



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Capital Projects

CM/ DCM/ ACM: Mario Canizares

DATE: November 6, 2017

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion and provide direction regarding resident concerns along Hobson Street.

BACKGROUND

In the recent past City staff has received written requests from resident of the Forrestridge Neighborhood regarding safety of pedestrians at the crosswalk on Hobson Lane at Santa Monica Drive. Currently, there is a crosswalk at the intersection of Hobson Lane and Santa Monica Drive that provides pedestrian access from the Forrestridge neighborhood to the South Lakes Park.

Hobson Lane is a two lane facility that is classified as a Secondary Arterial in the City's Mobility Plan. The posted speed limit along Hobson Lane between Teasley Lane and Forrestridge Drive is 30 miles per hour (mph). This segment of Hobson Lane has considerable amount of east-west approximately 720 vehicles per hour traffic during the peak commute hour and approximately 7,900 vehicles per day. There is a striped crosswalk at the intersection of Hobson Lane and Santa Monica Drive which provides a pedestrian connection across Hobson Lane to the South Lakes Park. Per resident concerns, this crosswalk is used by students attending the McMath Middle School which is located on the north side of the South Lakes Park (see attached Location Map). Students living in the Forrestridge neighborhood cross Hobson Lane and walk through the park to McMath Middle school every morning. As such, residents are requesting review and recommendation of additional safety features at the pedestrian crosswalk.

Based on the request from the residents, staff collected traffic data at the intersections of Hobson Lane and Forrestridge Drive and Hobson Lane and Santa Monica Drive. Additionally, staff setup a camera at the intersection of Hobson Lane and Santa Monica Drive to record pedestrian activity at the existing crosswalk between the Forrestridge neighborhood and South Lakes Park. The traffic data collected at these intersections was used to conduct signal warrants analysis at both the intersections along Hobson Lane. Based on the traffic volume a signal is not warranted at the intersection of Hobson Lane and Santa Monica Drive and Hobson Lane and Forrestridge Drive. Staff observed the video footage at the intersection of Hobson Lane and Santa Monica Drive during the morning peak hour and evening peak hour (before school and after school) to determine the number of pedestrians (including students) using the crosswalk to cross Hobson Lane. There are approximately 20 to 25 pedestrian in the morning peak hour that use this crosswalk. Given the number of pedestrians currently using this crosswalk, it is recommended that additional safety features should be installed at this crosswalk.

Currently, there is advance pedestrian signage with a recommended 20 miles per hour speed limit approximately 425 feet from the crosswalk in either direction. Also, there is a pedestrian crossing sign at

the crosswalk to notify motorist about the presence of pedestrians in the travel lanes along Hobson Lane. Based on resident concerns, drivers are not responding to the existing signage and are requesting installation of additional safety features. Given the existing conditions and the review conducted by staff, it is recommended that the existing pedestrian crossing signage should be replaced with a flashing (LED) signage that can detect pedestrians and automatically start flashing to alert drivers traveling on Hobson Lane. Installation of the flashing signage will help improve safety by providing additional cue to the drivers when pedestrian are near the crosswalk. The flashing LED will also enhance the effectiveness of the pedestrian signage during the early morning hours just before sunrise during high pedestrian activity and late evening hours just after sunset.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Recommend replacement of existing pedestrian crossing signage with flashing LED pedestrian crossing signage.
2. Provide staff with additional direction

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

After identification of fund to procure and install the flashing signage it will take approximately 4 weeks to complete the project.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

N/A

FISCAL INFORMATION

At this time, funds have not been identified for this project. Staff will work with finance department to identify and allocate funds for this project. Approximate cost for installation of the flashing signage is \$15,000.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELATIONSHIP

The City of Denton's Strategic Plan is an action-oriented road map that will help the City achieve its vision. The foundation for the plan is the five long-term Key Focus Areas (KFA): Organizational Excellence; Public Infrastructure; Economic Development; Safe, Livable, and Family-Friendly Community; and Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. While individual items may support multiple KFAs, this specific City Council agenda item contributes most directly to the following KFA and goal:

Related Key Focus Area: **Public Infrastructure**
Related Goal: **4.1 Enhance public safety**

EXHIBITS

1. AIS
2. Location Map
3. Resident letters
4. Sample Flashing (LED) Signage

Respectfully submitted:
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Traffic Engineer