



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS
 TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC ADVISORY
 BOARD MEETING
 TEJAS ROOM
 550 LANDA STREET**



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM

AGENDA

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. **ROLL CALL**
- 3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A) Approval of the minutes of the January 11th, 2024 Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board meeting. [24-216](#)

4. **CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS**

This time is for citizens to address the Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board on issues and items of concerns not on this agenda. There will be no Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board action at this time.

- 5. **PRESENTATIONS**
 - A) Presentation on the Street Safety Action Plan. [24-206](#)
 - B) Presentation on Bikeway Selection. [24-213](#)
- 6. **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**
 - A) Discuss and consider a recommendation to City Council to implement a traffic calming plan on Willowbrook. [24-211](#)

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above Notice of Meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the New Braunfels City Hall.

 Board Liaison

NOTE: Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, or large print, are requested to contact the City Secretary's Office at 221-4010 at least two (2) work days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.



Transportation & Traffic Advisory Board Agenda Item Report

550 Landa Street
New Braunfels, TX

2/15/2024

Agenda Item No. A)

**DRAFT - MINUTES
OF THE NEW BRAUNFELS TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024**

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kirkham called the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Arthur Brinkkoeter, Ernesto Rodriguez, Gary Kirkham, Michael Yoder, Michael Dietert, Garrett Mechler. The following members were absent: Ron Munyan

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Approval of the minutes of the November 16th, 2023
Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board meeting.

Mike Dietert made a motion to accept the November 16, 2023, minutes as written. Michael Yoder seconded the motion. All in favor.

4. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS

This time is for citizens to address the Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board on issues and items of concerns not on this agenda. There will be no Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board action at this time.

None.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A) Presentation on the role of the Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board as the City of New Braunfels Street Safety Action Plan Task Force.

Carly Farmer went over the New Braunfels Street Safety Action Plan Task Force and how it will help in the safety of the city streets. She said City of New Braunfels City Council appointed the Transportation & Traffic Advisory Board to serve as the Street Safety Action Plan Task Force. Gary Kirkham asked if this would help us use more traffic calming tools. Carly will let us have more information soon.

B) Presentation and discussion on alternative traffic calming measures on Lazy Trail, E Zink Street, and Benelli Drive.

Carly Farmer presented and explained how we are going to look at the

big picture and standardize the projects. After going over the items to request speed humps to control speed and all failed, she showed how striping and signage would help control traffic issues. Then she showed us examples on the items we went over months ago. They were Lazy Trail, E. Zink St., and Benelli Drive. She showed us how the striping and crosswalks and signage would help slow down the speeding problems.

After the presentations, we let the public to express their thoughts and Eric Nelson agreed on the striping on these three items. He feels it would help on the speeding complaints. Daniel also agreed on the proposal.

Art mentioned that he would like to see these items be done like Carly showed. He felt like after the striping and signage is done, then we could see if this would work and may be able to learn off of the residents if it helped. It would also help even after we implement it with the Street Safety Action Plan Task Force. Chairman asked the rest of the board and they all agreed but Garrett had a few questions. Garrett also asked if maybe we should wait and see how the task force would help. He didn't want to spend the money on the items and then find out the task force would give us better tools to use. Sarah Miller would like to see traffic calming items to be done now and not later.

6. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A) Discuss and consider approval of the 2024 calendar for the Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board meetings.

Carly Farmer presented the Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board meeting calendar but suggested changing the February meeting date. Gary made a motion to accept the calendar with the condition that the February 8th meeting be moved to February 15th, Ernesto seconded, all in favor.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Board member Dietert motioned to adjourn. Board member Yoder seconded the motion.
The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

By: _____
GARY KIRKHAM, CHAIR

Attest:

CARLY FARMER, BOARD LIAISON



Transportation & Traffic Advisory Board Agenda Item Report

550 Landa Street
New Braunfels, TX

2/15/2024

Agenda Item No. A)

PRESENTER:

Garry Ford, Transportation & Capital Improvements Director

SUBJECT:

Presentation on the Street Safety Action Plan.



Transportation & Traffic Advisory Board Agenda Item Report

550 Landa Street
New Braunfels, TX

2/15/2024

Agenda Item No. B)

PRESENTER:

Garry Ford, Transportation & Capital Improvements Director

SUBJECT:

Presentation on Bikeway Selection.

2/15/2024

Agenda Item No. A)

PRESENTER:

Carly Farmer, Engineer

SUBJECT:

Discuss and consider a recommendation to City Council to implement a traffic calming plan on Willowbrook.

DEPARTMENT: Transportation and Capital Improvements**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** 5**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Since 2021, staff has received 15 traffic safety requests from residents in August Fields, the majority being speeding and cut-through traffic related concerns on Willowbrook. Willowbrook is a local residential street in the August Fields subdivision, which is located between FM 1101 and Alves Lane. Willowbrook runs from FM 1101 to Split Rock Road. It is a popular cut-through route because it is the only roadway linking FM 1101 and Alves Lane between SH 46 and Barbarosa Road. The posted speed limit in August Fields is 30 mph and none of the streets are classified on the 2012 City of New Braunfels Throughfare Plan.

Of the 15 requests submitted, 8 were specifically for speed humps. The City of New Braunfels Speed Hump Policy approved in 1999 requires a petition be submitted with signatures from two-thirds of the properties adjacent to the street segment on which speed humps are requested. For each request, the speed hump application with petition was provided to the requester. Some petitions were returned with signatures, but to date staff has not received a completed petition meeting the two-thirds requirement. Because the August Fields subdivision is still under construction, a portion of the homes in the neighborhood and on Willowbrook are unbuilt, unoccupied, and/or still owned by the home builder. This makes obtaining adequate signatures challenging. An operational requirement in the policy is that the 85th percentile speed must be at least 5 miles per hour over the regulatory speed limit of 30 mph. Traffic data collected over 24 hours in 2022 showed the 85th percentile speed of 31 mph which does not meet the speed criteria in the Speed Hump Policy. Additionally, the volume requirement in the approved speed hump policy is a daily traffic volume of at least 800 vehicles per day (vpd). The traffic data collected measured 1,579 vpd. Staff would not be able to recommend speed humps under the requirements of the Speed Hump Policy, but the high volume surpasses the 1,000 vpd maximum design volume for a local residential street due to the high cut-through traffic coming from FM 1101 and Alves Ln. Traffic congestion on SH 46 and Barbarosa Road cause drivers to seek alternative routes, and Willowbrook is currently the only option. Most neighborhoods evaluated for speed humps have 85th percentile speeds measured at around 25 mph, so although the speeds on Willowbrook do not meet Speed Hump Policy criteria, an 85th percentile speed of 31 mph is significant.

The City of New Braunfels is in the process of creating its Street Safety Action Plan. This plan will make recommendations for new policies, programs, and projects to achieve the goal of ending severe and fatal

roadway crashes on the City of New Braunfels Roads. City staff recognizes that the current 1999 Speed Hump Policy being the lone traffic calming procedure is insufficient for evaluation of neighborhood traffic speeding concerns. Part of the Street Safety Action Plan initiative will be recommendations on updates to the speed hump policy, default speed limits in residential areas, and additional traffic calming measures with objective evaluation criteria that city staff can implement when investigating speeding and safety concerns on residential streets.

Based on the volume of concerns and requests received over the last few years, the documented high cut-through traffic volumes, and the higher than average 85th percentile speed in a residential area, city staff drafted a traffic calming plan for the entirety of Willowbrook that includes methods such as speed humps, but also incorporates a raised pedestrian crossing, mini traffic circle, and neck down. City staff aims to present the traffic calming plan and give the community an opportunity to provide public comment without the constraints of the petition process. With no dedicated funding for traffic calming this fiscal year outside of the annual speed hump budget, the city cannot implement the entire plan until more funding is identified or budgeted for. However, using the existing speed hump fund, the city may proceed with installing the speed hump and neck down portion of the plan this fiscal year.

Because of the subdivision layout in August Fields, other streets in the neighborhood may also be experiencing impacts from cut-through traffic, and these impacts may change with the implementation of the traffic calming plan on Willowbrook. City staff will monitor the traffic conditions on these streets and determine if further mitigations are warranted.

ISSUE:

Residents have requested traffic calming be installed on Willowbrook due to speeding and safety concerns about cut-through traffic.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City has specific funding for the installation of traffic calming. Installation of speed humps including speed cushions, signing and pavement markings at three locations and one neck down cost approximately \$32,000. There is sufficient funding in the FY 2024 Streets and Drainage budget. Staff will seek additional funding of the remaining items in future budget cycles.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the traffic calming plan on Willowbrook to be installed in phases as funding is available.

Traffic Requests

2021-019 No parking zone on Willowbrook at FM 1101 because of parking/idling for school pick-up

- No parking, stopping, standing approved and installed

2021-060 Sight distance concern on Shepherd Path

- Determined not to be a sight distance issue and closed

2022-216 Cut through traffic concerns

- Updated resident on status of Brook Avenue extension

2022-218 Speed humps on Willowbrook

- No petition received

2022-240 Speed humps on Willowbrook

- No petition received

2022-417 Speed humps on Willowbrook

- No petition received

2022-434 Parking compliance complaint and speed humps on Willowbrook

- No petition received
- Police informed of enforcement need

2022-1170 Speed humps and 20 mph speed limit on Willowbrook

- No petition received
- Data collected for speed limit request; not recommended based on 85th percentile speed

2022-1764 Lower speed limit on Willowbrook

- Not recommended based on 85th percentile speed

2022-1766 Lower speed limit on Willowbrook

- Not recommended based on 85th percentile speed

2023-3871 Speed Humps on Willowbrook

- Signed petition; not enough signatures

2023-5151 Pedestrian crossing on Willowbrook because of speeding

- City began work on traffic calming plan for Willowbrook

2023-5577 Speed humps on Shepherd Path

- Signed petition; not enough signatures

2023-5579 Speed humps on Leonie Way

- Signed petition; not enough signatures

2024-429 AWSC and pedestrian crossing on Willowbrook because of speeding

- City presenting traffic calming plan for Willowbrook at the February 15, 2024 Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board meeting

Willowbrook Traffic Calming Plan



