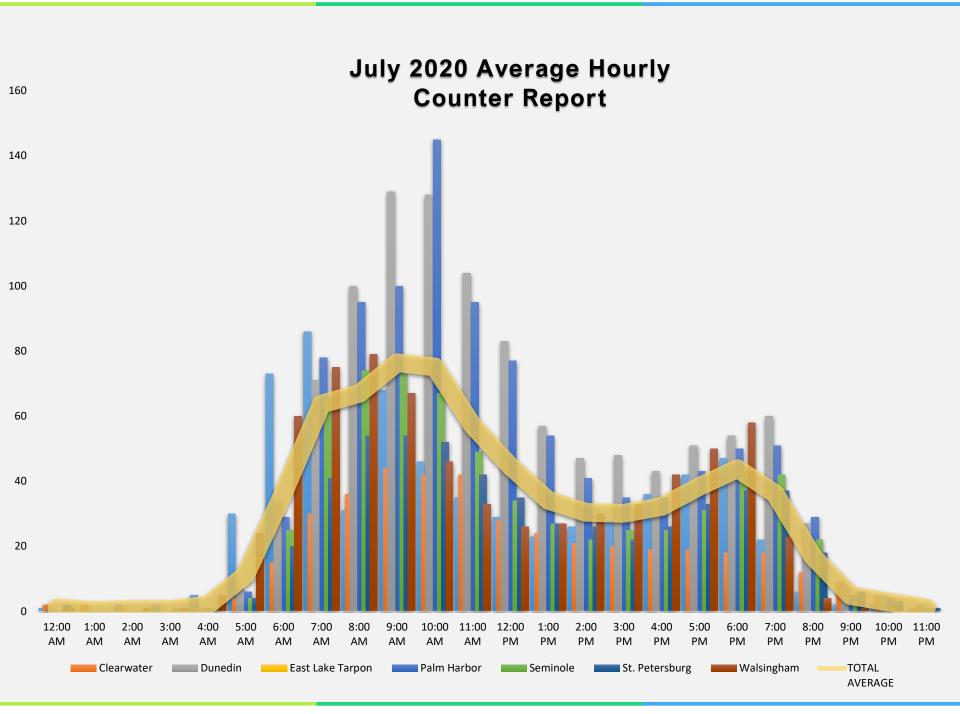
## **Trail User Mode Split**

July Trail Users by Counter Location

	Ŕ	070
Palm Harbor:	16%	84%
Dunedin:	3%	97%
Clearwater:	18%	82%
Walsingham:	20%	80%
Seminole:	10%	90%
Bay Pines:	3%	97%
St. Petersburg:	2%	98%

Source: Forward Pinellas July 2020 National Weather Service: <u>July 2020</u>

#### \*East Lake / Tarpon Counter Data Not Available for July 2020



Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period: January – July, 2020 Data\*

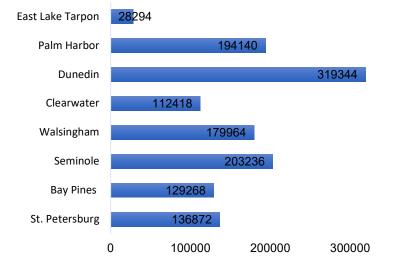


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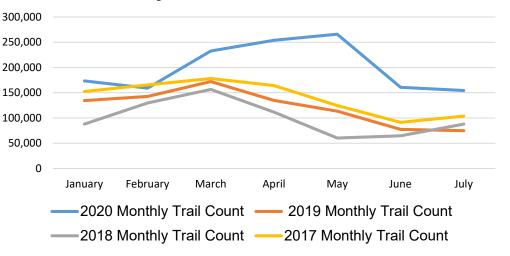
Jan-July, 2020 Total Count: 1,400,638

\* Technical issues with the Clearwater and East Lake / Tarpon Counters resulting in several missing days of data during February, March and June.

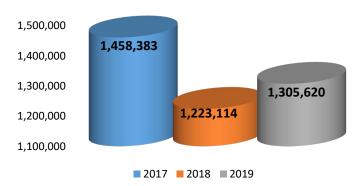
## Year to Date Data by Location



## Monthly Trail Counts 2017 - 2020



#### Pinellas Trail Use 2017 - 2019

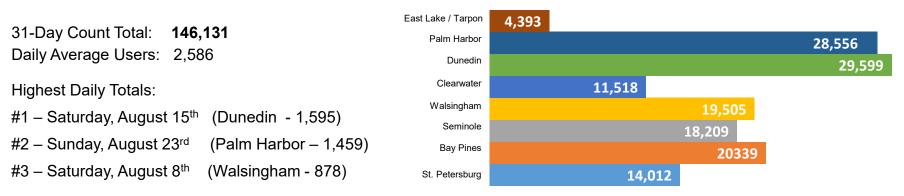


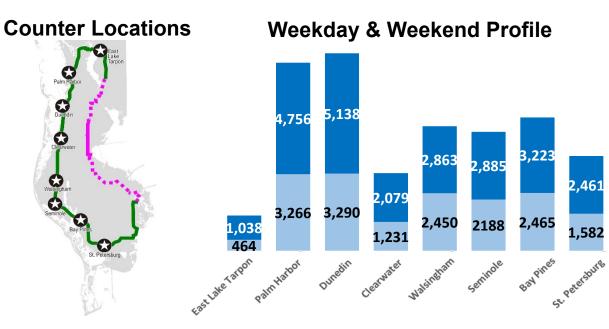
\* 2010 – 2016 Survey Data & 2017-2019 Counter Data. Technical issues with several counters in 2019 resulting in several missing days of data during 2019.



Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period: August 1 – August 31, 2020 (31 days)

## August 2020



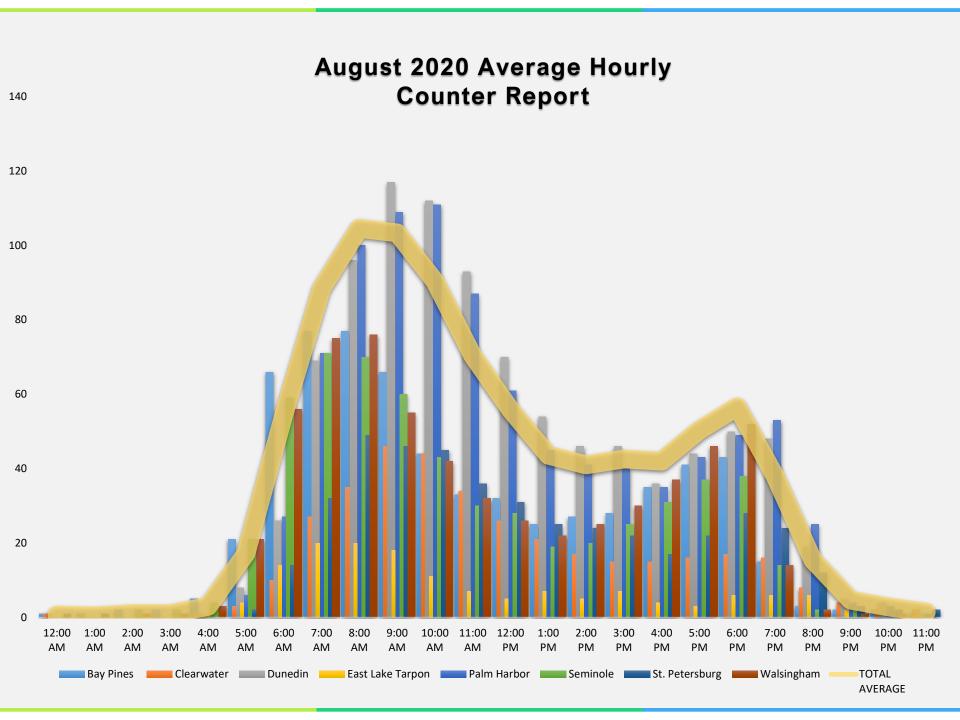


## **Trail User Mode Split**

August Trail Users by Counter Location

	Ŕ	540
Palm Harbor: Dunedin: Clearwater: Walsingham: Seminole: Bay Pines: St. Petersburg	5% 16% 2% 11% 18% 10% 1% 1%	95% 83% 98% 88% 81% 90% 99% 99%

Source: Forward Pinellas August 2020 National Weather Service: <u>August 2020</u>



Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period: January – August, 2020 Data\*

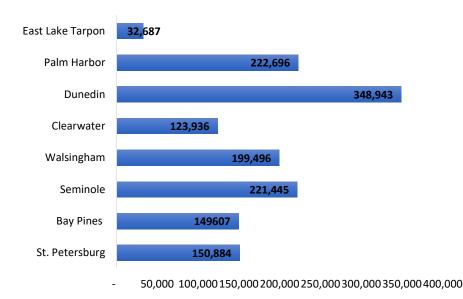




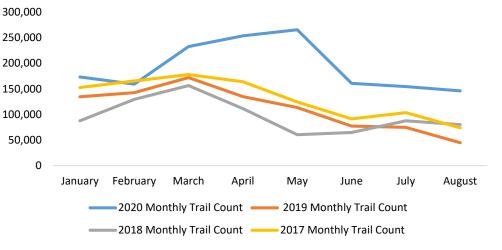
## Jan-Aug, 2020 Total Count: 1,546,769

\* Technical issues with the Clearwater and East Lake / Tarpon Counters resulting in several missing days of data during February, March and June.

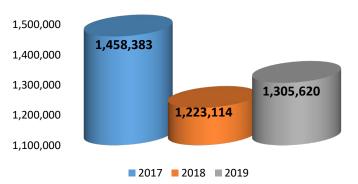
## **Counter Data Year to Date by Location**



### Monthly Trail Counts 2017 - 2020



## Pinellas Trail Use 2017 - 2019



\* 2010 – 2016 Survey Data & 2017-2019 Counter Data. Technical issues with several counters in 2019 resulting in several missing days of data during 2019.



## 8. 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 Not Completed, Construction has begun, Est. Complete 2022 (link)
Pinellas Trail South Loop Phase 3 & 4	Haines Bayshore to Ulmerton Rd to 126th Ave; Segment of South Loop has will receive SUN Trail and FDOT_Funding; Design in 2022; Construction 2024
Pinellas Trail Loop – Duke Energy Trail	NE Coachman to Sunset Point; Penny for Pinellas funded; Construction Est. Complete November 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 Public Hearing postponed due to COVID-19 (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 start 2020 and completed 2024 (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	Doulas Rd (Stevens Avenue to Race Track Rd) Design complete; Est. Construction end of 2020; section from Hayes Rd to Stevens Avenue postponed.



#### A. Correspondence, Publications, Articles of Interest

#### B. Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics

This item is provided to allow committee members to suggest topics for future PTSTF agendas.

#### C. Other

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