



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

AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action on traffic and pedestrian improvements at the intersection of Fair Oaks Parkway and Front Gate (eastbound traffic)

DATE: February 5, 2025

REQUESTER: Harold Prasatik, Resident

REQUEST

Location/Situation for Review and Description of Concerns

Item Three (Eastbound on FOP): Because the intersection of Fair Oaks Parkway (FOP) and Front Gate appears to be one of the busiest intersections within the interior of FOR in my estimation, special attention is warranted. There are over 500 homes in Front Gate from which vehicles exit via Front Gate (south) or Square Gate (north). I am submitting three forms. This third form focuses on FOP eastbound traffic.

1. Eastbound drivers on FOP at night have difficulty in locating the intersection at night. The Front Gate street sign is on the opposite side of the Front Gate entrance, making it difficult to see the street sign even during the day. This busy intersection doesn't even have the tiniest of reflectors to help locate the intersection at night.
2. Travelling east on FOP at the speed of 35 mph, and with no visible street sign at the intersection, especially at night, a vehicle may suddenly slow to turn left or may stop to avoid vehicles already in the median. There is a sign indicating the neighborhood is ahead in the distance, but nothing at the intersection.
3. As eastbound vehicles pause at the intersection to await their opportunity to turn left or stopped behind others, some drivers become impatient and drive around stopped traffic onto the shoulder of FOP (and part of the ditch) to avoid waiting. This is especially dangerous if a vehicle from Front Gate manages to make a left turn onto FOP. It can also be dangerous if one of the paused vehicles moves forward on FOP at the same time a shoulder/ditch driver is making a move.
4. With fast eastbound traffic and no signage, how does a pedestrian negotiate this intersection?

Desired Outcome/Resolution

1. This intersection deserves a full traffic study given the high volume of traffic and difficult issues.
2. Slow the traffic on FOP to 30 mph to help drivers better negotiate these difficult situations.
3. Clearly mark the intersection so that drivers know where it is, especially at night.
4. Consider installing stop signs for all directions at this intersection (like at Square Gate/Deitz).

5. Consider adding a turn lane onto Front Gate for eastbound FOP traffic by widening FOP at this intersection.
6. Devise a way to keep eastbound FOP traffic from driving on the shoulder and in the ditch.
7. Consider better signage for pedestrian crossing in any of the directions at the intersection.

STAFF REPORT

Public Works Comments

1. In accordance with TxDot standards, Front Gate sign is appropriately placed. Sign messaging can be improved with the use of larger lettering and utilizing "intersection warning" verbiage.
2. Raised pavement markings can be installed in the median.
3. Consider utilizing "suggested speed limit" signs vs lowering the speed limit.
4. An all-way stop sign would potentially cause more congestion for Fair Oaks Parkway traffic.
5. Pedestrian crossing on Fair Oaks Parkway is not encouraged due to traffic volume.

A traffic study would be needed to determine if a dedicated left-turn is warranted.

Public Safety Comments

As with the previous requests concerning this intersection, the concern lies with prioritizing the flow of traffic and not creating more congestion. A construction project to redesign this intersection would contribute to congestion and extended closures of this roadway.

It is legal to pass on a shoulder. It typically occurs when the turn lane in a median is blocked. Undertaking a project of enlarging the median and/or widening the road to accommodate another lane of traffic would be much more concerning than the occasional car using the shoulder to pass.

Estimated Costs, including but not limited to, required studies / analysis

Improved sign messaging and RPM's (PW comments items 1 and 2) can be done and within the fiscal year budget.

COMMITTEE ACTION / MOTION

I move to recommend