

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

ON this 16th day of November, 2011, the Amarillo Traffic Commission met at 1:30 p.m. in regular session in the City Commission Chambers on the third floor of City Hall at 509 S.E. 7th Avenue.

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	PRESENT TODAY	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE APPOINTMENT
<i>Mr. Kenneth Graham</i>	Yes	17	15
<i>Mr. Bob Balliett</i>	Yes	14	9
<i>Mr. Leon Church</i>	Yes	7	5
<i>Ms. D. J. Stubben</i>	Yes	7	7
<i>Mr. Dean Downey</i>	Yes	3	3
<i>Mr. Charlie Graham</i>	No	3	0
<i>Mr. Craig Gualtiere</i>	Yes	3	3
<i>Mr. Tiller Watson III</i>	No	3	2

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Taylor Withrow	Traffic Engineer
David Szmagalski	Traffic Operations Technician
Judy Alexander	Recording Secretary
Lt. Michael Miller	Amarillo Police Department

Commissioner Stubben established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The following items of business were conducted:

ITEM 1. Invocation.

Commissioner Stubben gave the invocation.

ITEM 2. Approval of the October 19, 2011, Amarillo Traffic Commission Minutes.

Commissioner Gualtiere made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2011, meeting. Commissioner Balliett seconded the motion, and motion carried 6:0.

ITEM 3. Traffic Engineering Study: Four Way Stop: Kingston Rd. and Granada Dr.

Mr. Withrow reported that the Traffic Engineering Department received a petition with 62 of the possible 80 property owners (77%) requesting that the intersection of Kingston Rd. and Granada Dr. be changed to a four-way stop. Kingston currently yields to Granada. The petitioners feel that a four-way stop would control traffic speeds on Granada.

Mr. Withrow stated that Kingston and Granada are both residential streets: Kingston carries 549 vehicles per day, and Granada carries 806 vehicles per day. The last recorded collision at this intersection was in January 2009 when the northbound driver failed to yield. The 85th percentile speed on Granada is 35.46 mph, which means 85% of the drivers are traveling at or below 35.46 mph. The posted speed is 30 mph.

Kingston presently stops at Fulton, yields at Granada, and stops for 45th Ave. Granada has no stops or yields along its entire length from Ridgecrest to Bell.

Traffic studies concluded that none of the warrants for a four-way stop control as described in the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices were met. As a result of the findings and in accordance with the Neighborhood Traffic Assistance Program procedures, the residents submitted a petition to have a hearing before the Amarillo Traffic Commission.

He reported Traffic Engineering Department sent out 254 notices to area property owners. Six responses were received, all in favor of the four-way stop. Mr. Withrow stated that Granada curves just east of Kingston, and the Traffic Engineering Department has received reports of accidents associated with the curve.

Commissioner Gualtiere inquired how warrants for a four-way stop are determined. Mr. Withrow stated that traffic volumes, proportion of traffic on the intersecting streets, traffic speeds, and accident history are considered. He said that an intersection would need to have had five accidents in a one-year period and have a balanced proportion of traffic on the intersecting streets to meet warrants.

Commissioner Stubben asked if anyone in the audience would like to come forward to speak.

Nancy Nenstiel, 4400 Kingston Dr., came forward and stated that she had distributed the petition for the four-way stop. She reported that on September 2 a driver, who was speeding on Granada, missed the curve and struck her home. She said that her eleven-year old daughter was home alone at the time. The accident caused approximate \$28,000 of damages to their home, and her family had to leave their home for seven weeks during reconstruction. She cited numerous accidents or near accidents at the intersection.

Andrew Don Nenstiel, 4400 Kingston Dr. appeared and gave his support for the four-way stop. He stated that visibility along the curve is not good and teenage drivers from Amarillo High School contribute to the problem.

Chad Freeman, formerly of 5408 Granada, appeared and stated he was in favor of the four-way stop. He said that a four-way stop would ease the concern of the residents somewhat.

Jean Bryan, 5412 Granada, appeared and said she has lived in the neighborhood since 1977, and the intersection has become increasingly more dangerous over the years. She supported a four-way stop or, as a minimum, a two-way stop on Granada.

Commissioner Graham inquired about other traffic calming devices other than a four-way stop. He stated the addition of a four-way stop in his neighborhood had minimal effect on traffic speeds. Mr. Withrow stated other remedies such as a round-about would involve construction, which would be at the expense of the property owners according to the Neighborhood Traffic Assistance Program procedures.

Commissioner Gualtiere made a motion to recommend installation of a four-way stop at Granada and Kingston. Commissioner Church seconded the motion, and motion carried 6:0.

Mr. Withrow stated that notification letters will be sent to property owners within 1000 feet of the intersection advising them of the date and time of the City Commission consideration of the four-way stop.

ITEM 4. Citywide Ban on Texting While Driving.

Mr. Withrow passed out a handout containing statistical information gathered from the cities of Austin, Galveston, and Stephenville concerning their ban on cell phones and texting. Also included in the handout was data received from Lt. Michael Miller with the Amarillo Police Traffic Division about other cities in Texas with a citywide cell phone and texting ban, which included El Paso, Austin, and Galveston. Also included was data from the recently adopted City of Amarillo cell phone ban in school zones.

Lt. Miller stated that a texting ban would be very difficult to enforce and prosecute, especially with the use of smart phones. He reported that contact with City of Austin personnel related that there had been only 310 citations issued for their texting ban in a two-year period.

Commissioner Graham suggested that a campaign be initiated with private businesses to encourage them to restrict their employees from texting and using cell phones while driving.

Capt. Carrel Harris, with the Amarillo Police Department Uniform Division, appeared and stated he felt that a texting ban would be difficult to enforce and suggested a campaign or educational program similar to "Share the Road" would be more beneficial.

Commissioner Balliett made a motion to table the issue until the next meeting of the Traffic Commission. Commissioner Gualtiere seconded the motion, and motion carried 6:0.

ITEM 5. Miscellaneous Discussion.

Mr. Withrow stated that there would be no meeting in December, but a meeting will be scheduled on January 18, 2012.

He said the two-way designation on Taylor St. between S.W. 13th and S.W. 15th received final approval by the City Commission.

He said he has received no contact from property owners concerning the four-way stop at Waldorf and Gainsborough, which was considered at the October 2011 meeting.

He reported that the revision of the Driveway and Parking Manual is currently under review by the Legal Department.

He reported the City Commission approved the first reading of the speed limit reduction on Coulter St., and it would take effect after final approval.

Commissioner Graham requested that the City of Amarillo research other traffic calming solutions other than the use of four-way stops. He suggested the Comprehensive Plan, which calls for small area planning, would be an appropriate means of addressing the issue.

Commissioner Gualtiere expressed his appreciation to the city staff for the installation of the pedestrian crosswalk on the south side of Georgia and 26th.

ITEM 6. Public Forum.

No comments were received by the public.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Taylor N. Withrow, Traffic Engineer