

**MINUTES  
TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
MAY 5, 2009**

**Item 1:**

The Lewisville Transportation Board was called to order at 7:22 p.m. Members present: Jim Gallegos (Vice-Chairman), Alvin Turner, Rod Russell (Chairman), William “Bill” Price, Joy Townsend, and James Davis. Member Karen Boenker was absent.

Staff members present: Kevin Nims, John Black, Gene Lewis, David Salmon, Jeff Kelly, and Todd Taylor of the Police Department.

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**Item 2:**

A motion was made by Joy Townsend to approve the January 20, 2009 meeting minutes, seconded by James Davis. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

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**Item 3:**

The visitors/citizens forum was the next item on the agenda. The chairman opened the opportunity for anyone present to speak on items not on the agenda. There being no one present to speak, the forum was closed.

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**Item 4:**

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of establishing a school speed zone on Valley Ridge Boulevard, from 240 feet west of Garden Ridge Boulevard to 240 feet east of Garden Ridge Boulevard of 20 miles per hour; and recommendation of the revision to the City Council. Staff gave a brief presentation explaining the recent expansion of the roadway west of the intersection at Garden Ridge. Staff indicated that the new geometry allows increased speeds as vehicles traverse the intersection and has caused concern for the parents of the students that attend Valley Ridge Elementary. James Davis asked if the intersection was attended by a crossing guard and staff indicated that it is and will remain so. Rod Russell asked if the crossing area controlled by the guard would be within the extent of the new speed zone and staff confirmed that the new zone straddled the intersection and was also within the speed zone on Garden Ridge as well. Bill Price asked if a prorated speed limit has ever been used for a school speed zone (i.e. reducing the speed within the zone from 20 MPH to 10 MPH). Staff was unaware of any such use, but agreed to research it. A motion was made by Jim Gallegos to recommend approval of the proposed school speed zone to City Council. The motion was seconded by James Davis and approved unanimously (6-0).

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**Item 5:**

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of extending the school speed zone on Valley Parkway from the present 800 feet south of Main Street to 1100 feet south of Main Street; and recommendation of the revision to the City Council. Staff gave a brief presentation describing the existing school speed zone and the recent addition to the Lewisville High School campus of a new Arts

and Sciences Center on the southern edge of the campus. Staff explained that the extension of the school speed zone would cover the new vehicle and pedestrian access patterns for the new building and parking arrangements and was requested by the Lewisville Independent School District (LISD). A motion was made by Alvin Turner to recommend approval of the extension of the school speed zone to City Council, seconded by Bill Price. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

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**Item 6:**

A report on the Main Street Bridge pedestrian crossings was the next item on the agenda. Staff reported that the absence of pedestrian signals can pose an issue for pedestrians, however the bridge is scheduled to be rebuilt during the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) project to expand I-35E and the new bridge will have full pedestrian facilities. Staff indicated that to install new pedestrian signals would require pulling new cable through the existing conduit or installing new conduit and cable along the length of the bridge. The existing conduit carrying the cables from one side of the bridge to the other is full and has old cable that would likely be damaged if new cable were to be pulled through it. City Public Works staff do not have the resources to install an alternate conduit so a contractor would have to be hired. Joy Townsend said she knew it might be difficult, but that no one would disagree that it was dangerous and should be done. Rod Russell indicated that he and his family members had witnessed people crossing there and had felt concern for their safety. He continued to say that the intersection will only get busier. Alvin Turner asked about the utilities there and staff indicated that they will have to be moved as part of TxDOT's project. Jim Gallegos asked if a technological fix such as a wireless connection was possible. Staff indicated that the connection to signal indications must be hardwired to assure proper operation. Joy Townsend asked what the recent event was that she witnessed on the north side of the bridge. Staff indicated that a vehicle had recently hit the service pedestal. Joy Townsend asked if something could be done prior to the widening project since that may be a few years away. Staff indicated that any plans to install equipment at the intersection would have to be approved by TxDOT and it would likely require the City to cover the cost of materials and provide the labor for the installation. Rod Russell asked if TxDOT would send personnel out to the location to survey it themselves. Staff indicated that they usually do when a request is made. Staff indicated that it could possibly be considered as a candidate project that the Board would be considering, along with the prioritization of candidate intersections for signalization, which would be addressed at the next meeting.

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**Item 7:**

The next item was a report on ongoing traffic signal projects. Staff indicated that the Signal Improvements 2008 project that includes the three intersections along Vista Ridge Mall Drive at Denton Tap, Lake Vista, and Rockbrook Dr. had been sent out for bid and the project would begin after being awarded by the City Council. The project is scheduled to be completed within 160 days. Staff also presented information on the completion of the installation of the signal for Fire Station Number 7. Staff also indicated that the temporary signal plans for the intersection of FM 544 at Windhaven Parkway have been sent to TxDOT for approval and that the signal was funded by the LISD. Staff presented information on the project to install video detection equipment at all the signalized intersections along SH 121 Business from FM 544 to Denton Tap Road. Staff indicated that this project is being reviewed by TxDOT in Austin and that the project will be 100 percent funded by federal and state funds. Staff concluded with information on the Denton County Transportation Authority's (DCTA) efforts to upgrade the signalized and non-signalized rail crossings within the City. The DCTA plans include the

installation of control devices at the crossings, upgrades to the nearby signal control equipment, and the possible closure of certain roads to overcome certain intractable safety concerns. The DCTA will be holding public meetings within the near future to address public and private concerns for this. Staff will bring more information to the Transportation Board meeting following the public hearings.

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There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

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John Black  
Traffic Engineer

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Rod Russell  
Chairman