

MINUTES OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSION MEETING

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The Williamson County Highway Commission met on Wednesday, August 5, 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 Superintendent Eddie Hood; County Commission Chairman Houston Naron, Jr.; County Commissioners Cheryl Wilson and Mary Brockman; Joe Horne, Community Development Director; Floyd Heflin and William Andrews, Engineering; Michael Matteson, Planning Department; Greg Boll, Randy Hickman, Elaine Vasquez, and Ray Campbell, Highway Department; Chad Collier and Randy Carroll, Collier Engineering; County Attorney Bobby Cook, Buerger, Moseley and Carson; Leslie Mitchell, Purchasing Agent; Carol Edwards, County Mayor's Office; Michelle Simmons; and other interested and concerned individuals.

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. and asked for approval of the July 1, 2009 Highway Commission minutes. Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Baker. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Special Announcements: There were none.

Citizens Communications:

Mrs. Cheryl Wilson, 4th District County Commissioner, stated that she was in favor of traffic calming in Oxford Glen. Further she stated that Wilson Pike, which is a state road, could use some road work.

Mr. Tim McLaughlin, 4020 Oxford Glen Drive, stated that the additional stop signs and speed reduction has helped with traffic somewhat, but the increase in traffic volume in their neighborhood, with no side walks available, is still a safety issue. He stated that help is needed to reduce the traffic problem and asked for the support of the Highway Commission.

At this time, Citizen's Communications closed.

Elections and Appointments: There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

Highway Department Update. Mr. Boll stated that the utility installation had been completed with an anticipated completion date of the end of September, 2009.

Traffic Calming for Oxford Glen Subdivision. Mr. Chad Collier explained various traffic calming options (Attachment A) for Oxford Glen Drive and stated that they had identified the primary locations (page 12 of Attachment A) for possible placement of traffic calming devices. He stated that they had checked speeding at two locations on Oxford Glen Drive. The first location was south of Clover Meadows Drive (Attachment B) and that the 1800 cars checked, there were 32% of them speeding, but only 6% were going over 35 mph. The second location checked was south of Burton Drive (Attachment C) and only 10% of cars were traveling more than 35 mph. Mr. Collier stated that they do not recommend additional stop signs for this area.

Discussion was held about the three primary locations recommended for traffic calming and Mr. Collier stated that these were approximate locations and they would have to be field located.

Discussion was held about the type of traffic calming device. Mr. Collier stated that they were recommending the 10 ½ foot speed tables. Mr. Hood stated that there was not much speeding, but mainly a large volume of traffic. Mr. Collier stated that the speed tables would deter some of the volume of traffic. Chair Anderson stated he would like to try the speed tables to determine whether they are effective. If other subdivisions request them in the future, the request would have to be warranted.

Commissioner Tyson stated that he would like to see the County implement the traffic calming speed tables at the three recommended locations as a one year test and asked Mr. Collier to come back after a year from installation with an evaluation of the traffic flow and speed. Commissioner Tyson stated he would also like to options to fund traffic calming in the future.

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Chair Anderson stated that even with traffic studies being performed on new subdivisions, some of these issues cannot be foreseen in advance. He stated that that he believes it will solve some of the issues to the satisfaction of some and that others will complain about the changes.

Discussion was held about the cost for the speed tables. Chair Anderson stated that the expense will be paid from the Highway budget as part of road upkeep. Supt. Hood and Mr. Horne stated that there may be some escrow monies to cover part of the cost. Mr. Collier stated that this will be a removable product which can be moved to another location or taken out entirely. Supt. Hood stated that they could try the speed tables for a year to see how effective they are with regard to the traffic issues. Discussion was held on bidding out the traffic tables.

Commissioner Tyson moved to accept the Traffic Calming Report as a guideline for testing the three 10 ½ foot speed tables on Oxford Glen for one year from the date of installation which will allow the county to establish a policy to avoid liability and look at the various issues involved, seconded by Commissioner Baker.

Chair Anderson stated that they will use the escrow money where available before using Highway funds. Further, he asked the homeowners in attendance to share this information with their fellow residents. Commissioner Tyson asked that the County Attorney come back to the Highway Board with a proposed policy in the future.

County Commissioner Cheryl Wilson stated that she supported approval of the motion and that residents had stated that the Sheriff's Department had been patrolling the area more often.

An Oxford Glen resident stated that the traffic volume will increase shortly when school opens.

The motion passed, 4-1, with Commissioner Bennett voting no.

Advance Planning Report for Roadway Improvements – Clovercroft at Oxford Glen Drive. Mr. Collier explained the Advance Planning Report (Attachment D) which recommends cutting 2 to 2 ½ feet off the crest of the hill and/or a traffic signal. The projected cost for both of these projects would be approximately \$300,000. Mr. Bob Murphy, RPM Transportation, stated that the most desirable alternative would include both cutting down the hill and installing a signal. He continued by stating that installation of a traffic signal by itself would be effective in solving the issues at the intersection.

Discussion was held about contracting the job out, rather than the Highway Department doing the work. The reason was it could be done faster by a contractor with less impact to area traffic because of the overtime restrictions on the Highway Department budget. Chair Anderson also explained that this project falls within the Urban Growth Boundary of the City of Franklin and therefore the city could annex the area in the future. Representatives from the City of Franklin were invited to the meeting, but were not in attendance, he stated. Discussion was held about the City of Franklin sharing in the cost of the project as they were partially responsible for the intersection issues. Chair Anderson stated that he would be glad to write a letter to the City of Franklin asking them to share in the cost of the study and intersection improvements.

Commissioner Fowlkes moved that the City of Franklin be approached regarding sharing the costs on the intersection improvements at Clovercroft and Oxford Glen Drive, seconded by Commissioner Tyson. Mr. Murphy stated that the design through construction would take approximately 9 months depending on the type of pole chosen (Attachment E) plus any additional time needed for utilities or easements. Chair Anderson stated that he would provide a status report of the response from the City of Franklin at the September meeting. Mr. Collier stated that he would provide a single report for the City of Franklin. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for partial street closure for block party in Meadowgreen Subdivision by Michelle Simmons. Supt. Hood stated that the event went well last year and he would recommend approval for this year conditioned on the applicant fulfilling all notice requirements placed on the applicant by prior approval.

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Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the street closure as per the request (Attachment F), seconded by Commissioner Baker.

Mr. Cook stated that the applicant needs to be sure to contact the 911 Board regarding the road closure.

Ms. Simmons stated that she did contact them last year and will do it again this year. She asked if the barricades can be provided again this year by the Highway Department. Supt. Hood stated that they could do so.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Supt. Hood instructed Ms. Simmons to get with Mr. Ray Campbell of the Highway Department, regarding the details of the road closure.

Request for school zone signage on Bethlehem Loop Road by Clifton & King for Franklin Christian Academy/Bethlehem United Methodist Church. Commissioner Tyson moved for approval, seconded by Commissioner Fowlkes.

Commissioner Tyson stated that he agreed that there was a need for signage for the school. He had two questions regarding the school at the church. First, he asked if the State of Tennessee had been contacted regarding a turn lane for northbound Hillsboro Road at Bethlehem Loop as it is dangerous. Secondly, he wanted to know if the road shoulder at Old Hillsboro and Hillsboro Road was being improved. Mr. Steve Clifton stated that problems do exist in this area and they have not contacted the State about them, but they can help with signage.

There was discussion about the time frame that the school intends to use the church building. Mr. Horne stated that the school was being held to one year at this site by Cartwright Creek Utility at this time per the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Tyson reiterated that the signage is needed and there might be high school age children driving. He asked if anyone had talked to the State about the road repairs. Mr. Clifton stated that he was not aware of anyone contacting the State, but he would do so. Chair Anderson stated that he didn't believe these issues were part of the MPO plan.

County Commissioner Mary Brockman stated that she agreed with Commissioner Tyson that signage would be helpful for this academy as well as for Benton Hall. Further, she asked if there could be some delineation for lanes as currently there is no striping for parking and if the center line could be restriped. She also asked if there could be a "No Left Turn" sign placed at the location even though 99% of people would not try to do so at this location. She also stated that keeping the vegetation trimmed, as it had been done recently, would help with visibility.

Chair Anderson asked Mr. Horne if road improvements are made to Old Hillsboro or Hillsboro by the state, if something could be done to improve Bethlehem Loop at that time.

County Attorney Cook stated that the Highway Commission does have the authority to post a "No Left Turn" sign, but would have to get a resolution adopted by the County Commission to reduce the speed limit.

Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the signage request, seconded by Commissioner Fowlkes. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Commissioner Tyson moved to recommend approval of a school zone speed reduction from 30 mph to 25 mph on Bethlehem Loop Road. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Highway Commission District Reports. There were no reports.

Highway Superintendent Report. Mr. Hood referenced the July 2009 Activity Report. He also requested a motion to initiate a study on Arno Road in the vicinity of the intersection of Arno Road and McDaniel Road to determine whether sight distance is adequate. This request is driven by safety concerns, he explained.

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Commissioner Tyson moved to approve the study request, seconded by Commissioner Bennett. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Supt. Hood stated that the Temple Road work is going slow as they have run into rock during the construction process.

Highway Chairman Report. The chair had no report.

Mr. Horne gave a brief report on Old Hillsboro Road and Hillsboro Road and stated that per the Advance Planning Report, the estimated cost for improvements has the engineering at \$100,000 for which the State has no interest in funding at this time.

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