

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, September 13, 2022, 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
Nicholle Wilson

Sabrina England, PW Director
Anamaria Acuña, Asst. City Secretary
James Cromeenes, LJP
Cindy DeWitt, PW Superintendent
John Toscano, Traffic Technician

ABSENT:

Ravi Singhania
Jessica Rogers
John Leidig
Matt Broaddus, Council Liaison

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Cloeter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEAR IN NEW MEMBER

Mr. Leidig relayed that he was unable to accept the appointment via email due to health issues.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 9, 2022

On motion by Mr. Biar, seconded by Ms. Wilson with all present members voting “aye,” the August minutes were approved.

VISITORS’ COMMENTS

No visitor comments.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES NEAR 200 BLOCK OF MAJESTIC OAK CIRCLE- BILLY PETTUS

Mr. Billy Pettus & Dr. Anna Pettus – 202 Majestic Oak Circle

Mr. Pettus thanked the traffic commission for having him. He commented that his residential street appears to be a speed way. Mr. Pettus noted before entering his street there is a curve (on Oak Drive South), that has a sign posted to go 20 mph. After passing the curve they will speed, and he is concerned because there are people walking and at times children who play on the street and there is no regard for them.

Mr. Pettus asked the traffic commission if they could advise any recommendations. He stated that there are speeders entering through the curve but there are also speeders behind his neighborhood.

The traffic commission asked if staff could display where his street is located. Mr. Cloeter commented that his street is near the LJ Soccer Fields. Mr. Smith asked where Mr. Pettus thinks the speeders are going? Mr. Pettus mentioned he thinks they are residential speeders.

Mr. Cloeter questioned whether the speeders appear to be coming southbound or northbound. Mr. Pettus answered both. Since opening the street to the new subdivisions, he noticed that speeding has increased.

Mr. Cloeter wanted clarification because he believes all residential areas are 30 mph. Mr. Pettus agreed but shared there is a sign warning to go 20 mph on the curve. Lt. Cromeenes noted that the house by the curve has been hit a few times.

Mr. Biar asked where the counters were placed? Dr. Anna Pettus noted that the traffic counters were in the middle of the street, and they made no difference because she noted there were still speeders.

Dr. Pettus commented when the new subdivisions were created, the road was extended with no stops. She doesn't believe that it is just residential traffic because she has seen people use it as a cut through.

Dr. Pettus suggested speed bumps. Mr. Biar shared that speed bumps are difficult to approve.

Ms. England reviewed the traffic count. She shared the 85% speed was at 27.31 mph and the 95% to be 30.87 mph. Ms. England shared that technically they don't meet the requirement of the 85%.

Ms. Wilson noted that the 55 mph being clocked in the middle of the road is alarming. Mr. Cloeter asked what the current signage on the road is. Ms. England stated that there are no signs other than the one by the curve.

Dr. Pettus mentioned that there are school bus stops nearby (Avocado/ Majestic Oak Circle), and even big (dually) trucks parked on the street and the speeders won't slow down. Dr. Pettus mentioned that the speeders will lap around Majestic Oak Circle, Almond, and Lake Road.

The traffic commissioners asked Ms. England for recommendations.

She stated that she can place more traffic counters, discuss with the police department on other options, and discuss with the traffic engineer.

The traffic commission discussed different options such as the flashing speed limit sign and painting a potential cross walk to slow down. Ms. England stated that they can do road paintings. Mr. Cloeter also discussed the possibility of having raised buttons. Ms. England said she would have to investigate that option.

Mr. Cloeter requested Ms. England to get with the traffic engineer and discuss further options. Mr. Biar asked Lt. Cromeenes if the police department could increase the patrolling for the time being. Ms. England will try to have the recommendations by the next meeting.

Mr. Cloeter commented that they should inform their neighbors to make sure there is consensus about the speeding issue.

Ms. England shared that visitors are always welcome to attend the meetings.

Dr. Pettus shared that they will relay information to their neighbors.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES AT BOTH THE 100 AND 400 BLOCK OF FOREST OAKS LANE – TAYLER RAMIREZ

Ms. Ramirez was not present. Mr. Cloeter asked if we had attempted to communicate any information to the requestor. Ms. Acuña confirmed that Ms. Ramirez was notified.

Ms. England shared that this item was at the last meeting as well. The traffic commission requested a traffic study for both the 100 and 400 block of Forest Oaks Lane. Ms. England went through the report and commented that she did not see actionable items for either of the blocks.

Ms. England did a brief search with the police department, and she found the following: Since 2000 there have been 22 reported accidents involving mailboxes, parked vehicles and vehicles exiting driveways that struck parked vehicles. There have also been a few hit and runs. There have been 340 citations and warnings with 16 related offenses, 11 of which resulted in written warnings.

Mr. Biar asked if there is any signage on or near the intersection. Ms. England confirmed that there were stop signs.

Mr. Biar asked Lt. Cromeenes if there are differences in citations or additional penalties for speeding in residential areas. Lt. Cromeenes answered if they were going over 10 mph, they must attend court. If they are going above 20 mph, they could be ticketed for reckless driving depending on the circumstance. Lt. Cromeenes clarified that there really is no difference between speeding on the highway versus speeding on a residential street. He clarified the only difference in citations would be if they were speeding in a construction zone.

Mr. Biar commented that there always seems to be outliers that will speed down any street even though there are not enough actionable items and was curious of the potential consequences. He shared that he would like to do something since there are those going 50 – 60 mph in a residential street.

Lt. Cromeenes mentioned that there was speeding history on a nearby street (Willenberg) because it was a long straight of way.

Mr. Cloeter asked what the policy is on speed bumps / humps. Ms. England shared that traffic engineers will only recommend speed bumps for parking lots and never for streets.

Mr. Cloeter asked what other options there are since the traffic commission cannot recommend speed bumps as he'd like to help but he's unsure what else can be done. Ms. England shared that the traffic engineer gave a few examples for Any Way, and they recommended narrowing the streets or by painting stripes on the street.

Mr. Cloeter shared that he would like to treat this similarly to Majestic Oaks Lane. He asked Ms. England to investigate further options. Ms. England shared that she would follow up at the next meeting.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A LIMITED RIGHT TURN LANE ON DIXIE DRIVE AND BRAZOSWOOD DRIVE GOING NORTHBOUND

BISD has requested this limited right turn.

Ms. England shared that there is an existing limited right turn lane on Oyster Creek Drive and Dixie Drive. The limited right turn is effective Monday thru Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Smith asked if the existing one is functioning like they want it to. Mr. Toscano agreed that it did. Mr. Biar lives near, and thinks it is effective.

There was discussion on the distance for the existing limited right turn lane and the next available right turn. Mr. Biar noted that he agrees with the idea of the limited right turn but could see it possibly becoming problematic if there is ~~too much distance for the turn.~~ **not enough distance for the second turn.**

Ms. England noted that Brazoswood High School was recently rebuilt and BISD has requested the limited right turn for potential changes. She shared that BISD made this request at their last meeting which included the mayor, city manager and city engineer.

Ms. Wilson asked if there could be temporary signage posted to warn about the upcoming limited right turn lane. Ms. England and Mr. Toscano shared that they will investigate it and see if that is something that they would be able to do as she's unsure if it was done for the existing sign.

Mr. Cloeter shared that he likes the concept of the limited right turn. He clarified the procedure would be for the traffic commission to make a recommendation to the City Council for approval. Mr. Smith asked if an ordinance would be necessary. Ms. England shared that it would be because it is an enforceable item.

Ms. England mentioned that they would have to wait for the fiscal year for approval of purchasing the flashing sign. She asked Mr. Toscano how much of a wait he would predict it to take. He stated that the flashing signs were about 6 weeks lead but might be longer. Ms. England stated that they could possibly install it after the winter break which could be in January if approved.

On motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Biar with all present members voting "aye," the traffic commission recommended City Council consider a limited right turn lane on Dixie Drive and Brazoswood Drive going northbound.

STAFF UPDATES

Ms. England advised the traffic commission that staff has updated protocols with the following:

- Resident must submit their concerns/ request to the city secretary's office.
 - City secretary's office will give them the date to attend the next scheduled traffic meeting.
- The requester must attend the meeting.
 - Staff will no longer have traffic studies before meetings.
 - Traffic commission must give direction for study or other recommendations.

At the next City Council meeting on September 19th there will be discussion and updates with the traffic engineer regarding Any Way.

Mr. Toscano (traffic technician) & Ms. DeWitt (public works superintendent) gave a presentation and discussed how the traffic pod's function:

TRAFFIC POD SYSTEM



HOW THE TRAFFIC POD SYSTEM WORKS



Induction system – works similar to the traffic loop system. It is a smaller unit and wireless.



A coil of wire (inside the pod) that generates a magnetic field.



Vehicles disrupt the field and changes the magnetic current flow. The traffic pods will then communicate to the controller there is a vehicle present.



The controller will change the traffic lights according to timing (it must go through its normal cycle).



Mr. Cloeter asked where the pods are located. Mr. Toscano mentioned the city only has three different locations. Ms. England mentioned that it was budgeted to expand/ add more pods, but they have placed it on hold.

Mr. Cloeter asked why the pods break so much and Ms. DeWitt shared that they have a 5-year lifespan, and they are at their limit but will be replaced soon.

Mr. Cloeter asked if they were easy to replace. Mr. Toscano replied that for the most part they are, but there are times when some will not come up at all. He shared because they are wireless it is a lot easier for maintenance.

There was discussion for sensitivity for a motorcycle detection, and potentially adding a delay.

Mr. Cloeter thanked them for the insight and explaining the functionality. He asked if there are new updates to the pod systems.

Mr. Toscano shared that the radar by movement is more practical even though there are camera sensors since anything can trigger the camera.

There was discussion about replacement time and how old the current systems are. To replace a cabinet would cost about \$20,000 and would be budgeted as a CIP project. Although pods can be replaced singularly and are under warranty, they do have some issues.

Ms. England spoke with the traffic engineer and discussed the different options. Because of the issues they are having now and exploring other options they are holding off on adding more pods.

The traffic commission thanked them for their presentation.

ACCIDENT REPORTS – LT. CROMEENES

Lt. Cromeenes read over the July and August reports.

On August 21st they had a fatal accident on Oak Drive, which is still under investigation. The contributing factor to the two-vehicle accident is believed to be caused by speeding. The person that passed was in the back seat and sustained a head injury.

Mr. Cloeter thanked Lt. Cromeenes for his reports.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Biar has noticed that there have been a few vehicles driving on the wrong lane at the light intersection of Circle Way and Oyster Creek Drive.
 - Ms. Wilson noted that one side of the street was painted yellow and suggested to extend to the other side.
 - Ms. England shared that she would relay the message to Mr. Toscano.
- Mr. Cloeter said the timer seems to be stuck at the traffic light on That Way and Oyster Creek Drive and sensing a car when there is no vehicle but believes it could be related to construction.
 - Ms. England stated that she would notify Mr. Herrera about the issue.
- Mr. Smith noted that the guy that volunteered to have a speed bump by his house on Any Way is selling his home.
- Ms. England shared that the stop sign recommendation on Jonquil failed the first reading at the last meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. These minutes read and approved this _____ day of _____ 2022.

Michael Cloeter, Chair

Shannon Biar, Secretary