

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF LAKE JACKSON

BE IT KNOWN that the Traffic Commission of the City of Lake Jackson met on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. for regular session at 25 Oak Drive, Lake Jackson, Texas, in City Hall Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

Michael Cloeter, Chair
Doug Smith, Vice-Chair
Shannon Biar, Secretary
Jay Foster
Jessica Rogers
Ravi Singhanian
Nicholle Wilson

Milford John-Williams, Asst. to the CM
Sally Villarreal, City Secretary
James Cromeenes, LJP
Sabrina England, Public Works Director
Cynthia DeWitt, Public Works Superintendent
Raul Guerra, Street Foreman
Modesto Mundo, City Manager
John Toscano, Traffic Technician

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Cloeter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 11, 2022

On motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Biar with all present members voting “aye,” the November minutes were approved with spelling corrections.

VISITORS’ COMMENTS

No visitor comments.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES AT THE 100 BLOCK OF TANAGER LANE – GABRIELLA CONE

Ms. England noted the concern of Ms. Cone as she was not present. Ms. Cone has noticed parents are stopping along Tanager between Anchusa and Arrow Wood to drop their children off at Bess Brannen.

Ms. England reviewed the signs that are currently in place. Staff could install a “No Standing and No Parking” at this location and add the school’s drop-off and pick up times, doing so would require an ordinance change.

Mr. Foster stated he has not noticed any children running in the street. He drops his kids off at Bess Brannen.

Mr. Cloeter was concerned about residents getting ticketed at their own house. Ms. England noted this was discussed with the resident and there are no exceptions for people living there.

Mr. Singhanian felt it is a good idea to add the school times.

Mr. Foster was concerned about the “no standing” because there is a crosswalk on Tanager. Parents stand there waiting for their kids. Parents would then be in violation.

Ms. England noted it could just be a “No Parking” and does not have to include “No Standing”.

The complaint came in because someone noticed people were using the streets for parking and waiting to pick up their children there. Residents are having difficulty getting into their own driveways because people are blocking the street.

Mr. Mundo stated the “No Parking” is self-explanatory. The “No Standing” takes it one level higher and does not allow standing so they cannot stop, to drop their children off.

It was noted the streets already have the “No Parking” signs.

Mr. Biar suggested observing the area before deciding on signage. Lt. Cromeenes suggested flying a drone to observe during pick up and drop off.

Lt. Cromeenes noted there is nothing wrong with people standing, the problem is when cars park and wait for their children outside the car.

DISCUSS INSTALLING A TRAFFIC LIGHT AT THE INTERSECTION OF OAK AND CENTER WAY FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF TDECU

Mr. Smith attended a city council meeting where he learned the TDECU would be built in the area behind HEB. He wanted to start discussing the need for a traffic light and plan for the future.

Mr. Mundo went over the entrances expected for the TDECU project and traffic light possibilities as it’s currently all conceptual and subject to change.

Mr. Singhania noted people will try to avoid lights and cut across parking lots.

Mr. Mundo noted the city has committed to funding 75% of the completion of Azalea.

There was discussion on the possibility of a traffic light and the studies that would be needed later.

The estimate for a new light would likely cost over \$250,000. Mr. Mundo shared that they are unable to add a mid-block pedestrian crosswalk without a traffic study.

Ms. Rogers asked for the timing of the project.

Mr. Mundo stated there is a memorandum of understanding (MOU) underway, and TDECU would like to be completed by the end of 2024. This would include the branch but may not include the community space. The hotel is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES ON MEDICAL DRIVE – GAYLA STERZINGER

Ms. England stated a citizen expressed her concerns that this street is a speed trap. Ms. England noted

there are signs throughout the road that state the speed limit. Currently, staff does not feel this is an issue. Staff feels there is adequate signage.

Mr. Cloeter noted the request is to raise the speed limit. Ms. England noted the road has the hospital down this street and the city has large trucks that go down this road. She is also hesitant as there is school traffic from Rasco Middle School.

Mr. Foster shared his thoughts and noted from Oak Drive to Canna Lane should remain at 30-mph because of the hospital, but from Canna Lane to Plantation Drive, 35-mph is not an unreasonable request.

Ms. Wilson likes it being at 30-mph due to runners and other pedestrians.

Ms. England mentioned that currently the Dow Gate will stay open for another two years, which will increase the traffic on that road.

Mr. Biar shared his thoughts and noted there is a hospital and school. He agreed with Ms. England to keep it at 30-mph. Ms. Wilson noted the road is curvy and bumpy as well.

Mr. Foster motioned to increase the speed limit from Canna Lane to Plantation Drive to 35-mph, seconded by Mr. Singhanian with Mr. Foster and Mr. Singhanian voting "aye," and Mr. Biar, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Wilson, Mr. Smith and Mr. Cloeter voting "nay," motion failed.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES ON DAFFODIL STREET – LYNETTE BROOKS

Ms. Brooks lives in the 400 block of Daffodil and would like to have a speed bump installed to slow people down on Daffodil. She stated that people speed on her street and offered to have one installed in front of her house. She feels like people speed once they leave the school zone.

Ms. England noted installing speed humps would require a speed study from an engineer which would cost approximately \$5,000.

Ms. England can install counters for a traffic study, but that alone would not be sufficient for approval of speed humps. This will require a traffic engineer.

Mr. Mundo noted staff could install the traffic counters to see if there is a problem and go from there.

On motion by Mr. Biar, seconded by Ms. Wilson with all present members voting "aye," an in-house traffic counter to evaluate the area to see if a traffic engineer is warranted on the 400 block of Daffodil Street (between Crocus and Arrow Wood), was approved.

Mr. Mundo explained the requirements of speed humps to Ms. Brooks.

STAFF UPDATES – SABRINA ENGLAND

UPDATES ON ANY WAY SPEED BUMPS

Ms. England thanked her staff for the speed bump installation. She noted the side streets have traffic

counters to see if the traffic has been shifted. At next month's meeting, Ms. England hopes to have numbers to report and compare.

TRAFFIC LIGHT AT CIRCLE WAY AND OAK DRIVE

Ms. Alarcon was present to speak on the pods. She noted the current problems with detection and location. She mentioned possible solutions and suggestions regarding programming for peak hours and non-peak hours. She suggested programming signal timing.

Mr. Cloeter asked what would happen if the pods were done away with. Ms. Alarcon suggested trying video detection, as it does not interfere with the radio frequencies.

Mr. Cloeter asked for a quote for conversion to video detection. Ms. Alarcon said one intersection is about \$25,000 for a light to be programmed via video detection. Ms. Alarcon stated they can do a test trial before they buy it to decide whether the city likes it.

Ms. England stated going forward staff is looking at other options and maybe bring additional options next month. There was discussion on the options.

Mr. Mundo asked if TxDOT had cameras at the intersection of Oyster Creek Drive and HWY 332 / HWY 288. Mr. Guerra stated the cameras were only for red lights.

Mr. Singhanian asked if the pods were reliable if they did not have the antennas and radio frequencies to interfere. Ms. England stated that they are easier to maintain in certain locations but they're looking at other options.

YAUPON

Ms. England noted the potholes and panel failures on Yaupon. Mr. Guerra has taken care of repairing potholes.

Ms. England noted buttons would be added onto the road to help citizens at night, as the reflection from the paint is not as good with glass beads.

DIXIE AND BRAZOSWOOD – RIGHT TURN

Ms. England noted the right-turn only lanes are complete, but BISD has requested to alternate the timing because traffic was backing up.

There have been requests to add a flashing light notifying of the right-turn only. Ms. England stated that a flashing light is not a requirement.

Ms. England added that both Circle Way and Oyster Creek Drive have extended their double yellow lines in hopes of avoiding confusion about the direction of traffic.

ACCIDENT REPORTS – LT. CROMEENES

Lt. Cromeenes read over the accident reports.

Mr. Singhania mentioned he notices more speeding from SH332 to Lake Road. Lt. Cromeenes said they will be on the lookout. Mr. Singhania also noted the pedestrian crossing on Lake Road is always on and thinks it may be on a continuous loop.

Mr. Smith mentioned there are many speeders on the feeder by Buc-ee's.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Ms. Wilson noted the light by Family Fitness on FM 2004 by Yaupon works differently than the light by Bess Brannen. She stated she saw this on a Next-Door post, and she confirmed it herself. People are assuming it will be green, but it stays red.
- Mr. Cloeter noted the exit to the mall light takes too long.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m. These minutes read and approved this _____ day of _____ 2023.

Michael Cloeter, Chair

Shannon Biar, Secretary