TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT ITEM
CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Request to address crosswalk issues at the intersection of Dietz Elkhorn Road and Square Gate

DATE: February 5, 2025

REQUESTER: Theresa Matlock

PRESENTER: Clint Koerperich, Maintenance Supervisor and Tom Smith, Chief of Police

REQUEST

Location/Situation for Review and Description of Concerns

Dietz Elkhorn Road at Square Gate (the entrance to the Front Gate neighborhood) is a four way stop that has two crosswalks that connect the school children of Van Raub elementary and its sidewalk with pedestrian access to the Front Gate and Elkhorn Ridge neighborhoods. The crosswalks are highly used during school hours (weekdays from 7 am-7:45 am and 3pm-3:30 pm). Currently, drivers are failing to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks. There have been many near miss collisions between drivers and pedestrians. These near misses will produce a fatality if the safety hazards of these intersection crosswalks are not addressed. The school zone for Van Raub elementary currently begins just east of, and not including this intersection. There are no signs to drivers indicating this is a crosswalk other than the faded painted white stripes on the road, which at the time of this request are still not reflective enough for drivers to see well despite a recent re-painting done by a crew this past week. Fair Oaks Ranch police department and Van Raub elementary school do not have a policy in place to provide crossing guards to these crosswalks during school hours. Fair Oaks Ranch elementary school, also located on Dietz Elkhorn Road to the east, currently has a policy for police crossing guards, and has neon signs indicating their school crosswalk to drivers.

Desired Outcome/Resolution

There needs to be a policy that provides Van Raub elementary school with Fair Oaks Ranch police department school crossing guards, such as currently exists for Fair Oaks Ranch elementary school. The school zone and its signage, including flashing yellow lights with a reduced speed limit of 20 MPH, needs to be extended west on Dietz Elkhorn Road to include this school crossing intersection. There needs to be large neon signage both westbound and eastbound on Dietz Elkhorn Road and Front Square/Elkhorn Ridge that indicates this intersection is a school crossing. The white crosswalk lines need to be painted on the street in a way that is reflective and visible to drivers in low light conditions and raised up. These proposals should be in place immediately as well as ongoing monitoring of the safety of this intersection for drivers and pedestrians. There should be redundant safety measures in place for this crosswalk such as a raised crosswalk with lights that flash to drivers to indicate pedestrians present, as well as flags for pedestrians to use while crossing during non-school hours.

STAFF REPORT

Public Works Comments

1. The crosswalk ahead signs have been installed.

2. At the crosswalk, there is currently a stop ahead sign which slows vehicles down. Additionally, there is a LED flashing stop sign which stops traffic at the crosswalk.

3. The recommendation to move the west school zone sign will lower the speed limit for approximately 300 feet. A new concrete footer would need to be poured if the sign is moved. Other improvements that have been made should address this concern.

4. The crosswalk was repainted by staff with a retro-reflective additive. As noted, it did not hold up to traffic. For improvements, it would be best to apply a thermoplastic reflective paint through contract services. Staff is currently requesting pricing as this is an unfunded task.

5. Being a major thoroughfare, an elevated crosswalk is not recommended.

SW24-2 (CA)

Public Safety Comments

1. Two portable crosswalk signs with the intention for them to be placed by police officers or the SRO during drop-off and pick-up times have been purchased. Usage and placement of said will be reported on at the meeting.

2. The school crossing guard suggestion is currently being vetted.