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

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AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action on closing Noble Lark at Dietz Elkhorn, creating a right turn from Noble Lark onto Dietz Elkhorn, designate walking lanes, or perform a street expansion

DATE: February 26, 2025

REQUESTER Marc Friberg and Brandi Bayer-Friberg, Residents

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**REQUEST**

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

Noble Lark Drive and Kalkallo has an increase in road traffic due to use of residential road as a pass through from collector / main city thoroughfares. We have been utilizing an electronic traffic counter acquired from Telraam Citizen Data to collect data related to increase in traffic flow on our streets since the city re-opened Noble Lark Drive. We live between the intersection of Kalkallo and Noble Lark, before you arrive at Dietz-Elkhorn, and we have collected the following data for that section of road (see attached letter to the City Council):

Between October 1st and December 16th, our section of Noble Lark has seen a total of 26,150 vehicles (22,143 cars and 4,007 heavy vehicles, which includes trucks, pickup trucks, delivery vans, and large SUVs). For weekdays, we have averaged over 450 vehicles per day, not counting evening traffic. Weekend traffic averages are 130 vehicles per day. That same period has seen 2,114 pedestrian walkers and 635 bicycles. Most of the traffic counts occur during school drop-off and pickup hours. For perspective, according to Boerne ISD enrollment data, prior to school re-zoning in 2023, the residents of the Woods had 37 children attending Van Raab Elementary. The traffic is clearly coming from elsewhere.

We are not qualified to speak as to whether these traffic counts are what is typically expected on a "Local Neighborhood Street" but we are sharing them for the committee's consideration. From our perspective, these counts seem high for what should be expected for a neighborhood street with high use for walking/biking by residents and their children. We believe it should be addressed. Speed limits have been lowered but the change has not impacted vehicle volume and the safety concerns related to it.

**Desired Outcome/Resolution**

Return to the original city and engineering consultant recommendation for street closure, or in the alternative, a right turn only provision for Noble Lark turning onto Dietz Elkhorn. If neither of these solutions are advisable by the committee, designated walking lanes or street expansion should be considered.

We also desire an understanding why a recommendation for closure due to volume of traffic is no longer seen as necessary for safety of the street's residents.

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **Public Works Comments**

Attached are the Noble Lark Drive Traffic Engineer Study (Exhibit A) and the Noble Lark Drive Closure Analysis (Exhibit B) presented at the June 20, 2024 City Council meeting. The presentation provided:

1. Various traffic count results along with pre- and post-travel times.
2. Key study considerations.
3. Drone footage.
4. Pro and cons of available alternatives with cost estimates for closing access at or re-opening Noble Lark Drive.
5. Reasons for recommending closure.

After City Council discussion, Council directed staff to present an ordinance closing the access to and from Noble Lark Drive and Dietz Elkhorn Road. On July 18, 2024, City Council at the first reading of an ordinance closing the intersection, the Council voted to postpone this consideration indefinitely.

### **Public Safety Comments**

We are aware of the concerns for Noble Lark and Kalkallo. The noted times of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. during the week experiences a significant increase in vehicular traffic, both on these streets and for every intersection within the city limits, especially during the school year. We do not recommend the closing of any streets at this time, as removing the ability for travelers to move freely will add to the congestion and create new challenges.

There have been no reported collisions on these streets because of congestion or excessive speed.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION/RECOMMENDATION**

I move to recommend ....