

Kendall County – Boerne – Fair Oaks Transportation Committee Minutes

**15 March 2022
2:01 – 3:58 p.m.**

In Attendance:

Don Durden, Bob Manning, Ben Eldredge, Northern Hendricks, Bitsy Pratt, Bryce Boddie, John Kight, Gary Louie, Rich Sena, and Marcus Garcia.

Not in Attendance:

Bobby Balli, Del Eulberg, Henry Acosta, Jonah Evans, Josh Limmer, Kim Blohm, Rankin D’Spain, Stephen Zoeller, Steve Sharma, and Tim Bannwolf.

Item 1: OPENING REMARKS

Don Durden calls the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. He makes a note that some people are joining via Zoom.

Item 2: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2022.

There are no minutes to approve at this time. This item is skipped until the next meeting.

Item 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

Durden opens the floor for the first opportunity for public comment.

Alex Rudd approaches the lectern first. She knows the Committee is getting ready to go into the advisory committee state; she notes that it is critical not to forget the environmental constraints of the area. She says the Boerne Star published an article regarding an aquifer. She is concerned about the area’s water resources and asks the Committee to listen to the scientists. She hopes the safety of their water supply will not be compromised; she is not looking forward to more development. She spoke with Annalissa Peace about sandpits and who monitors them. Are samples being taken? There are projects relying on these sandpits she says. She

explains that she took some preliminary information from a city in Kansas, and there are areas of concern. Sandpits help to prevent contamination, but they are vulnerable to water that flows downhill. There is evidence that arsenic, pesticides, heavy metals, and other harmful materials are infiltrating these sandpits. She asks for the exploration of those sandpits.

Wanda McCarthy approaches the Committee next. She says in reviewing the minutes, there is information missing from some of the environmental studies that Ms. Rudd has presented at previous meetings. She asks for that information to be included.

Jan Couch is up next. She mentions that the City of Dripping Springs is under a moratorium. She thinks there are certain tools that the City could use to implement this. If the City needs time to reconcile maps and figure out the best route for the community, she thinks applying for a moratorium would be a good idea, and that there would be good enough reason to do so.

Item 4: REVIEW SCHEDULE

Durden shifts the room's attention to the timeline of the Committee's deliberations. They are looking at short- and long-term plans, and the Committee is more or less on schedule as of now. He reiterates that they need to continue to focus their efforts.

Bob Manning says they are two weeks from when they thought they would have something along the lines of projects and policies. There is still a lot of work left to do, and he appreciates everyone's efforts and hard work in reaching their goal.

Ben Eldredge chimes in saying that he reached out to Dr. George Veni regarding policy documents. Veni plans to get back to the Committee about the proposed language. He also notes his concerns about water being conveyed through a recharge zone.

Item 5: CONSIDER QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED BY STREETLIGHT DATA

Durden shifts gears again, explaining that there was a recent Commissioner's Court meeting where the purchase of StreetLight Data was approved; the purchase has since been completed. He asks for input from the Committee on what types of data they would like to obtain from the program. He is suggesting that they come up with multiple questions to ask to see what they want. For instance, what is the truck composition on Main Street? On River Road? North of Hwy 1376? What is the origin destination for vehicles at SH 46? What are the turning movements at Adler and Esser Roads?

John Kight speaks up saying they have a lot of information about those locations already and he is concerned about redundancy.

Bryce Boddie suggest that the StreetLight Data will show more than just traffic counts though, it will also include the origin destination information.

Durden notes that they want to give the County specific direction so that they can go ahead and obtain the information.

Bitsy Pratt suggests looking at where the traffic gains momentum to help better understand where a third primary route could be built to connect SH 46 and IH-10. Would a third leg really give them additional relief? Where would the optimum location for a north/south connector be? Manning agrees with Pratt, also suggesting looking at what problems would be solved with that connector.

Boddie reiterates that the origin destination information will be very telling.

Pratt thinks that the exploration of what is going on at North and South Main Street was another big question. Who is going where and from where? There was some dubious information regarding the thru traffic coming from East 46 going north out of Boerne that has not been thoroughly explored.

Kight asks for clarity: are they asking where traffic from SH 46 goes? That information would not be the same as origin destination information. The real question is how much traffic *from* SH 46 is diverted south, north, east,

and west. He thinks they need to look at what is generating that traffic as well. Pratt agrees that it would be worthwhile to have all that information.

Durden asks Marcus Garcia if there is any question if there are any questions that Fair Oaks Ranch might have that the County could provide answers to. Garcia replies and says yes. They would like to incorporate information from Comal County. Dietz Elkhorn is a big concern as well.

Durden also asks Gary Louie for input from Comfort. Louie responds and says they would probably be most interested in finding out about traffic coming from Kerrville and coming from the south. There has been consideration for a diversion on Hwy 473; he wonders about discussing speed.

Item 6: DISCUSS SCOPE AND ORGANIZATION OF CROWDSOURCE PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND PROCESS FOR FINAL DISPOSITION IN LONG- AND SHORT-RANGE PROGRAMS WITH COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Northern Hendricks notes that the CrowdSourcing information contains 77 projects that cover 40 different roadways. She hopes to get a determination with each page with 3 options: 1) Short Term Projects, 2) Long Term Projects, 3) Remove and Halt Consideration.

There is some time taken to ensure they can cast their votes with the number of members in attendance.

Project 1: “5 Points” at the intersection of Main Street and School on the north end of town. Kight is apprehensive and expresses concern about expense and whether there would be a sensible solution for this intersection because the angles are odd. Durden supports this as a short-term project. There is also strong support from the Committee about making this a roundabout there is not sufficient technical support for it. Moving this forward would most likely mean suggesting further discussion and study about it. Kight is also concerned about creating a detour for construction of this project. He suggests upgrading Adler to 3 lanes to use

it as a detour route before this project begins. There is a consensus amongst the Committee members to make this a short-term recommendation. Regardless of what the best solution is after study, the intersection needs to be addressed. With no objections, the recommendations are moved forward to be included on the final report.

Project 2: Highway 27 in Comfort for bike and pedestrian issues. Hendricks says there is already a recommendation on the Interim Report for this. The Committee decides to move this along for consideration with the bike and pedestrian Subcommittee, which is headed up by Eldredge and Hendricks is also in on that.

Projects 3, 4, 5, 6: Highway 46 East Corridor. Kight says that a lot of intersections could be improved with right turn lanes and center thru lanes. Manning notes issues with cross traffic. There is discussion that ensues about a series of roundabouts to facilitate a better flow of traffic. Pratt notes that this would need studying and would be a long-term project recommendation. Since this is a TxDOT roadway, they are not inclined to do this anytime soon. Kight reiterates building under heavy traffic will be a struggle. Durden thinks it could work but needs a study. This series of project recommendations are lumped together as a recommendation for a long-term study of roundabouts for the Highway 46 East Corridor on the final report.

Project 7: Dangerous intersection at 146 Pleasant Valley. The Committee determines that this far out in the County and that it would be best handled by TxDOT. It is removed from further consideration by the Committee and not added to the final report.

Project 8: Widening of Highway 46 from IH-10 to Highway 16. Kight suggests that this is a project to forward to TxDOT. Durden thinks that this could be a project that gets broken down into several projects. Pratt notes that the BISD projected growth numbers for this area are not of concern or of immediate concern. Hendricks notes that there is another suggestion off Highway 46 on Deep Hollow Drive that could also be combined with this project. The Committee discusses and decides to combine the projects and move it forward for the final report.

Project 9: Sisterdale Road extension from Highway 473 up to the County line. It is noted that this is a project already on TxDOT's to-do list in the next 3-4 years, which would mean this recommendation falls in the short-term category. Durden says that they should include it in the final report but be sure to mention that it is already on the docket for TxDOT. Boddie asks about a cycling recommendation. Eldredge responds and notes that there was a map the Subcommittee marked up with consideration for that. Durden suggests that they may need to widen it again later down the road to include a cycling lane. He then mentions the TxDOT website open availability for comments until April 7th. Kight says this would not be a good area for a roundabout considering its an area where there is high speed traffic. The Committee rejects the idea of a roundabout for this area but decide to illuminate the intersection for a short-term recommendation on the final report.

Project 10: A greenfield road on the Major Thoroughfare Plan including the Sisterdale extension. Durden suggests making a long-term recommendation that does not cut through the apartment complex. He also thinks the recommendation should note that the Major Thoroughfare Plan would only be used in the event that the land is developed; not with the presumption of using eminent domain. It is moved along to the final report as a long-term recommendation.

Project 11: Add a turn lane to Adler between "5 points" and Esser Road. Kight notes that this could be a sharp turn. Durden says that the County and City are already working together on this project. It is moved to the final report as a short-term recommendation.

Project 12: Plant Avenue and Adler Road intersection improvements. Boddie mentions that the stopping points and crosswalks are awkward. Garcia notes that visibility is not good because of those factors. The Committee discusses and decides to dispense of the project since Adler Road improvements were already move through for the final report.

Project 13: Extension on Adler Road. Kight says that this should be a long-term project. Durden wants to wait until there are more Committee members available to discuss. Consideration for this item is postponed for another meeting.

Project 14: Amman Road at Cibolo Ridge Trail to reduce the speed (a stop sign request). It is determined that this would be a County project. Durden thinks there must be a warrant for it due to accidents, traffic counts, etc. Rich Sena says he goes slow in the area because it is hilly. He suggests that a few traffic tickets could be what solves the problem there. With Committee consensus, Durden makes a note to move this item forward with an ask for more signage and patrolling.

Project 15: Road curve improvement at Ammann Road on the far north end. It was originally recommended by a TxDOT consultant. Durden says the County was willing to pay for part of this, but Fair Oaks Ranch decided not to pursue this. After some discussion, the Committee decides to move this along to the final report. Durden asks Garcia to write the recommendation out.

Project 16: Operational request for a 4-way stop at Battle Intense and Keeme. Sena says he rarely waits more than a couple seconds here and doesn't see it as a problem area. The Committee's consensus is that it doesn't need to be addressed at this time and it is dismissed from being included on the final report.

Project 17: Bentwood extension from Esperanza Blvd. This item is postponed for future consideration when more Committee members are present to discuss.

Project 18: Speed bumps—specifically on Bess Street. This is the alternative entrance to HEB (rather than the entrance on Bandera Road). Manning is concerned about the HEB traffic even though the comments are spot on. He lives in that area and says lots of traffic comes through that neighborhood to avoid the Main Street/Bandera Road traffic. The Committee discusses recommending speed bumps on Wanda and Bess Street to slow drivers down. Finally, the Committee decides to move this along as a short-term recommendation. Manning intends to write it.

Before this agenda item is closed out and the Committee moves onto the second segment for Public Comment, Durden notes that he is hoping to

hear from the Policy Committee at the next meeting, which will be held on March 29, 2022.

**Item 7: DISCUSSION OF A PROCESS TO ADDRESS
“COMMITTEE SOURCE” PROJECTS, INCLUDING SH
46/HERFF ROAD IMPROVEMENTS DISCUSSED AT MARCH
1, 2022 MEETING.**

This item is skipped because time is limited.

**Item 8: DISCUSS COMPLETION OF THE REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

This item is postponed until the March 29 meeting.

Item 9: PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Goodman approaches the lectern first. He goes back to the project discussion on the connection between Bentwood and Esperanza Blvd. He says that there was a time where Council considered this, but it was thrown out. He also makes suggestion that a stop sign on Amman Road will back traffic up on Gemini Oaks (driving toward Boerne). He also says that he went to the latest Fair Oaks Ranch Council meeting where a developer of a new subdivision has plans to create 733 living units. In watching the Council’s response, he sensed that they were not in favor of that, but the alternative was that the City would be sued if it was turned down.

Bonnie Clannon approaches the Committee next with her comments. Referring to some of Wanda McCarthy’s comments, she wonders why people are cutting through side streets. She makes some comments about the bridge as well, concerned about the traffic. She asks the Committee to consider the root cause of why this is happening. She herself does not like to cut through residential areas because she has been a resident who hates that, but she sees no other option because thoroughfares are terrible right now. She suggests that they may want to wait on speed bumps because she hopes that one TxDOT makes their way out and their changes are implemented, that could solve some of the issues they are seeing. She also expresses concern about the equestrian center regarding

those drivers who haul large trailers. She asks about traffic signal timing and wonders if that could also help some of the issues they are seeing at certain times of the day.

Vialissa Gerhardt approaches the lectern next. At the last meeting, the SE quadrant was addressed, but there was no determination. Durden notes that the recommendations for that area will most likely be contained in a policy recommendation that will say something along the lines of how the Committee declines to draw a line on a map through the SE quadrant for environmental and other concerns regarding traffic problems. If the City or County decides to move forward, they hope they will take into consideration any ways to mitigate environmental concern and landowners' properties. Gerhardt suggests isolating some of the agenda items into sections would be helpful in making it more organized.

Item 10: ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourns at 3:58pm.