

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO**

On July 26, 2017, the Amarillo Traffic Advisory Board met at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall, 509 S.E. 7th Avenue, in the Council Chamber on the third floor for a regular meeting.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Dean Downey	No	36	33
Charlie Graham	Yes	36	21
Steve Rogers	Yes	26	21
Barbara Richardson	Yes	23	18
Adam Schaer	Yes	6	5
Alonzo Everhart	No	4	1
Scottie South	No	3	2

Also in attendance were:

David Szmagalski	Traffic Operations Technician
Michael Padilla	Traffic Field Superintendent
Judy Alexander	Recording Secretary
Ed Drain	Police Chief, Amarillo Police Department
Lt. Louis Sanchez	Amarillo Police Department

Board Member Graham gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 1: Call to Order.

Chairman Rogers established a quorum and called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Traffic Advisory Board to order at 1:35 p.m.

ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on July 12, 2017.

Motion was made by Board Member Richardson and seconded by Board Member Schaer to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2017, meeting. The motion carried 4:0.

ITEM 3: Consider a Recommendation for Contract Renewal for Photographic Traffic Enforcement (Red Light Cameras).

Members discussed the accident data provided to them and questioned the discrepancies with the accident reports submitted to the state. Michael Padilla, Traffic Field Superintendent, reported that part of the discrepancy may be due in part to the timing of the reports and to the broader definition of an intersection the Texas Department of Transportation uses.

Police Chief Ed Drain introduced himself, and he stated that he had been the Amarillo Police Chief since October 2016. He said one of the major goals of the Amarillo Police Department is to reduce the accident rate. He reported that all the accident data within the city is analyzed and sent to the Texas Department of Transportation. He stated that vehicle crashes and fatalities are higher than they should be for a city the size of Amarillo. He said he considers the

red light cameras to be a tool to be used to help reduce the accident rate. He gave assurance that he takes the reports of the camera not working properly seriously, and he said the city should require the vendor use the latest technology and provide proper maintenance and support. In his opinion, after analysis of the accident reports, consideration should be given to relocating any of the cameras to a more appropriate location.

Lt. Louis Sanchez stated that one of his duties is traffic accident data collection. He said that overall the accident rate in the city has gone up since 2013, with many accidents attributed to alcohol. When questioned about the accident rate at the intersections with the cameras, he stated that the accident rate is low at approximately half of the intersections with cameras. Only two intersections with cameras are in the list of the top twenty intersections with the most accidents: SE 10th and Taylor and Amarillo Blvd. West and Tascosa Road. He stated the intersection of Ross and I-40 South Frontal Road has had a high accident rate this year, but he attributed it to construction in the area. He reported that the Texas Department of Transportation requires accident reports for an intersection be submitted to them before red light cameras are installed and annually thereafter.

Bill Dodgin, 8801 Tarter Ave, stated that he has taught comedy defensive driving for the last twenty years. He stated that the public has an overall negative opinion of the cameras, citing them only as a revenue source. He expressed concern that the state legislature may prohibit the cameras at some point and the majority of the revenue goes to the vendor, who is based out of state.

Members discussed the payment statistics for the program. Since the inception of the program, Michael Padilla reported the payment rate has fluctuated from approximately 80% to 70% overall, with a slight reduction recently. Police Chief Drain suggested the greatest concern would be a change in payment trends; for instance, if the payment rate falls substantially. Chief Drain suggested the public should be educated about the accident rate and how the city uses revenue from the cameras only for traffic safety. He stated the funds from the program were used this year to purchase mobile radar units for the patrol vehicles.

Nicole Caan with ABC Channel 7 expressed concern about the reliability and maintenance of the cameras, as well as the discrepancies in the accident report statistics.

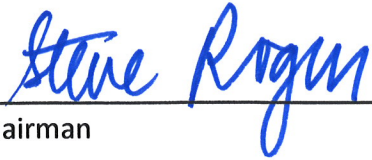
Board Member Richardson made a motion to recommend to the City Council that the contract with American Traffic Solutions be extended with certain requirements: (1) The equipment be replaced with equipment with the latest technology; (2) The vendor should maintain the cameras properly, assure their reliability, and submit maintenance reports to the city. Otherwise, another vendor should be considered for the contract; (3) The Amarillo Police Department should be consulted about the locations and numbers of the cameras. Board Member Graham seconded the motion, and motion carried 4:0.

ITEM 4: Public Forum.


There was no further comment from the public.

ITEM 5: Adjournment.

There being no further business, Board Member Schaer moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Graham, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m. This meeting was recorded and all comments are on file with the City Traffic Engineering Department.



Chairman

ATTEST:


Judy Alexander, Board Secretary