

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, July 11, 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:

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

Anamaria Acuña, Asst. City Secretary
James Cromeenes, LJP
Sabrina England, Public Works Director

Council Liaison – Matthew Broaddus

ABSENT:

Michael Cloeter, Chair

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEAR IN MEMBERS

Ms. Acuña administered the oath of office to Mr. Smith, Mr. Foster, and Mr. Biar.

RE-ORGANIZE THE BOARD

Mr. Cloeter was re-nominated as chair.

On motion by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Singhanian, with all present members voting “aye,” Mr. Cloeter was voted in as chair.

Mr. Biar was appointed as secretary and Mr. Smith as vice-chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 14, 2023 & May 9, 2023

On motion by Mr. Biar, seconded by Ms. Rogers with all present members voting “aye,” the March and May minutes were approved.

VISITORS’ COMMENTS

Della Dunn - 504 That Way

Ms. Dunn shared that there is a speeding problem on her street.

Ms. Acuña said that although the traffic commission could not have a discussion with her, she would take her contact information and place her on next month’s agenda.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES AT THE 100 BLOCK OF FOREST OAKS LANE – ANGELA JUAREZ

Ms. England shared that she was directed to run a traffic study. Staff found no actionable items present as the 85th percentile was 29.64 mph.

Lt. Cromeenes researched prior reports, but none were due to speeding. Ms. England summarized that staff does not recommend any further action.

Mr. Biar asked Ms. England to elaborate on the 22 reported accidents. Ms. England noted that those accidents involved hitting mailboxes, parked vehicles, hit-and-runs, etc.

The traffic commission had no further recommendations.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES AT THE 300 BLOCK OF CYPRESS STREET – HEATHER BUTRYM

Mr. Smith asked if there were studies on this location. Ms. England will run traffic studies as directed.

Ms. Wilson mentioned the recommended stop signs near Jonquil Street in August (2022) and wanted to see what intersections are closest to her block. Ms. England confirmed the intersection closest to the requestor is Hawthorne Street.

Lt. Cromeenes stated that Gardenia Street is also an intersection close to the 300 block. He mentioned once they changed the route of Plantation, they noticed a heavier traffic flow onto Magnolia Street and many people will use Magnolia and Gardenia as a cut-through.

Lt. Cromeenes also stated there was a survey done many years ago regarding placement of yield signs and stop signs.

Mr. Biar noted it is a long stretch without the 4-way stops.

Ms. Butrym listed the solutions below in her written request: adding street signs (i.e., posted speed or Children at play) and/ or speed bumps.

On motion by Mr. Biar seconded by Ms. Roger with all present members voting “aye,” the traffic commission recommended staff to run a speed study.

UPDATES, DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES AT THE 100 BLOCK OF SOUTH MAGNOLIA STREET – DAVID JENKS

Ms. England stated that a speed study was performed. The 85th percentile came in at 20.47 mph, and the 95th percentile was at 22.15 mph. The maximum was 30.3 mph and the minimum at 5.1 mph.

Lt. Cromeenes researched the street and found that since 2020, there have been eight accidents (which included parking issues and expired tags). There were no speeding incidents and staff recommends no action be taken.

Mr. Jenks noted in his request that he wanted to make the streets safer for his children.

Mr. Biar asked about the stop signs at the end of the intersections. Ms. England stated there are stop signs, but it is not a 4-way stop. Mr. Biar noted he understands the lack of a 4-way stop could be because it is so close to the feeder.

The commission agreed with the information provided that no action will be necessary.

STAFF UPDATES – SABRINA ENGLAND

Any Way Updates

Ms. England noted that the Kimley-Horn traffic engineer Mr. Eurek was at the last city council meeting (July 3rd). Ms. England's summarization is that the speed humps were placed due to the major accident that occurred. Otherwise, the data showed no actionable items.

Ms. England also noted that a resident on Any Way Street came forth to council to express that he did not like the speed humps on the street because of the noises associated with them. Council discussed moving the speed humps.

Ms. England asked Mr. Eurek if the speed hump near the resident to be replaced. He advised that they did not need to replace it as there were already three others.

Council Liaison Mr. Broaddus summarized the council's concerns and noted the small increases on the neighboring streets. He shared that his route has changed, and he no longer takes Any Way and instead goes on That Way. Mr. Broaddus mentioned there was no scope on That Way, but they researched the surrounding streets.

Ms. England mentioned the placement of the speed humps were on or close to the following addresses: 205 Bougainvillea, 126 Mistletoe, 118 Tamarisk, and 133 Tulip, (they are on streets that "T" Any Way).

They did a study on the side streets' counts and noted an increase but not a significant amount. One of the other council members asked for a more thorough study and suggested a survey be conducted among the residents on the street. Those who signed in favor of the speed bumps should not object to the speed humps being placed near their home.

Ms. England noted that Ms. Dunn isn't the first to request speed humps on That Way, but it is considered an arterial street.

Mr. Singhanian wanted a clarification of the soft speed humps. Mr. Broaddus explained that the speed humps installed are typically designed for vehicles to go over them at the posted speeds, and speed bumps are harder on vehicles and higher.

Councilmember Blanchard was originally one of the few who went door to door for petitioning of the speed humps. Mr. Singhanian asked if they would keep the speed humps or remove them. Ms. England said the council approved testing the speed humps and technically are not to be permanent, so council will need to make a final decision.

Mr. Broaddus mentioned that if they have any feedback, to attend council meetings to express any concerns.

The commission asked if the speed humps brought any issues to emergency vehicles or the trash trucks. Ms. England hasn't heard of any issues.

Traffic Light at the Intersection of Lake Road / This Way

Ms. England noted that the traffic light is currently set on flashing reds. The issue may be a total cabinet repair, but it is being worked on. There are no current issues with the flashing red.

Mr. Smith asked if it is a complete cabinet repair if a flashing left could be installed. Ms. England noted that it is a possible location to consider.

Pedestrian light at the Recreation Center / Little League field's Crosswalk

Ms. England mentioned they are waiting on parts for repairs. Mr. Foster mentioned that fall ball will be starting in September.

Traffic Light at the Intersection of Oyster Creek Drive / That Way

Mr. Smith asked for an update. Ms. England will check on the status with Mr. Aguirre as the light is part of the current Downtown Project.

Recreation Center Traffic

Ms. Rogers noted that leaving the Recreation Center parking lot she has narrowly avoided being hit on multiple occasions. Ms. England will relay this information to the Director of Parks & Rec (Ms. Hyden). Ms. Hyden has previously mentioned possibly adding speed humps in the parking lot or adding stop signs.

Traffic Light at the Intersection of Dixie / Plantation

Mr. Biar mentioned that the left turn light will go off even when nobody is in the lane. Ms. England said the box for the light is located at the top of the light and is a costly repair. They are aware of the issue and are in the process of finding someone to repair it.

Traffic Light at the Intersection of Dixie / Brazoswood

Mr. Singhanian mentioned that the left turn lane is tripped, and nobody will be there, but it still goes off.

Ms. England noted she would reach out to Mr. Toscano, but she believes BISD requested to alter the light's timing to help reduce the school traffic.

ACCIDENT REPORTS – LT. CROMEENES

Lt. Cromeenes read over the accident reports. He mentioned that June had a total of 51 accidents.

Last month there were two major accidents in Lake Jackson. One was originally in Clute and became a pursuit. The driver was on the feeder road of 288 going northbound when the vehicle hit a tree, the driver attempted to flee on foot and the passenger had to be taken to Houston. That incident is still under investigation.

On June 28th, the second major accident was located on FM 2004 near the water treatment plant and the accident was almost a head-on collision but is still under investigation as well.

Lt. Cromeenes noted his police officers recently went through training, so they have added seven people to assist with collision investigations.

Mr. Smith thanked him for his updates.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Singhanian mentioned that the TxDOT pedestrian light on Lake Road light trips all the time even when nobody is there to press the button.
- Mr. Singhanian also noted the traffic lights on Oyster Creek Drive / Sycamore. The Oyster Creek Drive’s traffic light trips (going westbound towards Sycamore).
- Mr. Singhanian asked Ms. England how citizens can submit requests.
 - Ms. England mentioned they can call the Public Works Department at 979-415-2430, and they will create a work order in the system for the issues reported. However, if there is an emergency, please call the emergency phone number which will route to dispatch. Sewer/ Water issues are considered emergencies.
- Mr. Biar asked for an update on Willow.
 - Ms. England mentioned that on Wednesday, July 12th they will be shutting off the water to finish and finalize the repairs with an ETA of Friday, July 14th. Residents in Willow have been notified. The repairs were for Lift Station 11, with a sink hole and a water main leak.
- Lt. Cromeenes reminded to report any water leaks to dispatch.
- Mr. Singhanian asked for updates on the resurfacing of FM 2004.
 - Ms. England noted that it is TxDOT’s project, but she will contact TxDOT for an ETA.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m. These minutes read and approved this _____ day of _____ 2023.

Michael Cloeter, Chair

Shannon Biar, Secretary