

MINUTES OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSION MEETING

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The Williamson County Highway Commission met on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Williamson County Administrative Complex. Commission members present were: County Mayor and Highway Commission Chair Rogers Anderson; Commissioners Charlie Bennett, Dick Fowlkes, Renis Baker and Stan Tyson.

Also, present were: Highway Foreman Randy Hickman; County Commissioners Cheryl Wilson and Jason Para; David Coleman, Budget Director; Joe Horne, Community Development Director; Floyd Heflin and William Andrews, Engineering; Michael Matteson, Planning Department; Greg Boll, Elaine Vasquez, and Ray Campbell, Highway Department; Chad Collier, Collier Engineering; County Attorney Bobby Cook, Buerger, Moseley and Carson; Nena Graham, Accounting Department; Leslie Mitchell, Purchasing Agent; Bob Murphy, RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC; David Parker, Engineering, City of Franklin; Carol Edwards, County Mayor's Office; and other interested and concerned individuals.

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. and asked the Highway Commissioners if the "Sight Distance Issues at Clovercroft and Oxford Glen" could be moved up on the agenda. As there were no objections, it was agreed.

Chair Anderson asked for approval of the May 6, 2009 Highway Commission minutes. Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Bennett. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Special Announcements: There were none.

At this time, Mr. Bob Murphy of RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC presented the Intersection Safety Study for the Intersection of Clovercroft Road and Oxford Glen Drive. Mr. Murphy reiterated that the north leg of the intersection (southbound approach) is located within the City of Franklin city limits while the remaining three legs of the intersection fall under the Williamson County jurisdiction. The analysis included traffic counts, speed surveys, geometrics of the intersection and accident history.

Mr. Murphy stated that safety may be an issue due to a high number of crashes at the intersection, which is eight times the statewide average. Further, he stated that most motorists are exceeding the posted speed limit which is a contributing factor to the number of accidents. Traveling at excessive speeds over the posted speed limit makes the sight distance inadequate due to the hillcrest on Clovercroft Road.

RPM made the following conclusions in regards to safety at the intersection:

- Recommend lowering the hillcrest to provide adequate intersection sight distance for the prevailing speeds on Clovercroft Road;
- Do not recommend a multi-way stop sign because of rear end crash potential;
- A roundabout would be effective way to control traffic, but due to the sight distance issues and amount of necessary right of way, it is not recommended;
- A traffic signal is not warranted at this time due to traffic volumes, but might be with future growth. However, the number of accidents may warrant a traffic signal with the installation of advanced warning signs or beacons.

Commissioner Tyson asked if an extension could be installed on a traffic signal to compensate for some of the hillcrest issue. Mr. Murphy stated that a supplemental head could be installed and the design detail could work this out.

Chair Anderson asked Mr. Horne to look for the possibility of safety grant funds through TDOT, MPO and/or RTA.

Commissioner Tyson asked about a rough cost of installing a signal at this intersection. Mr. Murphy stated that \$125,000 should suffice for the signal.

Discussion was held about utilities that would be affected if the hillcrest was lowered.

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Mr. Parker stated that Cool Springs Boulevard changed the traffic pattern and it was only going to get higher. Mr. Murphy agreed and stated that originally there were only about 500 cars per day and now it was over 3600 vehicles per day.

Chair Anderson asked Mr. Collier to provide cost estimates for the various options to improve the intersection. It was agreed that it would be back on the September 2009 agenda with notification by the August 2009 meeting that we are still on track.

Citizens Communications: Mr. Chuck Neighbors, Secretary of the Ivy Glen Homeowner's Association, stated that there were two issues involving Oxford Glen. The first one is the intersection sight distance concerns and the second one is the speeding issue in the neighborhood. The additional stop signs were appreciated, he stated, but he feels more needs to be done. Mr. Neighbors stated that speed bumps would be a good interim measure and asked that they be considered. He asked for a show of hands from this neighborhood and some 12 to 15 people raised their hands.

Mr. John Tracino lives on Oxford Glen Drive in the Barrington Subdivision and stated that they would like to have stop signs installed in Barrington as in Ivy Glen because they force good behavior. While his preference would be to have stop signs at every intersection, the intersection of Oxford Glen and Barrington Drive and Oxford Glen and Barrington Court would be his preference for the location of additional stop signs.

Mr. Greg Barnes, Clover Meadow Drive, stated that he had spoken at the Highway Commission previously and wanted to reiterate that the road is not wide enough for two cars and a bicycle which might make for a serious accident at some point. He wanted to request more stop signs and speed bumps to slow down the drivers from speeding.

Ms. Allison Oftencamp of Oxford Glen Drive stated that her mailbox had been taken out by a car and her dog had also been hit by a car on Oxford Glen. Recently, she stated that while jogging with her child in a stroller, she had to pull off the road to keep from being hit by a car. She also stated that the speeding traffic worsens when high school dismisses students at the end of the day.

Ms. Jennifer Wilson, of Woodcrest Court, stated that her dog had been killed and that parents are quite concerned about the speeding traffic when children are at the bus stop in the morning. She also stated that trees are getting larger and blocking visibility at Woodcrest Court and Oxford Glen as well as Woodcrest Lane and Oxford Glen. She stated that additional stop signs would be helpful.

County Commissioner Jason Para, 4th District, thanked the Commission for the intersection study and for repaving Clovercroft. He stated that he would like to see the crest of the hill lowered and that a light may be needed eventually. He stated that he is co-sponsoring the lowering of the speed limit on Oxford Glen via the upcoming resolution and would like the consideration of additional stop signs in Barrington Subdivision.

County Commissioner Cheryl Wilson, 4th District, stated that she agreed with Commissioner Para and the others who have spoken. She stated that she appreciated the letter sent to the Sheriff regarding additional patrols in the area. Further, she stated that the neighborhood had witnessed much change in the past few years and that speed bumps would tend to slow the drivers down.

At this time, Citizen's Communications closed.

Chair Anderson asked Mr. Cook who makes the determination about additional stop signs. Mr. Cook stated that the Highway Superintendent can make this determination, usually with the help of an engineering study and with the support of the Highway Commission.

Mr. Collier stated that the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control" states that stop signs are not to be used as speed control devices and that enforcement of speed limits is best.

Discussion was held about speed bumps and Mr. Collier stated that "speed tables" were less obtrusive, less damaging and easier for emergency traffic to negotiate. They can be temporarily bolted down, but are more expensive. Mr. Collier stated that they can also be made of asphalt, which would be less costly, but not as attractive.

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Commissioner Tyson noted that the speed bumps might be noisy in front of residences.

Mr. Neighbors noted that there was a 100' stretch of roadway with no houses due to a gas easement and a speed bump placed in this area would affect fewer homes with noise.

Commissioner Fowlkes stated that lowering the speed limit isn't as helpful as placing a physical barrier to slow down the traffic.

Commissioner Bennett stated he was not in favor of speed bumps.

Commissioner Baker had no comment.

Commissioner Tyson stated that if the various Homeowners' Associations want the speed bumps, then he believes that they should try it.

Mr. Campbell stated that Rebel Meadows subdivision has the rubber type speed bumps and that Poplar Grove and Freedom schools have the asphalt type if anyone wants to view them.

Mr. Collier stated that he would bring speed bump information to the July meeting.

Chair Anderson stated that the three Homeowner's Associations should send letters of support for speed bumps in their neighborhoods.

Elections and Appointments: Chair Anderson explained that he would be unable to attend the July 2009 meeting due to another commitment. Commissioner Tyson stated that he would be glad to temporarily chair. As there were no objections, it was agreed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Highway Department Update. Mr. Boll stated that the new facility was progressing nicely with good weather. The fuel tanks had been relocated and the utilities should be in soon.

Sight Distance Issues at Clovercroft and Oxford Glen. This item was covered earlier in the meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 6-09-1. A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LOWERING THE SPEED LIMIT ON OXFORD GLEN DRIVE. Commissioner Tyson moved to recommend approval of the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Baker. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Resolution 6-09-10. RESOLUTION DIRECTING REVENUE DESIGNATED FOR ROAD PURPOSES THAT IS COLLECTED FROM THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY BUSINESS TAX THAT EXCEED \$3,100,000 AND FUNDS COLLECTED FROM THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY WHEEL TAX THAT EXCEED \$3,500,000 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 BE RE-DESIGNATED TO THE GENERAL FUND. Commissioner Tyson moved to recommend approval, seconded by Commissioner Bennett.

Mr. Boll explained that the state requires the county to maintain local funding at a level equal to the average local funding for the previous five years. If local funding falls below the five year average, the county would lose dollar for dollar state shared Gasoline Tax. Commissioner Tyson stated he would support the resolution if it is needed, but would prefer more information up front in the future.

Mr. Coleman stated that certain revenues are flexible and others are not. It's up to the County to move funds around as needed when allowable by law. Mr. Cook emphasized that this process was legal.

Chair Anderson stated that money is moved around as a normal practice and that the County is financially strong.

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The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Resolution 6-09-17. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING ROADS IN GROVE PARK SUBDIVISION AS A PART OF THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM FOR MAINTENANCE BY THE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT LOCATED OFF ARNO-COLLEGE GROVE ROAD. Commissioner Bennett moved to recommend approval; seconded by Commissioner Fowlkes. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Highway Commission District Reports. There were no reports.

Highway Superintendent Report. Mr. Hickman referenced the May 2009 Activity Report and stated that they were currently working on Temple, Anderson, Arno-College Grove and Russell Roads.

Highway Chairman Report. The chair had no report, but asked Mr. Boll about finishing the new facility and when a possible ribbon cutting would take place.

Mr. Boll stated that it would be complete in by September and that the ribbon cutting could be scheduled in that time frame.

Legal Issues. There were no legal issues.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 a.m., upon duly made motion and second, as there was no further business.

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Rogers C. Anderson
Chairman and County Mayor