

Traffic Study Summary

Date:	May 4, 2022
Prepared By:	Carly Farmer, E.I.T., Engineer
Request:	Install yellow center line striping and extend the no parking zone on Avery Parkway from Dorman Drive to Cypress Mill
Recommendation:	Do not install yellow center line striping or extend the no parking zone based on site observations and data collection

Background

Avery Park is a subdivision located off SH 46 to the south of FM 758. Engineering staff received a request to investigate Avery Parkway during school peak hours to add yellow center line pavement markings, crosswalks, and all-way stop control at the intersections with Conner Drive and Avery Ranch Drive. This request was related to speeding concerns and pedestrian safety. The crosswalks and all-way stop control requests were considered by the Transportation and Traffic Advisory Board at their July 8, 2021 meeting and the extension of the existing school zone on Avery Parkway was approved by City Council at their meeting on September 27, 2021. On March 14, 2022 staff brought the request for yellow center line pavement markings to City Council with the recommendation to install the pavement markings and extend the existing no parking zone on Avery Parkway out from Dorman Drive to Cypress Mill. City Council directed staff to take another look at the traffic on Avery Parkway in front of Clear Spring Elementary School during school pick-up and drop-off times and to come back in June 2022 with an update.

Staff conducted field observations and revisited the previously collected traffic data in order to formulate an updated recommendation to City Council.

Guidance

Sections 3B.01 and 3B.02 of the *Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (TMUTCD) provide support and guidance for the application of yellow center line and no-passing zone pavement markings and warrants, respectively. The following TMUTCD guidance was considered for the yellow center line pavement marking request:

Center line markings should be placed on paved urban arterials and collectors that have a traveled way of 20 feet for more in width and an ADT of 4,000 vehicles per day or greater.

On two-way, two- or three-lane roadways where center line markings are installed, no-passing zones shall be established at vertical and horizontal curves and other locations where an engineering study indicates that passing must be prohibited because of inadequate sight distances or other special conditions.

Site Investigation

Site investigations and a traffic study were completed for Avery Parkway in 2021 and 2020, respectively. Site investigations were repeated on March 24, 2022 and May 3, 2022 during the Clear Spring Elementary School drop-off and pick-up time periods. Most of the congestion is associated with the afternoon pick-up. Staff observed parents parking alongside Avery Parkway waiting to pick up children walking from the school with other vehicles having to go around them, but the non-school related traffic volumes were low, and the parked cars were cleared out within ten minutes or less. Staff was able to speak to the Comal County Sheriff officer assigned to direct the school traffic every afternoon. By directing the traffic on Avery Parkway, Dorman Drive, and the school driveway during pick-up in the afternoons, the officer is able to clear queues within a few minutes of school release. The officer reported that Clear Spring Elementary School began using both driveways for parent pick-up in the afternoons for the 2021-2022 school year, which has helped traffic flow and reduce back-ups onto Avery Parkway. Staff reached out to Comal ISD's School Safety and Student Support department which verified that school traffic has greatly improved on Avery Parkway.

Crash History

Traffic crash data for 2019 through May 2022 was found through TxDOT's Crash Records Information System. There were five (5) reported crashes on Avery Parkway between Whispering Way and Cypress Mill during this time. Two (2) crashes occurred in the daytime on weekdays. None of the five crashes seem to be speed related. There have been zero (0) reported crashes for the 2021-2022 school year since Clear Spring Elementary School began using both driveways for parent pick-up.

Data Collection

Traffic volume data was collected on Thursday, October 29, 2020 for Avery Parkway near Avery Ranch Drive. The average daily traffic (ADT) on Avery Parkway was 1,899 vehicles per day (vpd).

Recommendation

Based on the latest site investigations and revisiting the crash and collected speed data, it is not recommended to install yellow center line striping or extend the no parking zone on Avery Parkway from Dorman Drive to Cypress Mill. The recorded ADT for Avery Parkway does not meet warrants for center line striping. By having an officer to direct traffic and the school altering its traffic operations for pick-up, any traffic disruption caused by parents parking on Avery Parkway or vehicles coming and going from the school driveways is resolved within a few minutes of school release.