



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



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) Approval of the minutes of the October 19th, 2023 [23-1549](#)
Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board meeting.

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 and update on New Braunfels Public [23-1552](#)
Transit.
- B) Presentation and update on New Braunfels Capital [23-1553](#)
Projects.

6. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A) Discuss and consider a recommendation to City Council [23-1550](#)
to amend Section 126-346 of the Code of Ordinances of
the City of New Braunfels to establish a no parking zone
on both sides of Comal Creek Trail between Springs
Nursery.
- B) Discuss and consider a recommendation to City Council [23-1551](#)
to reduce the speed limit within the White Wing
subdivision.

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 and Traffic Advisory Board Agenda Item Report

550 Landa Street
New Braunfels, TX

11/16/2023

Agenda Item No. A)



TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2023

Members Present:

Arthur Brinkkoeter
Gary Kirkham

Ernesto Rodriguez
Michael Yoder

Members Absent:

Garrett Mechler
Michael Dietert

Ron Munyan

Staff Present:

Garry Ford
Carly Farmer

Evin Wilson
Jessica Perry

Citizens Present:

Will Goleman
Kristin Goleman
Stella Goodwin
Morgan Goodwin
Yiri Goodwin

David Bempolad
Jonathan Aloroa
Wade Goodwin
Jacob Lopez

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – called to order @ 6:03pm
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ernesto Rodriguez made a motion to accept minutes as written. Michael Yoder seconded the motion. All in favor.

4. **CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS**

Jonathan Aloroa said he would like to see Voss Farm areas bike lanes finished or extended.

5. **PRESENTATION**

(A) Presentation on Vision Zero Program.

Garry Ford explained the Vision Zero Program, that City, PD, Stakeholders, FD and others have formed. It is designed to reduce all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. There will be a meeting on November 15th in the afternoon @NBPD training room. Check the newspaper or radio for more information.

6. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A) Discuss and consider a recommendation to City Council to install speed humps on E Zink Street.

Carly Farmer explained this request for speed humps on E. Zink Street @ Seguin Avenue to the eastern intersection at N. Market St. Then William Golman said that many people accelerate when leaving the rental places. He said the engine noise and tire squealing is a real problem and he would like to see speed humps. He also pointed out that they act like they have drank too much alcohol. Wade Goodwin says traffic is very heavy during the summertime and also Wurst fest and County Parade. Jonathan asked if there would be a transit system to bring people to the tube rentals and keep from all these cars coming in. Art made a motion to see if staff could look into other ideas like street markings or narrow the lanes w/markings instead of speed humps and able to take to council. Gary 2nd the motion, all in favor.

B) Discuss and consider a recommendation to City Council to amend Section 126-346 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of New Braunfels to establish a no parking zone on the north side of Fair Lane adjacent to River Acres Park.

Carly Farmer explained this item and after some discussion, Kirkham made a motion to go with staff recommendation to install permanent no parking zone on the north side of Fair Ln. adjacent to River Acres Park. Yoder 2nd and all in favor.

C) Discuss and consider a recommendation to City Council to create Section 126-153 to set the speed limit on Goodwin Lane and Conrads Lane.

Carly Farmer went over this item and explained that the speed limit change is recommended. Jonathon Aloroa said he would like to see a lower speed limit always thru Goodwin and also Conrad Lane. Ernesto made a motion to go with staff recommending that the Goodwin Lane be set at 35 mph always from FM306 to southern intersection @ Conrad Lane North and Conrads Lane from IH35 to FM1102 be 40 mph. Kirkham 2nd the motion. Art, Ernesto, Gary said yes and Michael no pass.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourn at 7:19 PM

Next meeting will be 16th, the 3rd Thursday in November at 6:00 PM.



Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board Agenda Item Report

550 Landa Street
New Braunfels, TX

11/16/2023

Agenda Item No. A)

PRESENTER:

Carly Farmer, Engineer

SUBJECT:

Presentation and update on New Braunfels Public Transit.

DEPARTMENT: Transportation & Capital Improvements

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Staff will provide an update on New Braunfels Public Transit.



Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board Agenda Item Report

550 Landa Street
New Braunfels, TX

11/16/2023

Agenda Item No. B)

PRESENTER:

Carly Farmer, Engineer

SUBJECT:

Presentation and update on New Braunfels Capital Projects.

DEPARTMENT: Transportation and Capital Improvements

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Staff will provide an update on Capital Projects.

11/16/2023

Agenda Item No. A)

PRESENTER:

Carly Farmer, Engineer

SUBJECT:

Discuss and consider a recommendation to City Council to amend Section 126-346 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of New Braunfels to establish a no parking zone on both sides of Comal Creek Trail between Springs Nursery.

DEPARTMENT: Transportation and Capital Improvements

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: 1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Transportation Division received a request from the Town Creek POA Safety Committee to restrict on-street parking along both sides of Comal Creek Trail between Springs Nursery. The reason for the request is the pavement width is difficult to navigate when vehicles are parked on-street. The request was reviewed in accordance with the City of New Braunfels Code of Ordinances and the International Fire Code which identify pavement width requirements for through traffic and emergency vehicle response.

Comal Creek Trail and Springs Nursery are local streets in the Town Creek Subdivision. The speed limit is 30 mph and posted on Academy Avenue. Springs Nursery and Comal Creek Trail between Springs Nursery are one-way streets. This one-way loop has a pavement width of 18 feet, measured from curb to curb. The street area layout is shown in Figure 1. Town Creek subdivision is zoned as Planned Development District, and the development standards were first approved in 2007 and updated in 2021.

Site investigations were conducted in this area in July 2023. Staff did not observe any parked vehicles on Comal Creek Trail between northbound and southbound Springs Nursery. Staff received photos from the Town Creek POA Safety Committee showing parked vehicles in the requested area and a video showing a large truck having difficulties maneuvering the intersection of Springs Nursery and Comal Creek Trail. Staff took measurements of the pavement width where vehicles were parked and determined that the pavement width is adequate to support one-way through traffic and emergency vehicles response while vehicles are parked on-street.

Staff reached out to the City of New Braunfels Solid Waste and Recycling Division and the Fire Department regarding the impact of the pavement width and parked vehicles on access and city services. The Solid Waste manager reported that there hasn't been any issue with collection. Staff coordinated with the Fire Department to have a fire response ladder truck on site in order to simulate navigating a fire apparatus down the one-way loop when vehicles are parked on-street. The Fire Department staff noted that some of the older model fire apparatus with tighter turning radius will not be able to make the turns on to and off of Springs Nursery while vehicles are

parked on Comal Creek Trail near Springs Nursery.

Traffic crash data was found through TxDOT's Crash Records Information System. From August 2020 through August 2023 there were zero reported crashes in the requested no parking area. In August 2023, a crash was reported to staff by the Town Creek POA Safety Committee. A vehicle traveling southbound on the western segment of Springs Nursery crashed into a parked vehicle near the intersection with Comal Creek Trail. The crash was not reported to the New Braunfels Police Department.

ISSUE:

A POA requested a no parking zone on Comal Creek Trail because of safety concerns due to on-street parking.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Traffic control signs cost approximately \$150 each. Sufficient funding is available in the FY 23-24 approved streets and drainage budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the site investigation and feedback from Fire Department personnel, it is recommended to restrict parking on both sides of Comal Creek Trail from the eastern intersection with Springs Nursery westerly for a distance of 100 feet. Restricting on-street parking in the area would allow Fire Department personnel to navigate their equipment through the tight intersections unobstructed when responding to an emergency situation.



— Proposed No Parking Zone

Sec. 126-346. - Stopping, standing or parking prohibited in specified places.

(f) No person shall park or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, in the following locations:

(149) On both sides of Comal Creek Trail from the eastern intersection with Springs Nursery westerly for a distance of 100 feet.

11/16/2023

Agenda Item No. B)

PRESENTER:

Carly Farmer, Engineer

SUBJECT:

Discuss and consider a recommendation to City Council to reduce the speed limit within the White Wing subdivision.

DEPARTMENT: Transportation and Capital Improvements**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** 2**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Staff received a request to lower the speed limit within the White Wing subdivision from the existing posted 30 mph to 25 mph. White Wing is a subdivision located off the south side of Klein Road between S Walnut Avenue and FM 725.

Speed limits on Texas roads, including city streets, are set by statute in Section 545.352 of the Texas Transportation Code. The current speed limit on most city residential streets is 30 mph. The statute includes the following prima facie speed limits:

- Street in Urban District - 30 mph
- Alley in Urban District - 15 mph

Speed limits are set to inform motorists of appropriate driving speeds under favorable conditions. Regardless of the posted speed limit some drivers will operate at speeds where they feel comfortable, given the design of the road and development/activity along the roadside. The overall goal of setting the speed limit is almost always to increase safety within the context of retaining reasonable mobility for motorists.

Traffic data collection, review of crash history, and a site investigation were conducted for Benelli Drive within the White Wing subdivision in April 2023. The results of the traffic data collection are shown in the attached traffic study summary. There were no reported crashes within the entire subdivision for 2020 through October 2023.

The site investigation found the roadside environment includes single-family residences along each local road with on-street parking available. There is some pedestrian activity within the subdivision, with sidewalks located on both sides of each street. A community playground was recently constructed along Benelli Drive near the intersection with Ruger Path.

Based on the site investigation and collected speed data, it is recommended that the regulatory speed limit

within the White Wing subdivision be maintained at 30 mph at this time. It is important to note that national and local research and data have shown that reducing the posted speed limit has little to no effect in reducing operating speeds.

The only instance in which a city may lower a speed limit without a traffic study, to as low as 25 miles per hour, is if the road is in an urban district, is less than four lanes, and is not a state highway.

ISSUE:

The White Wing HOA has contacted the city with a request to reduce the speed limit in the White Wings Subdivision due to speeding and safety concerns.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Traffic control signs cost approximately \$150 each. Sufficient funding is available in the FY 2024 approved streets and drainage budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends maintaining the existing 30 mph speed limit throughout the White Wing subdivision at this time.

Traffic Study Summary

Date:	November 8, 2023
Request:	Lower existing 30 mph speed limit in White Wing to 25 mph
Recommendation:	Retain existing 30 mph speed limit in White Wing based on current speeds

Background

The statutory maximum speed limit in the City of New Braunfels is 30 miles per hour (mph) except where otherwise established by ordinance and posted by official traffic signs. White Wing is a subdivision located off the south side of Klein Road between S Walnut Avenue and FM 725. The speed limit throughout the subdivision is 30 mph, and each street has sidewalks on both sides. White Wing has direct connection to Klein Road where the posted speed limit is 30 mph.

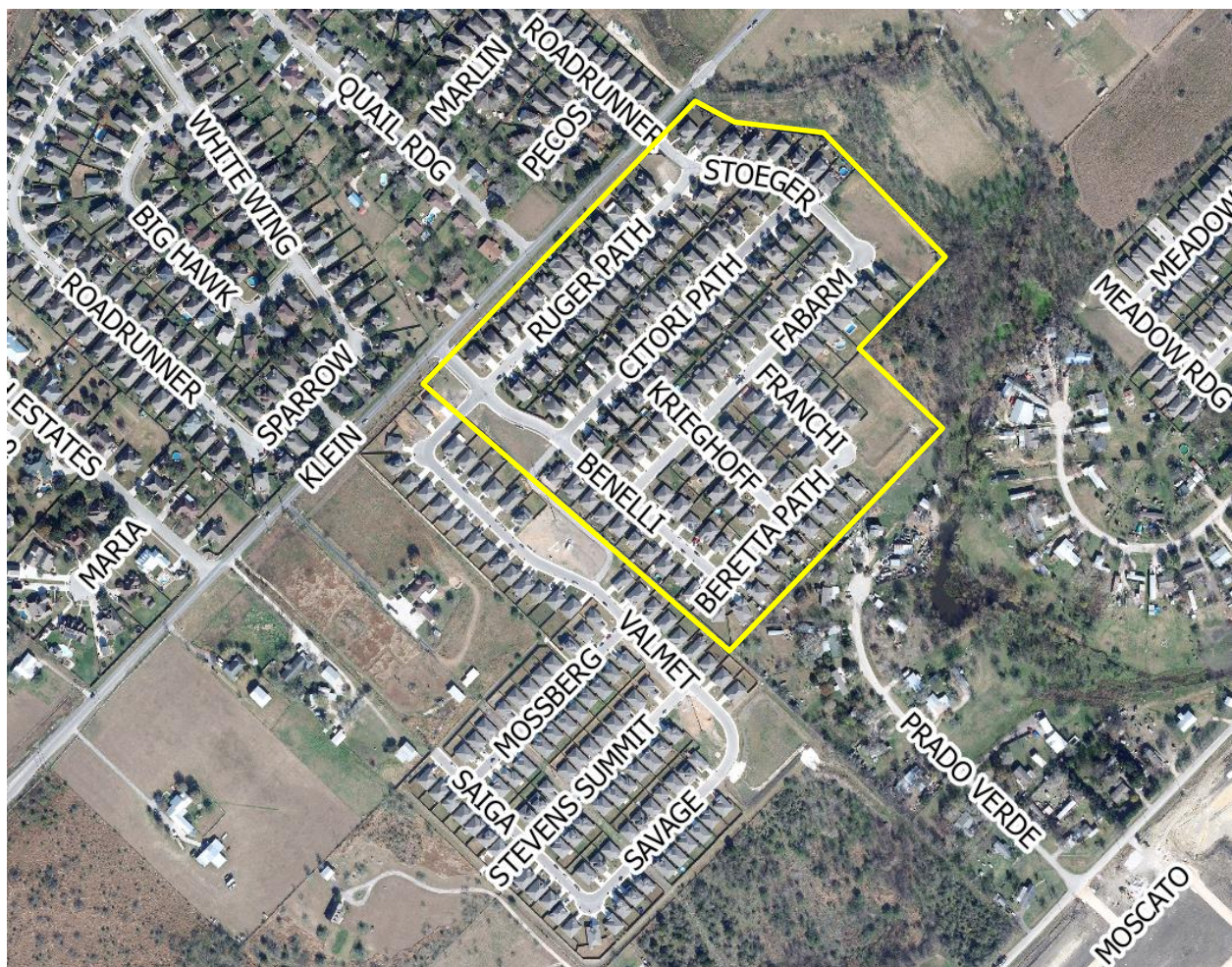


Figure 1. White Wing Subdivision

An engineering study was completed to evaluate lowering the existing speed limit on Benelli Drive from 30 mph to 25 mph. The study was completed as part of a larger request from the residents and HOA due to speeding and safety concerns near a community playground that was under construction at the time, which included investigations for speed humps and all-way stops.

Guidance

Speed limits applicable to public streets are established:

- Statutorily- a maximum speed limit applicable to a particular class of road that is established by State law; or
- As altered speed zones - based on engineering studies.

The maximum speed limits posted should be based primarily on the 85th percentile speed - the speed at or below which 85 percent of vehicles travel. Other factors that may be considered when establishing or reevaluating speed limits include the following:

- Road characteristics
- Roadside development and environment
- Parking practices and pedestrian activity
- Reported crash experience

A city may declare a lower speed limit of not less than 25 miles per hour if the governing body determines that the prima facie speed limit on the streets is unreasonable or unsafe. By State Law, a traffic engineering study is required in order for a city to lower a speed limit below 25 mph.

Site Investigation

Site investigations and a traffic study were completed for Benelli Drive in White Wing in April 2023.

Crash History

Traffic crash data for 2020 through October 2023 was found through TxDOT's Crash Records Information System. There were 0 reported crashes in the White Wing subdivision during this time. There was 1 crash reported on Benelli Drive at the intersection with Klein Road, but it was not speed related.

Data Collection

Traffic speed and volume data were collected on April 6, 2023 along Benelli Drive. The average daily traffic (ADT) was 332 vehicles per day (vpd) and the 85th percentile speed was 25 mph.

Recommendation

Based on the site investigation and collected speed data, it is recommended that the regulatory speed in White Wing be maintained at 30 mph at this time. The measured 85th percentile speed was below the posted speed limit. Posting signs with a lower speed limit would likely not affect driver behavior.