



MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION BOARD
JULY 7, 2009

Item 1:

The Lewisville Transportation Board was called to order at 6:41 p.m. Members present: Karen Boenker, Jim Gallegos (Vice-Chairman), Alvin Turner, Rod Russell (Chairman), William "Bill" Price, Joy Townsend, and James Davis.

Staff members present: Kevin Nims, Gene Lewis, and Mary Bosworth.

Item 2:

The first item of business was the election of officers. Karen Boenker nominated Rod Russell for Chairman of the Board, which was seconded by Jim Gallegos. The vote was unanimous (7-0). Karen Boenker then nominated Jim Gallegos for the Vice-Chairman which was seconded by Joy Townsend. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Item 3:

A motion was made by Jim Gallegos to approve the May 5, 2009 meeting minutes, seconded by James Davis. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Item 4:

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.

Item 5:

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by a representative of the DCTA on the future rail public mass transit project for Lewisville and the Denton County area and the impacts at the rail crossings within the City. Dee Leggett with NTRG described the extent of the rail within Lewisville and the crossings that would be impacted. She indicated that most crossings would require short periods of closure for the upgrade construction to take place, but that some of the roads at present crossings were being considered for permanent closure due to safety and control issues. The target roadway crossings would be Purnell Street and the private drive crossing for Andes Metals. She indicated that Cowan Avenue had been considered for closure but the DCTA has since decided to leave it open, due to the children that use that route to walk to school. Future consideration for closure may be given to that location when Valley Ridge Boulevard is extended east from Mill Street. She then described the intended design for the Purnell Street Cul-de-Sac and the planned reconstruction of Redbud Street as the alternate for traffic access to State Highway 121 Business. Karen Boenker asked if the DCTA would be responsible for the costs required to do the upgrade. Dee Leggett indicated that the DCTA will provide the full funding and that the estimated cost is approximately \$1.7 million dollars. James Davis asked if Bennett Lane at Railroad Street is expected to be upgraded with a left-turn lane as part of the crossing and intersection

improvements. Dee Leggett indicated that it would be. James Davis asked how many trains will be using the line and how would that impact traffic. Ms. Leggett indicated that about 50 trains per day are estimated depending on demand, and that a train crossing should only cause about a 45 second delay. A motion was made by Bill Price to make a recommendation to the City Council in support of the DCTA's plans. The motion was seconded by James Davis and approved unanimously (7-0).

Item 6:

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of establishing school speed zones on Garden Ridge Boulevard and Bellaire Boulevard. Staff indicated that in response to Board Member requests, Staff contacted their counterparts in the Town of Flower Mound to consider the intersection of Garden Ridge at Bellaire and the student pedestrians that cross there. Staff indicated that with the finalization of the boundary jurisdictions, the intersection and Garden Ridge Boulevard to the south now lie within the Town of Flower Mound. Staff indicated that discussions with the Flower Mound staff led to a cooperative plan to establish school speed zones that would bracket the intersection. On the Lewisville side a school zone would be established starting from 250 feet east of Garden Ridge on Bellaire and the Town of Flower Mound would establish one from the intersection west on Kirkpatrick. A school zone would also be established on Garden Ridge 250 feet north of Bellaire and run south to the intersection where the Town of Flower Mound would extend it south past St Gallen. Rod Russell asked if the zones would tie in to the existing school speed zones. Staff indicated that although the school zones would cross the cities' boundary, it would be signed and operated to appear continuous to any drivers that use those roadways. James Davis asked if the signs would be in place for the coming school year. Staff indicated that there should be adequate time to present it to the Council and if approved have the signs installed by the beginning of school in the fall. Joy Townsend asked if the parents would be notified. Staff indicated that although the parents aren't typically notified directly, the Fire Department typically sends units out to the schools on the first few days to make drivers aware that the schools are in session and that the school zones are again active. Staff also indicated that Lewisville Police officers will typically give warnings to drivers at the first of the school year. James Davis asked if the Lewisville zones would prohibit the use of cell phones within the school zones as Flower Mound does. Staff indicated that Lewisville does not presently have an ordinance to support that, but that the Flower Mound portion of the zones will use the supplemental signs for that purpose. A motion was made by Karen Boenker to recommend approval of establishing the school speed zones to City Council, seconded by Alvin Turner. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Item 7:

The next item on the agenda was the prioritization of candidate intersections for signalization. Staff presented a list of unsignalized intersections within the city that are proposed candidates for signalization. Staff indicated that the selection of the intersections was based on expectations that the intersections may meet warrants as described in the Texas Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Staff reminded the Board that the three intersections on Vista Ridge Mall Drive presently under construction, were previous candidates, and that some of the present candidate locations were previously on the list and have just not yet met warrants. Staff continued by explaining that inclusion on the list did not guarantee that an intersection would be signalized, but that all locations would have to be evaluated according to the warrants and a lower priority location could be signalized prior to the higher priority

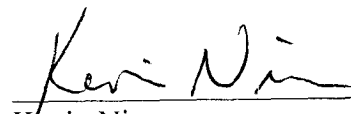
locations if none of the higher priority locations meet warrants. This is a function that the Board periodically provides and is an opportunity to provide input on intersections that Staff may not be directly familiar with. Staff indicated that the list is not exclusive and that other candidate locations can be recommended by Board Members at anytime by contacting Staff directly, and that intersections already scheduled for signal construction are not included on the list. James Davis asked if the number of locations reflected the budget or funding available for all of the locations. Staff indicated that the budget provides funds for approximately three signals per year but that the list is larger since many of the locations may not meet warrants. Rod Russell asked if the list, as presented, was prioritized by Staff. Staff indicated it was arranged according to Staff's expectations but any item could be added, moved or removed from the list. Rod Russell asked if the Fox at Garden Ridge intersection should be third on the list considering Bellaire at Garden Ridge is busier. Staff indicated that the Bellaire intersection is now within the Town of Flower Mound's jurisdiction and would probably be signalized by them. Staff also indicated that the item could be lowered or removed from the list if the Board desired, but that the results of the evaluations of the locations would be brought back to the Board for approval prior to any design and construction if the locations meet warrants. Joy Townsend asked if the pedestrian crossing at the Main Street Bridge and I-35E could be moved up above the Josey Lane at Windhaven Parkway locations since she is greatly concerned with the safety of people that have to cross there without pedestrian signals. Staff explained that the item is on the list but that any action there will require TxDOT approval and that with the plans for the widening of I-35E and the reconstruction of the bridge now in process, TxDOT may not want to permit any action on it at this time. Staff will continue to pursue the item with TxDOT but that the Josey and Windhaven intersection now has a Target Store and Best Buy opening on the corner and will probably generate considerable traffic on Windhaven. Karen Boenker asked if there was anything else that could be done to make the crossing safer. Jim Gallegos stated there is nothing to stop them from crossing there and the sidewalks are available on the bridge. Staff indicated that the pedestrians can still cross with the lights and that the DCTA has bus service that crosses the bridge with stops on either side of the bridge. Joy Townsend restated that she feels it is a safety issue and would like it to be moved up on the list. Rod Russell stated that he would like to see what Flower Mound does at Bellaire before any action is taken at Fox and Garden Ridge. He feels the intersection works fine as a four-way stop according to the traffic demand there. Staff indicated that the evaluation includes consideration of the accidents at a location and that the accident history is not always readily apparent. Rod Russell stated he would like more information in order to prioritize the items. Karen Boenker asked if the Board could have a meeting next month to review the information and the reasoning for the priorities. Staff commented that the list is a prioritization to evaluate the items not to determine which will get signalized first. Bill Price asked if the Board could get together to discuss the items. Staff indicated that they should be able to call for a workshop to discuss this and that a workshop could be scheduled prior to future meetings if the Board requests it. Bill Price asked if the list is approved what will occur. Staff explained that the studies of the locations would commence, including the collection of volume counts, pedestrian surveys, accident reports data, and the traffic flow and delay studies would be performed to determine if the items meet warrants. Then those items that do would be returned to the Board for signalization approval. A motion was made by Karen Boenker to recommend approval of the list, seconded by Alvin Turner. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Item 8:

The next item was a report on the ongoing traffic signal projects. Staff indicated that signal construction has begun at the three intersections along Vista Ridge Mall Drive at Denton Tap, Lake Vista, and Rockbrook Drive. The work performed so far includes the underground equipment as well as the signal pole and controller cabinet foundations. The project is now awaiting delivery of the poles and cabinet equipment and should be completed shortly after the materials become available.

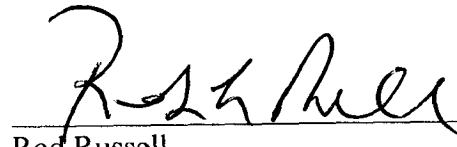
There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Nims
Graduate Traffic Engineer

Approved,



Rod Russell
Chairman