

Transportation Safety Advisory Commission
Minutes
Thursday, September 5, 2024
5:30 PM

The Transportation Safety Advisory Commission (TSAC) convened for a Called Meeting on
Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 5:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Building #4
1400 Schertz Parkway, Schertz, Texas 78154

TSAC Commissioners Present:

Dziewit, Richard, Chairman
Heyward, Ferrando
Icke, Steven
Ragsdale, Roy
Martinez, Will
Wiley, Paul

TSAC Commissioners Absent:

Cornelisse, Chuck
Hormel, Chris
Winter, Michael

Staff Present:

Brian James, Deputy City Manager
Kathy Woodlee, City Engineer
Robert Martinez, Street Maintenance Supervisor
Serena Contreras, Associate Engineer
Tammy Lawrence, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER at 5:31 PM by Chairman Richard Dziewit.

ROLL CALL

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

Jay Starr
Laura Turner

1. **Minutes:** Consideration/action for approval of June 6, 2024, TSAC Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Roy Ragsdale to approve the June 6, 2024, minutes.
Seconded by Commissioner Ferrando Heyward. *Motion passed.*

2. **AAMPO Presentation**

Sonia Jimenez, Deputy Director
Cecilio Martinez, GIS Manager

- Presentation of AAMPO overview and Dashboard for Fatal or Serious Injuries.

3. **No Parking:** Consideration/action for approval of No Parking along Schertz Parkway from IH 35 to Lookout Road and No Parking along TriCounty Parkway

- Kathy Woodlee thanked AAMPO for coming and presenting, the city was planning to do a walkable community workshop but covid happened.
- Kathy Woodlee stated that EDC funded upgrades to wastewater lines and reconstruction of TriCounty Parkway. A traffic impact analysis recommended that the City go to a three-lane section including a turn lane, this won't allow parking on the street once restriping is complete. EDC did an outreach to businesses in this area to remove parking on TriCounty. EDC did not receive any negative feedback; it was a positive response to approve the removal of parking. It was also stated that there was a fatality on Schertz Parkway in the last 6 months with the construction in this area. Kathy asked for TSAC to recommend the No Parking in both locations. Commissioner Richard Dziejew stated it would be a good idea to put something in place and present it to Council.
- Commissioner Richard Dziejew made a motion to approve.
- Commissioner Roy Ragsdale seconded the motion. *Motion passed. Vote was unanimous.*

4. **Traffic Study Updates:**

• **Rhine Valley – Alsatian Way Sight Distances**

- Kathy Woodlee stated that the City has received residents' input asking for more stop signs, found a speeding issue, unsafe conditions at loading and unloading school buses. The City did do warrant analysis for multi-way stops at each of the intersections. The warrants were not met by the number of vehicles, but we found a few sight distance issues. Mulhouse does not have any sight distance issues, Erstein Valley no obstructions, small tree that partial obscures traffic, but is not significant. Trees will need to be trimmed. Bening Valley does have sight distance issues, fences protrude into the sight triangle. We will talk about some ideals to address these issues. Remilly Way, no sight distance issue at Alsatian. At Kruth Point, there are sight distance issues in both directions at Alsatian. Options- remove obstructions, not desirable, fences can be moved, but the HOA and owners would not be happy. This would also do nothing to address speeding on Alsatian. Could implement multiway stops, but it is not warranted. Citizen reported that when a stop sign is not warranted, they start to roll through, not advised. The city would like to incorporate curb bulb outs for this location. The city has not used this before, but it would work toward giving the driver a refuge to move beyond the sight obstruction and acts as a traffic calming method. Engineering will work with Public Works to get these done. PD will continue to monitor this area, speed trailers and dynamic signs. Another citizen did express appreciation for PD doing work in this area. Graphic showing old curb and then how a bulb out extends the curb into the road, the travel lanes are now narrower, and folks slow down. It decreases the distance for someone to cross the street and the car pulls farther up getting a longer clear line of sight. This can be done with paint, but this would be a great location. We are limited on funds but feels the city can do something impactful in this area.
- Commissioner Richard Dziejew asked if more studies were going to be done. To see if these options would be acceptable and usable appropriately.
- Kathy Woodlee stated that further studies are not needed to see if they are applicable but will certainly do studies after the employment of the bulb outs.
- Commissioner Fernando Heyward stated that he understands financial constraints but if people don't pay attention, how much attention are they going to pay to paint on the street.

- Kathy Woodlee stated that is a good point, but we would do the raised curb in this location. Paint would be used for a more urban setting. Paint would be a traffic calming measure but not as impactful as curbs.
- Commissioner Fernando Heyward asked what the cost of a bulb out.
- Kathy Woodlee said it is very difficult to say, when the city did crosswalks, those were between \$20-30k. but did require more design work. The bulb out does require a lot of behind the scenes work with city staff to construct using the curb budget for concrete repairs. If it is more significant, we would be looked for a budget adjustment to get funded. More to come on this project, but city try to get it done as efficiently and economically as possible.
- Commission Fernando Heyward stated pros and cons question- if a parent were to sue the City because a child got struck by a car, what would the cost be.
- Brian James stated that anyone can sue anyone. Brian James stated he could sue Fernando Heyward, how much would it cost. Whether the city is negligent or municipal immunity. There are a lot of other issues. We have been out there, there is not adequate sight distance. No one has been hit. Fundamental issue we have is stemming from speeding. If that went away, speeding and people knowingly breaking the law, passing school buses. Staff are trying to tackle the speeding issue. The options rely on drivers obeying traffic regulations which seem to be core of what is not happening.
- Commissioner Will Martinez asked with these bulb outs, would there be any ADA issues.
- Kathy Woodlee stated that the City would have to maintain ADA compliance, so the city could get into this, and it may become more complicated and we may not be able to implement.

5. **Staff Comments and/or New Requests**

- **Ware Seguin – CPS Light Installation** – Kathy Woodlee stated CPS is done and lights work now
- **Painting of all school crosswalks** – Kathy Woodlee showed pictures of several locations, Curtiss stop ahead stencils now complete to bring attention to folks. Crews worked during non-peaks hours when there was less traffic. Thanks to Robert and Public Works.
- **Pedestrian Crosswalks and Lights on TxDot roads** – Every year we have several issues, slim chickens by 7-11, was reported to TxDot but was resolved. Another is the flashing lights at Founders Academy, was reported to TxDot but Public Works installed signs. Staff continue to work to get residents aware of any issues.
- **Kimley Horn will incorporate the Schertz Parkway between 78 and Savannah, Pecan/Buffalo and Veterans Plaza/Mikulski Hall into their study-** Kathy Woodlee stated that crosswalks and signalization was on hold over the summer, waited for school to return, a citizen raised concern to the mayor about Veteran/Mikulski, so the city is expanding the study with Kimley Horn.
- **Mulhouse Drive** – the city will perform a study to get a handle on this area as Mr. Starr had requested and get traffic counts, types of vehicles. This area will continue to change as Saddlebrook comes online and more folks will be new to the area and figuring out what the best route is for them. Schertz PD will continue to monitor the area, and we will report what we find.

6. **Future Agenda Items Requests from Commissioners**

- Commissioner Paul Wiley asked to see the picture of Slim Chickens corner, even as recent as two hours ago, people are still going straight when it is turn only, two signs state left turn only. Yet the streetlight has a solid green and left turn arrow. That could be construed as being able to go straight. I think that should just have an arrow only. The sign hanging

should be moved. Becomes an issue during school year when people aren't patient enough to go straight.

- Kathy Woodlee stated that this will be brought up to TxDot. Could be more paint is needed. She drives thru this area and has the issue.
- Commissioner Paul Wiley stated we have a huge culture problem, all this new construction, no one is slowing down to 55 on 35, seeing more accidents. Narrower lanes, concrete barriers, it is a nightmare. We do what we can to affect change where we can affect change.
- Commissioner Fernando Heyward stated that a lot of our studies were on hold, just wants the city to be diligent and get those started back up now that school is back in. He would also lean on his friend (Richard Dziewit) getting COP vehicle parked on some of the key area.

7. **Adjournment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Paul Wiley to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Roy Ragsdale. *Motion passed. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM by Chair Richard Dziewit.*

Attest:

Richard Dziewit, Chairperson

Tammy Lawrence, Recording Secretary