

# TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION ITEM

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action on a request to reduce the speed limit on

Dietz Elkhorn(west) to 30 mph

DATE: February 26, 2025

REQUESTER Geri Pieper, Resident

Request received: November 30, 2024

### **REQUEST**

## **Location/Situation for Review and Description of Concerns**

This request is for lowering the speed limit on Dietz Elkhorn west to 30 mph, between Fair Oaks Parkway and Old Fredericksburg Road, making this portion consistent with the speed limit on Dietz Elkhorn east.

With the reduction in the speed limit, our hope is to keep drivers traveling at a safer speed to protect themselves as well as the wildlife in this area. It would also assist those of us on this stretch of road when exiting our property during peak hours. s provided by submittal

#### **Desired Outcome/Resolution**

Lower the speed limit to reduce speeds.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

#### **Public Works Comments**

Dietz Elkhorn (west) was reduced to 35 mph to allow for golf carts. Note that once Dietz Elkhorn (east) is reconstructed with wider shoulders to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and space for golf carts to pull over and let vehicles pass, the City Council may consider raising the Dietz Elkhorn (east) speed limit to 35 mph to match Dietz Elkhorn (west). **The City Council has had no discussion on this option.** 

## **Public Safety Comments**

This road is one of the heaviest patrolled and speed enforced in the City. There have been no reported collisions because of excessive speed.

#### **EXHIBIT A**

## COMMITTEE ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

## February 5, 2025 - TSAC Meeting

At the podium, Ms. Pieper stated consistency on Dietz Elkhorn Road would be appreciated. Members discussed:

- 1. State speed limit requirements for golf carts.
- 2. State recommends speed limits be set at the 85% percentile (speed study in FY2020/21, the 85% percentile was reported to be 37-38 mph).
- 3. Police confirmed no accidents reported due to excessive speed. Acceleration of the downhill driving was monitored to be roughly 41-42 mph.
- 4. The curve on Dietz Elkhorn before Van Raub Elementary School.
- 5. Having speed limit consistency on Dietz Elkhorn.
- 6. Requesting police staff to provide speed limit and vehicle number data at a future meeting.

Recommend amending the speed limit on Dietz Elkhorn from Old Fredericksburg Road and the Parkway to 30 mph. (No second)

Recommend to City Council the speed limit remain the same at 35 mph. (Failed; 2-3)

Recommend revising the speed limit from Old Fredericksburg Road and Van Raub Elementary School to 30 mph. (No second)

Recommend the Committee postpone the item and <u>request the Police Chief to bring existing</u> <u>data</u> concerning the number of citations and speed. (Passed; 4-1)

#### February 26, 2025

On February 6, a follow up email (below) sent by Ms. Pieper was received by staff amending the location placement of the radar feedback devices. Chairperson Schmidt requested inclusion in this agenda.

The Committee's requested data from February 6 meeting is provided below.

Recommend City Council direct staff to move the radar feedback signs from Noble Lark and Kalkallo Drives to the portion of Dietz Elkhorn Road between Old San Antonio Road and Square Gate and that public works collect traffic volume and speed data until 30 April 2025 and present results to TSAC on May 7, 2025.

#### **EXHIBIT A**

#### **FEBRUARY 6 EMAIL**

From: geri pieper

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 2:51 PM

Subject: Amendment to Tabled Agenda Topic Item 2 "Consideration and possible action on a

request to reduce the speed limit on Dietz Elkhorn (west) to 30mph"

With the above agenda item being tabled, I would like to provide clarification and additional information for the Committee's consideration when this item is brought up at the next meeting.

It appeared my initial request to reduce the speed on Dietz Elkhorn Road from Old Fredericksburg Road to Fair Oaks Parkway was too cumbersome or vague. Accordingly, I amend the request for lowering the speed limit on Dietz Elkhorn west to 30 mph, between the 4-way stop at Old Fredericksburg Road and the 4-way stop at Square Gate. This stretch of road is only 7/10th of one mile.

Currently, along this 7/10th of a mile, there are two yellow caution signs suggesting 30 mph for an upcoming curve. There are 18 points of ingress/egress. Additionally, new apartments are scheduled to begin construction this summer which will add one or two points of ingress/egress directly across the road from my next door neighbors' home. There is also the Spring Creek United Methodist Church where the City and HOAs hold meetings, the soccer field with lights for night use, the Vantage apartments, and the "back gate" to Front Gate.

Just past the 4-way stop at Square Gate/Dietz Elkhorn west is Van Raub Elementary School. And just past the 4-way stop at Old Fred Road/Dietz Elkhorn west is the newly built H-E-B which I'm sure a high percentage of Fair Oaks Ranch residents have visited by way of Dietz Elkhorn Road. This road is shared not only with daily (twice, thrice, etc.) passenger vehicles, but also with large commercial vehicles, golf carts, cyclists, runners and walkers, and Wildlife. I would like to see all these users live in harmony with each other and protect the does and their fawns which will be born beginning April, and all wildlife.

As a comparison and for your information, the default speed limit in San Antonio is 30mph. District 7 council member Marina Alderete Gavito released a council consideration request Jan. 29, 2025, to reduce the default speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph, especially in neighborhoods within a quarter-mile radius of schools, community centers, and parks.

We all know this is a highly trafficked area. It is common sense not to wait for an accident to happen. It is also common sense to be proactive, not reactive. I trust in this Committee's common sense in their understanding 30mph is not unreasonable. Slower traffic saves lives. Thank you for your consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Kind regards, Geri Pieper

# **EXHIBIT A**

# **Traffic Stops**

# Aug. 1, 2024 - Feb. 6, 2025

# 8000-9200 Blk Dietz Elkhorn Rd

Speeding (In School Zone) Speeding (Outside School Zone)

Total Stops: 19 Total Stops: 121

Citations: 9 Citations: 22

Warnings: 10 Warnings: 99