

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: August 2, 2010

Date Submitted: July 16, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Scott McDermid, Director, Department of Public Safety
Captain William Jones, Chairman, Community Safety Traffic Team

Subject: Request Board Consideration and Acceptance of a Status Report from
Wakulla County's Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST)

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board consideration and acceptance of a status report from Wakulla County's Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST).

Background:

Florida's Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTSTs) are locally based groups of highway safety advocates who are committed to solving traffic safety problems through a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary approach. Members include local city, county, state, and occasionally federal agencies, as well as private industry representatives and local citizens. The community boundaries determined by the individuals comprising the team, and can be a city, an entire county, a portion of a county, multiple counties, or any other jurisdictional arrangement.

Multi-jurisdictional means several agencies (cities, county, and state) plus other groups and organizations working together toward a common goal of improving traffic safety in their community. Multi-disciplinary means integrating the efforts of the 4 "E" disciplines that work in highway safety, including Engineering, Enforcement, Education / Public Information, and Emergency Services. By working together with interested citizens and other traffic safety advocates within their communities, the CTSTs help to solve local traffic safety problems related to the driver, the vehicle, and the roadway.

One common goal of each Community Traffic Safety Team is to reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes within their community.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has been active in the support of Community Traffic Safety Teams. Each FDOT District has a CTST Coordinator who works closely with the CTSTs in their geographic area, and the Central FDOT Safety Office acts as a liaison to the District Coordinators. For a list of the Community Traffic Safety Teams in the State, including their routine meeting times and contact information, click on the appropriate FDOT district.

Analysis:

The mission of the Community Traffic Safety Team is to maintain a community based traffic safety program with the goal of reducing the number of fatalities and injuries on public highways by mitigating hazards and /or being responsive to changes in traffic safety problems and priorities through the coordinated efforts of local law enforcement, engineering, emergency service, education and community involvement.

The purpose of the Team is to provide a mutual forum to identify, study, discuss and bring into focus traffic safety problems and possible solutions; to serve as a vehicle for collection and exchange of information; to foster, develop, and review goals, objectives, plans, and priorities to ensure orderly growth and development of the Team; to recommend solutions to traffic safety problems to local, state and federal governments as appropriate; and to promote and implement programs that have an impact on traffic safety in Wakulla County.

Past Projects of the Wakulla County Community Traffic Safety Team:

- Intersection of Springhill Road and Hwy 267
- Intersection of Hwy 319 & Hwy 267
- Intersection of Woodville Hwy & Hwy 267
- Intersection of Shadeville Hwy & Spring Creek Hwy
- Highway 319 & Trice Lane
- Turn Lanes in front of Wakulla High School
- Hwy 319 - Happy Times Turn Lanes
- Camp Indian Springs Traffic Devices

Previous Projects that were funded through DOT Grants:

- Project Graduation – a program to decrease the accident rate associated with Graduation parties.
- Safe Walk to School Programs (backpacks, pencils, water bottles for students)
- Buster the remote controlled school bus that is used for Student Safety Training
- Driver Education Simulators currently in use at Wakulla High School.

Current Projects of Note:

Upper Bridge Safety Project

Numerous complaints have been reported about people jumping from the bridge, swimming Under and around the bridge and people dangerously close to the boat launching area.

The CTST presented a project to the BOCC in 2009 to make significant changes to the area.

The CTST is again reviewing this project subsequent to an unfortunate death that occurred in the area. The team is planning to bring forward a recommendation to the BOCC prior to the next DOT grant funding cycle; which is anticipated to open again next year.

Speed limit decrease on County Road 61

A request to review the speed limits on roads that pass in front of a daycare was recently received by the CTST. Specifically there is a new daycare that has been approved to be built next to the new County Community Center located on Shadeville Highway near Trice Lane. The CTST is preparing a recommendation that will be presented to the BOCC; this recommendation is scheduled to be presented to the BOCC on the second meeting in August. The Shadeville Highway location speed reduction proposal will be submitted as beginning from a location east of Hale's Small Engine Repair west to Trice Lane. The reduction in the area will be 45 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour. The appropriate distances between signs will be determined through an algorithm used by DOT planners; these distances will be included in the recommendation being drafted for the BOCC.

Springcreek and US Highway 98 Intersection Speeds

The Spring Creek Highway and U.S. Highway 98 intersection will be proposed for a reduction from 55 miles per hour to 45 miles per hour in an effort to make the intersection safer. This intersection is one of many within the County that are managed by State DOT. This request will be reviewed and managed by State DOT at the request of the CTST. This project will be brought before the BOCC for support of this project; this will take place once the project makes it through the State DOT planning process. This delay allows the CTST to present the official data provided by DOT.

Current Team Leadership

Chairman William Jones, Captain, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office

Vice-Chairman Brian Speigner, Florida Highway Patrol

Secretary Keith Blackmar, PIO, Wakulla County Sherriff's Office

This Status Report serves the Board with an update on the CTST's projects. Anyone who has safety concerns is encouraged to communicate with the Community Traffic Safety Team by visiting the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office website and selecting the "Community Traffic Safety Team" link on the menu (located on the left hand side of the Homepage).

Options:

1. Accept the Status Report from Wakulla County's Community Traffic Safety Team.
2. Do not Accept the Status Report from Wakulla County's Community Traffic Safety Team.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1