

STSC Members

In order to conduct our meetings correctly, there **must be a physical quorum present at the in-person meetings**, in order to vote in allowance for those members to participate via Zoom.

The in-person meeting will be held at 310 Court Street, Clearwater, FL. Maria Kelly (mkelly@forwardpinellas.org) will need **confirmation from those of you who will be attending in person, so that a quorum can be confirmed**. If you confirm and cannot make it, please reach out to her so that a back-up can be found. Without a quorum, we cannot vote in the Zoom attendees.

If you will be attending by Zoom, here is the Zoom meeting information:

Topic: School Transportation Safety Committee Meeting (STSC) 9:00 am

Time: March 2, 2022 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88213075771?pwd=M3c3UFVkb29RV0Fzc0s2NTZ3aFBHZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 1307 5771

Passcode: 151998

One tap mobile

+1-646-876-9923 88213075771#,,,,*151998# US (New York)

+1-301-715-8592 88213075771#,,,,*151998# US (Washington DC)



**SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY
COMMITTEE (STSC) AGENDA
March 2, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.**

**310 Court Street, 1st Floor Conf. Room
Clearwater, FL 33756**

THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

FACE MASKS ARE ENCOURAGED BUT NOT REQUIRED

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- 3. SCHOOL BOARD RELATED ITEMS**
 - 1. Motorists Passing Stopped School Buses**
 - 2. Crash Data Heat Map/Speeding**
- 4. SCHOOL ZONE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**
- 5. BAYCARE KIDS WELLNESS AND SAFETY CENTER**
- 6. OTHER BUSINESS**
 - A. Hazardous Walking Conditions Update**
 - B. SPOTLight Emphasis Area Update**
 - C. STEPS Program – Minutes**
 - D. Safe Routes to School**
 - E. Request for Future Agenda Topics**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: JUNE 1, 2022

If you will be attending by Zoom, here is the Zoom meeting information:

Topic: School Transportation Safety Committee Meeting (STSC) 9:00 am

Time: March 2, 2022 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88213075771?pwd=M3c3UFVkb29RV0Fzc0s2NTZ3aFBHZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 1307 5771

Passcode: 151998

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 three 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.

Forward Pinellas is committed to making our documents accessible to all audiences. If you have accessibility concerns, please contact aelmore@forwardpinellas.org or call 727-464-4880. Visit <https://forwardpinellas.org/legal/website-accessibility-statement/> for more information.

School Transportation Safety Committee – March 2, 2022

2. Approval of Minutes



SUMMARY

The meeting summary for the March 3, 2021, June 2, 2021, and October 6, 2021 meetings are attached for review and approval.

ATTACHMENT(S):

STSC Meeting Summary – March 3, 2021

STSC Meeting Summary – June 2, 2021

STSC Meeting Summary – October 6, 2021

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Summary

**SUMMARY OF SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2021**

The meeting was held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., in the 1st Floor Planning Department Conference Room. Those in attendance were:

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bill Dudley, Chair | Pinellas County School Board |
| Carol Cook, Vice-Chair - Zoom | Pinellas County School Board |
| Karen Seel | Commissioner, Pinellas County (BCC) |
| Deborah Kynes | Commissioner, City of Dunedin |
| Terry Huberty | Pinellas County School Board |
| Caroline Lanford | Pinellas County Planning |
| Doug Mullis | Citizen Representative |
| Cliff Merz - Zoom | Commissioner, City of Safety Harbor |
| Casey Morse | Pinellas County Public Works Traffic |
| Joshua Shulman | PSTA |
| Marshall Touchton - Zoom | Pinellas County School Board |

Members Absent:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| John Carroll | Commissioner, City of Largo |
| Roger Edelman | Councilmember, City of Seminole |
| Jacob Karr | Commissioner, City of Tarpon Springs |
| Kathleen Beckman | Councilmember, City of Clearwater |
| Keith Sabiel | Councilmember, City of Pinellas Park |

Others Present:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Matt Atwell | Pinellas County School Board |
| Joseph Camera | Pinellas County School Board |
| Heather Sobush - Zoom | PSTA |
| Tom Shelly - Zoom | Guest |
| Lorraine Duffy-Suarez - Zoom | Guest |
| Jeanne Bytell - Zoom | Guest |
| Doug Williams - Zoom | Guest |
| Joan Rice | Pinellas County Public Works Traffic |
| Austin Britt - Zoom | Forward Pinellas Staff |
| Angela Ryan - Zoom | Forward Pinellas Staff |
| Chelsea Favero - Zoom | Forward Pinellas Staff |
| Sandra Knoebel | Forward Pinellas Staff |
| Maria Kelly | Forward Pinellas Staff |

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Bill Dudley, Pinellas County School Board, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Josh Shulman motioned approval of the summary of the March 4, 2020 meeting, seconded by Doug Mullis and the vote passed unanimously.

3. **STSC BYLAWS**

Ms. Chelsea Favero, Forward Pinellas Manager, addressed the committee regarding the minor changes to the bylaws to bring them up to date. These changes were proposed to clarify that the voting membership of the STSC is to be elected officials, one citizen representative and one appointed representative from PSTA, while also expanding the participation of non-voting technical support members. This expansion for non-voting members will allow for any local agency staff with a vested interest in school transportation safety to fully participate in the STSC without a limit. Questions were taken and appropriately answered. Josh Shulman made a motion to approve the change to the by-laws. This was seconded by Deborah Kynes and passed with a unanimous vote.

4. **SCHOOL BOARD RELATED ITEMS**

Ms. Sandra Knoebel provided an update for the committee on the problem with motorists passing school buses stopped to load children, with their stop traffic lights and signs out. Mr. Joseph Camera stated there has been a decrease in violations since the start of COVID in March 2020 to current date. There are still select spots where the traffic pattern hasn't changed, and motorists are still running the stop lights, but law enforcement is continuing to monitor. Students are gradually beginning to return to brick and mortar attendance, so the buses are filling up. A suggestion to utilize the message boards to remind motorists to stop for school buses was made, however the County does not control those boards. Casey Morse with Pinellas County Public Works suggested that perhaps the portable signs that are not being used for traffic repairs could be strategically placed near habitual sites as safety reminders. School messenger boards can also be used during morning hours. Cell phone push messages were also suggested, but the key is to reach the distracted drivers. **Commissioner Kynes inquired as to the legality of the push notifications.** Commissioner Seel stated she would check with the County Attorney for an answer and Chair Dudley will check with the School Board. It was suggested to ask Chuck Henson with Bay News 9 Traffic to do a segment on school bus traffic safety as well as using bus wraps on the back of PSTA buses. Health and safety protections have been the priority for the schools and school buses. Buses are provided with masks for students who do not have them. School Board members are impressed with the how the busing is being handled with safety protocols. Schools are requiring masks for all teachers and students and are also disinfecting the schools. The hazardous walking conditions list from last year has been completed. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

5. **RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACONS**

Ms. Angela Ryan, Forward Pinellas Staff, addressed the committee regarding the current status of legislation regarding RRFB's in the Florida Legislature. There are

currently over 400 RRFB's in Pinellas County, with many directly around public school facilities used by students on their way to and from school. The RRFB's has proven to be highly effective in Pinellas County and around the country. Over 80% of drivers will stop for a RRFB when activated by the crosser. Florida law states that vehicles must stop when a pedestrian is attempting to cross the road at any crosswalk, whether is it at a controlled intersection or at mid-block. There are two bills currently in Florida Legislature, Senate Bill 1412 and House Bill 1113, invalidating the existing design for RRFB's and may result in removal of many existing RRFB's due to the inability of government entities to finance required retrofits. The removal of the RRFB's would result in pedestrian crosswalks without the enhancement of flashing lights and additional signage which provides vital signals to motorists to the presence of a pedestrian and their intent to cross the road. Florida law requires motorists to yield to pedestrians when they are using the crosswalk, however, data demonstrates there is low vehicle yielding compliance with the absence of enhancements such as RRFB's. Forward Pinellas is collaborating with other MPO's in the state, local governments, and other organizations on joint opposition regarding these bills. Discussion followed with questions taken and appropriately answered.

6. COVID-19 IMPACTS TO THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Ms. Ryan shared a presentation with the members sharing the impacts on transportation in Pinellas County since the start of COVID-19. Total crash data reflects a decrease in crashes when comparing 2019 to 2020, with the largest decrease in April 2020 as many people stayed off the roads at the beginning of the pandemic. As people began to venture out more, by October 2020, the crash numbers began to increase. In April 2020, an increase of 3% in crashes involving both intoxication and running control devices (stop signs, red lights, etc.) was seen, but there was a decrease of 148% in crashes involving aggressive driving. By June 2020, there was an increase of 60% of crashes from speeding, but a decrease of 15% from aggressive driving, as compared to 2019. In December 2020 there was an increase of 3% of crashes caused by aggressive driving and a decrease of crashes involving intoxication. Crashes began to increase as people were getting back on the roads by the fall of 2020. With crashes involving pedestrians, there was an overall 60% reduction from 2019 to 2020, as well as an overall reduction of 20% involving bicyclists. There was an overall increase of Pinellas Trail use by 60%. Overall, during the pandemic, people increased the amount of traveling by bicycle and walking, while driving less overall. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

7. SAFE STREETS PINELLAS

Ms. Sarah Caper, Forward Pinellas Staff, shared a presentation with the committee regarding the Safe Streets Pinellas Action Plan and the next steps. Over the past year, efforts to develop a Safe Streets Action Plan, which is a Vision Zero effort, have been underway. The Action Plan includes collision data analysis, the identification of a High Injury Network (HIN), engineering and non-engineering countermeasures and implementable strategies to move towards zero deaths and serious injuries on Pinellas roadways. A 16-member taskforce with a representative from each committee was instrumental in putting together this Action Plan through demonstration projects, community outreach projects and workshops. The Action Plan will be updated once the demonstration projects are completed and is intended to be evaluated on a regular

basis so adjustments can be made as needed. Questions were taken and appropriately answered

8. PINELLAS COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS SAFETY ACTIVITY BOOK

Joan Rice, Public Works Traffic, shared a presentation with the committee regarding *Move Safe*, a Pinellas program targeting behavior changes and working to influence good habits in bicyclist and pedestrian safety. Developed by Pinellas County Public Works, this program is bringing educational messages, being sent in a number of ways, to Pinellas County residents, especially children, about bike and walking safety. The *Move Safe* activity book tells the story of what kids should know before heading out to bike or walk to school or around the neighborhood. The activity book includes checklists, challenging games and activities and allows kids to test their knowledge. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

9. PSTA PROGRAM UPDATES

Ms. Heather Sobush, PSTA Planning Director, shared a presentation on PSTA projects. PSTA has taken great measures to assure that all buses are sanitized, are providing masks for riders who do not have their own, have limited their seating, are using rear doors to board and have waived all bus fares. Transit ridership was impacted with a reduction from 32,000 in March 2020 to less than 15,000 in May 2020. Many of the school service routes have been reinstated as schools return to in-person classes. The UPASS program in partnership with several of the colleges that allows students and staff to ride free, is currently on hold as bus fares have been waived for now. Another project currently on hold is a pilot program in partnership with Pinellas County Schools for high schools with students currently assigned to PSTA routes. There are currently 2 electric buses in service with 4 new buses that will be in service soon and 2 additional buses coming through a recently awarded grant. In-route charging stations are a challenge but are currently in the works. SunRunner Bus Rapid Transit is finally being implemented. The stations are being constructed and the service should be running soon. In November 2019, the Downtown St. Petersburg Autonomous Vehicle pilot program was launched. It runs a little slow, but it has been successful. The free service runs Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. The route travels down Bayshore Drive from the Vinoy down to the Dali Museum. PSTA's next step is to look into Dunedin and downtown Clearwater for the service. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Crash Data Analysis

Reports were provided to the committee.

B. Forward Pinellas Committee Meeting Schedule 2021

Forward Pinellas Meeting Schedule was provided in the agenda packet.

C. Pinellas SPOTlight Emphasis Areas Update

Regarding the Gateway Master Plan, the partners are working on developing a dashboard template to provide visual information for performance measures to show progress. With regards to US19, FDOT provided updates on mitigated measures on

US19, south of Curlew, for a right turn that goes into 274th Street, in an effort to reduce traffic congestion for those making a U-turn or merging. Barriers were set up to protect the bike lane. FDOT will also be providing a presentation on the Frontage Roads Project in May to share updates for this project.

D. **STEPS Program**

Minutes and Agendas were provided in the agenda packets.

E. **Safe Routes to School**

Information on upcoming events for SRTS is provided in the agenda packets.

F. **Requests for Future Agenda Topics**

No suggestions were made for future agenda topics.

G. **Comments**

No suggestions were made at this time.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 11:08 am.

**SUMMARY OF SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL WORKSHOP OF JUNE 2, 2021**

The virtual workshop was held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., via Zoom platform. Those in attendance were:

Members Present:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Carol Cook, Vice-Chair | Pinellas County School Board |
| Kathleen Beckman | Councilmember, City of Clearwater |
| Deborah Kynes | Commissioner, City of Dunedin |
| Caroline Lanford | Pinellas County Planning |
| Cliff Merz | Commissioner, City of Safety Harbor |
| Joan Rice | Pinellas County Public Works Traffic |
| Karen Seel | Commissioner, Pinellas County (BCC) |
| Joshua Shulman | PSTA |
| Marshall Touchton | Pinellas County School Board |

Members Absent:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bill Dudley, Chair | Pinellas County School Board |
| John Carroll | Commissioner, City of Largo |
| Roger Edelman | Councilmember, City of Seminole |
| Terry Huberty | Pinellas County School Board |
| Jacob Karr | Commissioner, City of Tarpon Springs |
| Doug Mullis | Citizen Representative |
| Keith Sabiel | Councilmember, City of Pinellas Park |

Others Present:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Matt Atwell | Pinellas County School Board |
| Autumn Westerman | Pinellas County School Board |
| Carolyn Rudolph Baar | Guest – City of St. Petersburg |
| Jake Mirabella | Guest |
| Doug Williams | Guest – City of Clearwater |
| Angela Ryan | Forward Pinellas Staff |
| Chelsea Favero | Forward Pinellas Staff |
| Sandra Knoebel | Forward Pinellas Staff |
| Maria Kelly | Forward Pinellas Staff |

1. CALL TO ORDER

Carol Cook, Vice-Chair, Pinellas County School Board, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes was deferred to October 2021 meeting due to no quorum.

3. FORWARD PINELLAS EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

Ms. Chelsea Favero, Forward Pinellas Manager, shared a presentation with the committee on an education project created by Forward Pinellas staff, “City by Design”. Led by our former University of South Florida intern and former public-school teacher, Austin Britt, this educational curriculum is designed to spur student interest in urban, regional and community planning. Staff is working with Pinellas County Schools to integrate this hands-on, student-centered learning module into high school and middle school classrooms. The City by Design education unit comes complete with step-by-step lesson plans for teachers to follow, all necessary handouts and documents, as well as grading rubrics to allow for simple integration into the teacher’s established curriculum. This educational unit was designed in alignment with the Florida Sunshine State Standards to allow teachers to utilize this tool consistent with state-assessed standards in content areas such as science, math, English/language arts, social studies, technology, and art. Students will complete the first three modules in which they will learn about urban planning topics, such as land use categories and specifications, housing, resilience, transportation, and micromobility, as well as bicycle and pedestrian safety and infrastructure. After completing the three main modules, students will be given the task of proposing a site redevelopment project for Tropicana Field utilizing the knowledge they have gained about urban planning and addressing requested needs from actual stakeholders in a real-world case study. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

4. EQUITY ASSESSMENT

Ms. Angela Ryan, Forward Pinellas staff, shared a presentation with the members announcing that Forward Pinellas is conducting an equity assessment of its agency operations and planning activities. The goal is to ensure the Forward Pinellas mission to “provide leadership to align resources and plans that help to achieve a compelling vision for Pinellas County, our individual communities and our region” is both inclusionary and equitable. Forward Pinellas will research systems, policies and practices resulting to determine the inequity in Pinellas County. Using this research, a strategic plan to ensure our work is inclusive and results in equitable outcomes for the entire community. The Equity Assessment will be conducted in three phases: Phase 1- Scoping through conducting interviews, researching best practices, and drafting the scope of work. Phase 2- Work Plan through conducting evaluations, identifying opportunities and weaknesses, defining alternatives and recommendations. Phase 3- Implementation through ensuring equity in all policies. The Equity Assessment components will include a high-level timeline for public outreach throughout the process as well as external and internal analyses. Results from the assessment will be brought back to the committee at a future date. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Crash Data Analysis

Ms. Sandra Knoebel, Forward Pinellas staff, reported on the Crash Data Analysis and its use with the Hazardous Walking Routes assessment currently being conducted. Traffic volumes have been added as a layer to the crash data analysis for this effort to help determine which routes need immediate attention. This project should be completed soon and will be presented at the next meeting.

B. Pinellas SPOTlight Emphasis Areas Update

Regarding US19 Corridor, Forward Pinellas is continuing to work with the FDOT on a project for the frontage roads along the corridor from Pinellas Park to Dunedin, looking at potential solutions to help retrofit the frontage roads to help make the traffic fit the context of the roadway and the communities along the corridor. We are also working with FDOT to identify solutions north of Tampa Road to mitigate traffic and make the intersections safer for not only traffic, but bicyclists and pedestrians as well. Regarding the Gateway Area Master Plan, working with the local communities in the Gateway Area to develop a dashboard template to provide visual information for performance measures to show progress towards the implementation. The Gateway Area does not have a lot of residents or schools currently, but there is a desire to increase housing and diversify the employment context. Regarding Enhancing Beach Access, the adoption of the new priority list for transportation priorities includes funding for both the Cross-Bay Ferry and additional ferry service for northern Pinellas County.

C. STEPS Program

Minutes and Agendas were provided in the agenda packets.

D. Safe Routes to School

Information on upcoming events for SRTS is provided in the agenda packets.

E. Requests for Future Agenda Topics

Marshall Touchton suggested a presentation on the Advantage Pinellas Housing Compact, after seeing a presentation at the recent PAC meeting.

Councilmember Kathleen Beckman inquired about an update on the Drew Street projects.

F. Comments

No suggestions were made at this time.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 10:17 am.

**SUMMARY OF SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL WORKSHOP OF OCTOBER 6, 2021**

The virtual workshop was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., via Zoom platform. Those in attendance were:

Members Present:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bill Dudley, Chair | Pinellas County School Board |
| Caroline Lanford | Pinellas County Planning |
| Cliff Merz - Zoom | Commissioner, City of Safety Harbor |
| Casey Morse | Pinellas County Public Works Traffic |
| Doug Mullis | Citizen Representative |
| Joshua Shulman - Zoom | PSTA |
| Marshall Touchton - Zoom | Pinellas County School Board |

Members Absent:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Kathleen Beckman | Councilmember, City of Clearwater |
| John Carroll | Commissioner, City of Largo |
| Carol Cook, Vice-Chair | Pinellas County School Board |
| Roger Edelman | Councilmember, City of Seminole |
| Jacob Karr | Commissioner, City of Tarpon Springs |
| Deborah Kynes | Commissioner, City of Dunedin |
| Keith Sabiel | Councilmember, City of Pinellas Park |

Others Present:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Joan Rice | Pinellas County Public Works Traffic |
| Joseph Camera | Pinellas County Public Schools |
| Lucas Cruse - Zoom | City of St. Petersburg |
| Matt Atwell | Pinellas County School Board |
| Sandra Knoebel | Forward Pinellas Staff |
| Maria Kelly | Forward Pinellas Staff |

1. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Dudley, Chair, Pinellas County School Board, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes was deferred to March 2, 2022 meeting due to no quorum being present.

3. PINELLAS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Ms. Caroline Lanford, Pinellas County Planning, shared a presentation on the new Plan Pinellas, which is the Comprehensive Plan for Pinellas County. The Pinellas County Planning Department has been working on updates to their Comprehensive Plan, which is the document that sets the policy direction of how the County operates. Comprehensive

Plans are required by law in Florida, and for the County, it is a little different than for the municipalities because of the things that are countywide, like transportation, coastal management and lifelong learning, while other things are specific to the unincorporated areas of the county. The Comprehensive Plan establishes a vision for the community in the long term and it also establishes goals, policies and strategies to get to that vision. Ms. Lanford discussed the various components of Plan Pinellas and the strong emphasis on engaging the community in the development of the Plan. She highlighted that the Plan will make significant policy changes to help improve the safety of the transportation network, particularly for those walking and bicycling to school.

The overall arching goal of Plan Pinellas is to provide multimodal transportation facilities that connect housing, employment centers, educational facilities, activity centers and intermodal centers to build the foundation for a thriving economy. The Plan will also include an emphasis on Lifelong Learning, as it integrates the former public schools' element, with private education facilities, to have more comprehensive connections and work better together as a community. Currently, the Plan can be found online at www.plan.pinellas.gov, and at the beginning of 2022, the Plan will be going to the Board of County Commissioners to transmit this Plan to the state. If approved by the state, the Plan will go back to the Board of County Commissioners for adoption. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

Josh Schulman commented that the presentation was not shared online and requested a copy of it. Mr. Schulman also made mention of middle schoolers riding the PSTA buses to school and that PSTA was recently in talks to refresh its pilot program of high schoolers using the PSTA buses, with plans to bring back the U-pass program where high school students ride the bus for free. He has been advocating for having students use the PSTA buses to teach them how to use transit as well as to alleviate the pressures on the school bus transit system while improving transportation access for after school programs and other activities.

4. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION AND ENHANCED PEDESTRIAN SAFETY (STEPS) COMMITTEE

Ms. Casey Morse and Joan Rice, Pinellas County Public Works, informed the committee that at the last STEPS meeting, school drop-off and pickup was discussed. There are more parents picking up and dropping off their students since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is also a shortage of school bus drivers, crossing guards and attendants. Drop-off and pickup lines are moving out into the highways creating dangerous situations. Parents are dropping students off on adjacent neighborhood streets and these children are crossing the streets carelessly. It is not at any one particular school and the law enforcement teams have gone to the STEPS Committee meetings and shared this information. This is something happening statewide, and the STEPS committee is continuing doing what it can to get the word out to parents as to the proper procedures of pickup and drop-off of students; to not drop students off in the adjacent neighborhoods and to ask your student to ride the bus where possible to cut down on roadway traffic.

5. COVID-19 AND SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ISSUES

Joseph Camera, Pinellas County Schools shared that the school car lines were designed to handle the capacity of car riders, but since COVID, with parents working from home now, these lines have grown substantially, and queue bays are no longer sufficient. This is forcing neighborhood residents in close proximity to the schools, to endure student drop-off and pick up in the neighborhoods versus through the school car line. School personnel are doing what they can to move parents off of the major thoroughfares to prevent traffic back up and accidents as well as move the car line through as quickly as possible. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Crash Data Analysis

Ms. Sandra Knoebel, Forward Pinellas staff, shared a presentation regarding canned crash reports and the information these reports can identify. She shared a particular report that identified crashes that have happened during the times school age children would have been on the roadways. By pulling age group information for under 15 and 15 to 19 age group, this report shows school aged children involved in crashes. Also selected was the time period of Monday through Friday and 5:00 am to 5:00 pm and whether the person was a driver, non-driver or non-motorist, to incorporate bicyclists or pedestrians. This crash data can be interpreted several different ways as it highlights several data points to choose from. This report indicates that the most crashes happen during the 7:00 am to 8:00 am and 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm timeframes. This report also indicates that most crashes have an at fault person (motorists or non-motorists) between the ages of 15 to 19. This report was pulled for a STEPS meeting to show the vast amount of information these reports can produce.

B. Hazardous Walking Conditions Update

The Hazardous Walking Conditions report has been completed. The final report will be sent out as soon as it is available. In March 2022, this hazardous walking conditions will begin to be reevaluated and this report will be updated by July.

C. Pinellas SPOTlight Emphasis Areas Update

Regarding the US19 Corridor, Forward Pinellas is continuing to coordinate with FDOT in evaluating options in the northern part of the corridor above Nebraska Road. In 2022, operational and safety improvements for this area should be identified. Regarding the Gateway Area Master Plan, a dashboard has been completed to allow performance measures tracking to show progress towards the implementation of the Plan. The Gateway Area does not have a lot of residents or schools at this time, but there is a desire to increase housing and diversify the employment context. Regarding Enhancing Beach Access, the Waterborne Transportation subcommittee continues to meet quarterly to discuss opportunities to expand access to ferry services in the county and considering funding opportunities to make that happen.

D. STEPS Program

Minutes and Agendas were provided in the agenda packets.

E. **Safe Routes to School**

Information on upcoming events for SRTS is provided in the agenda packets.

F. **Requests for Future Agenda Topics**

G. **Comments**

No suggestions were made at this time.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 10:08 am. The next meeting will be held on March 1, 2022.

SUMMARY

A. Motorists Passing Stopped School Buses

Joseph Camera, CSA with the Pinellas County Schools Transportation Department will be discussing the overall challenges of navigating children to and from school, during the pandemic.

B. Crash Data Heat Map/Speeding

Ms. Sandra Knoebel, Forward Pinellas staff, will share a data heat map depicting crashes in and around public schools in Pinellas from 2016 to 2020. These crashes are flagged as Speeding/Aggressive on the crash report, uploaded from DSHMV. The heat map shows the concentration of these types of crashes around our schools, and the challenges of enforcement.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None Required, Informational Item Only

SUMMARY

Speeding and other traffic violations occur regularly on the roadways in Pinellas County. These violations are of particular concern in active school zones where children walking, and biking may be present. A representative from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office will discuss their ongoing enforcement activities related to school zones and answer questions from committee members.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None, Information only

SUMMARY

The BayCare Kids Wellness and Safety Center provides leadership, experience and expertise as a community and state resource, and to advocate for the health and well-being of children and their families. Their goal is to keep kids and families healthy, safe and informed by providing information that meets each family’s unique needs and concerns.

Representatives from BayCare have reached out the Forward Pinellas to explore opportunities for partnerships so that they can reach a wider range of individuals throughout Pinellas County. A representative from BayCare will present to the committee on their range of age-specific community health and safety programs that encourage and empower children to develop healthy nutrition habits and vital safety skills. BayCare also has wellness and safety experts that are able to provide educational lessons to students in their own classrooms at their teacher’s request.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None Required, Informational Item Only

6. A- F Other Business

A. Hazardous Walking Conditions Update

The Hazardous Walking Conditions evaluation will begin in March-April 2022. Each hazardous walk route will be discussed and determine if it is a hazard, and this report will be updated by July 2022.

B. Pinellas SPOTlight Emphasis Areas Update

Forward Pinellas staff will provide a brief update on the status of activities related to the three SPOTlight emphasis areas.

C. STEPS Program – Minutes

The School Transportation and Enhanced Pedestrian Safety (STEPS) Committee is facilitated by the Pinellas County School Board and was created as a forum to discuss and address traffic safety issues around Pinellas County Schools. The STEPS committee consists of technical planning/engineering staff from the local governments and agencies throughout the County. Attached are meeting summaries and agendas from their meetings since the last STSC.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- November 2021 STEPS Minutes
- January 2022 STEPS Minutes

D. Safe Routes to School

Florida's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program works to improve the safety of children walking or bicycling to and from school through infrastructure improvements, enforcement activity, and safety education. The link below provides recent information regarding SRTS initiatives and activities: <https://www.saferoutespartnership.org/>

E. Request for Future Agenda Topics

The STSC members may discuss any suggestions for future agenda topics.

STEPS Meeting Agenda for November 2021

School Transportation & Enhanced Pedestrian Safety Committee

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

WPSC or on Microsoft Teams

- I. **INTRODUCTIONS-ATTENDANCE**
Mahshid Arasteh, Matt Atwell, Paul Bertel, Joe Camera, Tim Jacobson, Marvin Jefferson, Sandra Kneobel, Melissa Mehling, Casey Morse, Dawn Pecora, Jerry Reynolds, Norm Runkles, James Ryan, Susan Sams, Marshal Touchton, Jeff Wasilewski, Autumn Westermann, Litianyu Zhu.
- II. **APPROVAL OF September 15, 2021 Meeting Minute**
Norm Runkles approved. Jeff Wasilewski second.
- III. **NEW GENERAL BUSINESS**
Frontier – Driveways
This site is scheduled for a review after Thanksgiving. This area (residents' driveways) will be very hard to install signage due to enforcement issues.

Mad Beach – Walgreens
The store is concerned with parents parking at the Walgreens awaiting student's dismissal. The site is private property and signage would be unenforceable. The store plans to work with the school to find ways to detour parking.

Seminole HS, MS, Bauder, Jacobson Tech - 82nd and 131st water main break
Construction has been completed. The sidewalks have been reopened. Oakhurst and 86th has been cleared up.

Thanksgiving break – signals, ped buttons
Districts are working on preparing the changes to the signals for break.
- IV. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS/UPDATES**
- V. **OLD GENERAL BUSINESS**
Crash Data was summarized, and the crash data sheets are attached with these minutes.
- VI. **NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNED**

*** **December 15, 2021** at WPSC located at 11111 Belcher Road South, Largo

or "Microsoft TEAMS" at 10:30a.m.***

All STEPS meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of the month

STEPS Meeting Minutes for January 2022

School Transportation & Enhanced Pedestrian Safety Committee

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

WPSC or on Microsoft Teams

I. INTRODUCTIONS-ATTENDANCE

Joe Camera, Russell Ferlita, Sandra Kneobel, Larry Kolbicka, Melissa Mehling, Casey Morse, Dawn Pecora, Jerry Reynolds, Norm Runkles, Susan Sams, Hailey Sequeira, Marshal Touchton, Michael Ulbrich, Autumn Westermann.

II. APPROVAL OF November 17, 2021 Meeting Minute

Norm Runkles made a motion to approve the November minutes. Jerry Reynolds seconded.

III. NEW GENERAL BUSINESS

Frontier – Cut through in fence, not using Crossing Guard posts

The area of concern is on school property. Largo Police/Pinellas County Sheriffs have no jurisdiction. Jeff Wasilewski has put in a work order for poles and signage to be installed. He will contact the school requesting again for a staff member to be posted at this location.

Crossing Guard post closures

Due to staffing shortages of Crossing Guards, we have had to close another post (70th Ave and 49th Street). Pinellas Park is in desperate need of help and like other municipalities, they are forced to use their officers in place of crossing guards. Susan Sams will be requesting Pinellas Park area schools to post on their marquee that PPK PD is hiring Crossing Guards.

Largo MS

A citizen expressed concerns of the traffic near Largo Middle School. Largo Police monitor the area and are aware of the potential safety issues that occur with middle school students traveling to and from school. The Officer at that location is also a trained Traffic Control Guard.

Let's Talk – Seminole Middle and High

A concern came from a Seminole resident regarding the lack of school zone signs. The construction is coming to an end soon in the Seminole area. When a construction company is working in an area, they “own” the roads and are responsible for the roads. When the project is complete, the County will thoroughly investigate and install signage appropriately.

Clearwater Intermediate and Clearwater Fundamental – Difference in signage

A citizen emailed questions concerning the difference in school signage between Clearwater Fundamental and Clearwater Intermediate. The fundamental school has school zone signs, flashing lights and white lettering on the street indicating a school. The intermediate school does not. This is a County Road within the City limits. The lights were installed when Kennedy Middle was operating in 2009. There will be a site visit to those campuses. The Pinellas County Traffic Engineering and the City of Clearwater will be looking into each of those schools using FDOT guidelines to see if any changes need to be made.

IV. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS/UPDATES**

Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

Friday, February 4, 2022 (First Friday in February) is the National Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. There are two events in St Pete recognizing crossing guards, February 7th and 19th. Please help us celebrate them and all their hard work and dedication!

Summer Bridge Hours

The hours are not available yet.

V. **OLD GENERAL BUSINESS**

Crash Data – 2021 Year end summary is still being worked on and will be sent out once completed. There were 149 fatal crashes in 2021. This number is up from 108 in 2020. On a (5) five-year average, (2017-2021) 117 fatal crashes occurred. This was higher than the previous (5) five-year average, (2016-2020) of 109 fatal crashes.

Trail Usage – over 2 million people have used the Pinellas Trail!

VI. **NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNED**

*** **February 16, 2022** at WPSC located at 11111 Belcher Road South, Largo
or “Microsoft TEAMS” at 10:30a.m.***

All STEPS meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of the month