School Transportation Working Group Update
Addressing Needs Locally
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City of Tampa Transportation and Stormwater Services Dept.

Meeting of the Hillsborough MPO Board
December 5, 2017
Presentation Outline

• City Traffic Studies and Safety Investigations Team Overview
• School Facilities within City of Tampa Overview
• School Transportation Considerations
  – New School Zone Standards Status
  – Hazardous Walking Conditions
  – Safe Routes to School Program
  – Traffic Circulation/Access Management Issues
• City School Transportation Projects
Traffic Studies and Safety Investigations Team

• Five (5) Staff
  – Supervisor (William Porth)
  – One (1) Transportation Engineer (Carlos Martes)
  – Four (4) Transportation Technicians

• School Transportation-related Coordination
  – Chair of Hillsborough Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) (William Porth)
  – Representative on MPO School Transportation Working Group (William Porth)
  – Assist in roadside safety audits/inspections
  – Annual coordination on school zone flashing beacon timings
  – Annual inspection of school zones
  – Evaluate traffic circulation/access mgmt. issues
School Locations within City Limits
School Locations within City Limits
School Locations within City Limits

Citywide School Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>98</strong></td>
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School Transportation Considerations

- New School Zones and School Crossing Standards (2017)
- Potential new requirements for identification of Hazardous Walking Conditions under SB 2018-188.
- No published or established safe walking routes for Public Schools.
- New Safe Routes to School Program Requirements

- Circulation/Access Management
  - Choice and Magnet Schools require additional traffic pattern considerations
  - Potential Impacts of reduced busing
    - Increased vehicular traffic
    - Need for additional infrastructure improvements to provide safe walking routes.

- Limited funding options available for sidewalk improvements
New School Zones and School Crossings Standards

- FDOT Updated Speed Zoning Manual (Rule 14-15.012, F.A.C.)
- New Chapter 15 covers School Zones and School Crossings
- New Standards (Effective July 30, 2017)
  - Flashing Beacons
  - “Speeding Fines Doubled” signs
  - SCHOOL Pavement Markings placement locations
- Required for public & private elementary & middle schools
New School Zones and School Crossings Standards

• Agencies have five (5) years to install Flashing Beacons and “Speeding Fines Double” signs (July 1, 2022)
• Pavement markings can be updated during resurfacing cycle
• FDOT Statewide Implementation Plan
  – Assistance Program to furnish traffic control devices to Local Agencies
  – Local Agencies to complete School Zone Notification forms for existing zones not meeting new standards (by December 2017)
  – Local Agencies to install and maintain new devices
  – Local Agencies complete Final Inspection and Acceptance of Federal-Aid Project forms.
Hazardous Walking Conditions (F.S. § 1006.23)

• Proposed Changes under SB 2018-188
  – To include all Public Schools instead of only Elementary Schools
  – Reduced posted speeds for minimum 3-ft setback of walking areas from edge of pavement from $\geq 50$ mph to $\geq 45$ mph
  – At uncontrolled crossings number of lanes for Hazardous Crossing Condition reduced from $\geq 6$ lanes to $\geq 4$ lanes
  – Walking distance criteria reduced from 2.0-mile to 1.5-mile
  – Require District Superintendent to request roadway review by Local Agency if parent of student in the school district submits written request.

• Effective July 1, 2018
Safe Paths to Schools Program (F.S. § 335.066)

• Safe Routes to Schools Program (FDOT)
• Eligible Applicants
  – Public and private schools
  – Elementary, middle and high schools
• Eligible Projects
  – Pedestrian Facilities
  – Bicycle Facilities
  – Traffic Control Devices
  – In public right-of-way
• 5 projects per application cycle

• Applicants partner with Maintaining Agency
• Maintaining Agency
  – Enters into LAP Agreement w/FDOT
  – Designs and/or constructs project
  – Maintains completed project
Traffic Circulation/Access Management Issues

CHAMBERLAIN HIGH SCHOOL
- Pedestrians crossing mid-block
- Proximity to Major Arterial (Busch Blvd)
- Vehicles exiting left at the RT-Only exit driveway
- Heavy SB Queue on N. Boulevard
Traffic Circulation/Access Management Issues

- Private school
- No busing; traffic pattern primarily drop-off/pick-up
- Queueing extends into Bayshore Blvd and MacDill Ave
Traffic Circulation/Access Management Issues

**ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY**
- historically, walk-up traffic
- currently, heavy drop-off/pick-up traffic pattern
- long queues in PM extending onto El Prado Blvd.

**BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL**
- Single driveway access at intersection
- Intersects with two (2) collector roads (Main St and Boulevard)
- Heavy walk-up pedestrian traffic
City School Transportation Projects

- City maintains 39 school zones with static signs for a total of 28 public, charter and private schools.
- City submitted initial list to FDOT (Oct 2017)
- City evaluating these school zones to upgrade to flashing beacons
- City submitted 21 final notification forms to FDOT (Nov 2017)
- City to submit additional 9 notifications forms to FDOT (Dec 2017)
- Potential compatibility issues between FDOT furnished equipment and City’s communication equipment specs.

- City maintains 65 school zones with active flashing beacons for 42 public schools
- City reviewing these school zones to bring to compliance with new standards. Primary needs:
  - Speeding Fines Double signs
  - Signs for side streets
City School Transportation Projects

• Continue implementing Walk-Bike Plan projects
• Completed Ped. Safety Impr. Plan
• Sulphur Springs Elementary
  – Potential partnership with Hillsborough County Public Schools on Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) project.
• Chamberlain High School
  – Conduct RSA
  – Evaluate for mid-block crosswalk
• Prioritize Sidewalk Capital Projects near
  – Robinson HS
  – West Shore Elementary
  – Monroe Middle
  – Lanier Elementary
• Utilize Multi-Modal Fees to fund new sidewalks on City Collector and Arterial roads.
City School Transportation Projects

• Bay to Bay Blvd Complete Streets
  – County Road to be resurfaced (2018)
  – City conducted corridor study (Aug 2017)
  – Evaluated lane reallocation from 4-lane to 3-lane
  – Bicycle lanes and sidewalk gaps
  – Reduce crossing lanes for pedestrian
  – Plans currently in design
  – Benefits Roosevelt Elementary & Plant High Schools
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?
Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) (FDOT)

- Managed by FDOT
- Developed to reduce the number of traffic crashes that occur on Florida roadways.
- Addressing Four “E”s
  - Engineering
  - Enforcement
  - Education
  - Emergency Services
- Monthly meetings began (Jan ‘91)

- Multi-disciplined Federal, State and local government program.
- Supports:
  - Child and Occupant Safety Programs
  - Bike and Pedestrian Safety Programs
  - Work Zone Safety
  - School Bus Safety
  - School Zone Safety
  - Grade Crossing Safety
  - Motorcycle Safety
School Transportation Working Group (MPO)

- Initiated by Hillsborough MPO (February 2016)
- Multi-Agency Partnership to develop/prioritize solutions to school:
  - Traffic circulation
  - Walk-bike safety to schools
  - Transit use
- Monthly meetings began (Apr ‘17)

- Multi-Agency Participation
  - Hillsborough MPO (Host)
  - Hillsborough Public Schools
  - City of Tampa
  - FDOT
  - Planning Commission
  - HART
  - Hillsborough County