

**Chairman:** Toby Turner

**Members Present:** Lisa Ridge, Reed Adams, Paul White Sr., Amanda Turnipseed, Joe Goss, Russell Brummett (proxy for Brad Swain)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff:** Paul Satterly (Highway Engineer), Ginger Henson (Secretary), Brady Egan (TSD)

**Guests:**

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Toby Turner called the October 15, 2020 meeting of the Monroe County Traffic Commission to order at 1:30 p.m. (Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting).

## **II. LAST MEETING MINUTES**

Reed makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes for September 17, 2020. Joe seconded the Motion. Rollcall Vote: 4 Aye, 1 Abstain. Motion carried.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Install Pedestrian Crosswalk Markings on Rogers Street for Clear Creek Post Office***

Paul Satterly said this request came from Tammy Gardner. She was concerned about elderly patrons and others crossing from the parking lot to the post office. Motorists speed along this portion of Rogers Street. He reviewed it. Speed limit is 30 mph. There is a 20 mph reverse curve to the south of the post office. Pedestrian warning signs are located north and south of the crossing with a 20 mph speed advisory. A school crossing sign is located just north of the post office at the pedestrian crossing. His recommendations are to clear the low-hanging tree branches on each side of the road to improve visibility for motorists and pedestrians, add pedestrian crosswalk warning signs right at the crosswalks and add crosswalk markings.

Russell said that is a heavily traveled road. Traffic has increased significantly in recent years. Reed added there was an incident at that location that resulted in a fatality in 2005. An elderly woman, Virginia McConnell was hit, fell and hit her head and died 3 or 4 weeks later. Toby asked Paul Satterly if we would be able to get those in or if it was a bucket-truck situation. Paul said it would probably be a combination.

Joe makes a motion to approve the Highway Engineer's recommendations. Russell seconded the Motion. Rollcall Vote: Aye (Unanimous). Motion carried.

### ***Replace Pedestrian Crosswalk Markings on Rogers Street for Clear Creek Christian School***

Reed said this is just a little farther south than the post office crosswalk we were just talking about down where Church Lane tees into Rogers Street. The Highway Department installed a crosswalk in 2014 at the request of the Clear Creek Christian School. It has subsequently become quite a bit faded. Ben Ayers looked at it and concluded that it is still adequate. However, the school staff feels it has long lost its reflectivity. When you see it early in the morning before the sun is up, it does not shine back at you. As Russell was just pointing out, there is heavy traffic on South Rogers, it has grown quite a bit in recent years and people are not obeying the 20 mph school zone speed limit, so there have been a couple of reported near misses between vehicles and pedestrians.

Toby asked if those reports came from the school. Reed responded, yes, from pedestrians. There was one instance of a driver sitting there waiting for a pedestrian cross and traffic from the opposite direction failed to stop and they called the school office and were very concerned about it. At that point, in time, the church did install another streetlight over the crosswalk to try to improve the situation. The current request is to look at refreshing those stripes so that they have the reflectivity to them or making them larger so that they are more visible.

The old crosswalk is around the corner going across Church Lane. If you look at the aerial view photo in the packet, you can see the crosswalk going across Church Lane. It has been there for the last 14 years and was the original crosswalk that the School requested back when the school spanned across all of those building that you see there on both the north and south side of the street. In 2014, primarily because of the heavy traffic, the church built another building in the northeast corner and pulled the whole school into that building so they no longer need to cross Church Lane. However, people do still park in the west parking lot so we requested the crosswalk on Rogers and mentioned at the time that the one on Church Lane no longer needs maintained. However, when the repainting was done last year, the one on Church Lane got re-done and the one on Rogers Street, which is much more heavily used, did not.

Ben has noted in his letter that he has denied the request and he seems puzzled as to what is going on here so Reed wants to make it very clear that when the school asked in 2014 to install a crosswalk on Rogers Street, they agreed that the Church Lane crosswalk was not primary. It doesn't need to go away, people still cross there; however, if the county is going to maintain only one, the school would much rather see the Rogers Street Crosswalk be maintained.

Toby was involved in the maintenance and striping of roads at one time. The thermo-plastic isn't like regular paint. A lot of our centerlines and outer lines are paint and you see that not lasting very long, busier roads only last about a year and we have to replace some of those roads every year. The thermo-plastic is very thick and builds up. If you wait for it to wear down, then you don't get into a grinding situation to grind that thickness off and sometimes get into pavement too.

Reed has some pictures of it before sun up and it does not reflect back at you very much. You can still see those stripes on the crosswalk that goes across Rogers Street, they are still there, they are pretty worn and cracked, they just don't stand out very much. What brought the request forward was that Reed had noticed that many of the crosswalks in the area had been re-done. The Clear Creek Trail crossing That Road and Church Lane had been redone, the end lines where That Road tees into Rogers Street has all been redone. We had talked about this last year, which is what Ben refers to in his letter, the crosswalk on Church Lane got redone last year, but the one that was more important to the school had not been redone so that is what brought this up.

Lisa says this isn't really a Traffic Commission issue. It is more of a discussion to get with Ben. If your priority is the Rogers Street, maybe we have him put it on his rotating list. He doesn't have the funds to go out and do all of the crosswalks and everything that is why he has to plan what he can do one year versus the next year and kind of rotates as he goes forward. So, we just need to get together with Ben and just making sure we are all on the same page with his budget concerns.

Reed said, Ben mentioned in his email that if it was important to them, then maybe the School could foot the bill. His question is do we know the cost to do one of those. Lisa said we could get him the cost. She knows we did the crosswalks for the Parks and Rec last year on Dillman Road and then we turned around and billed them for it. The only issue that could be a problem at this

point in time is whether or not the thermos company is coming back to town because it's all subcontracted out. Reed said if they're going to do the post office, which is near the school, which may be spring time before that happens, then he'd like to explore that. He doesn't think they would be averse to paying for it. Their understanding is they can't do it themselves.

Lisa advised Reed to send her an email and she would get with Ben and get some pricing and see if the company is coming back, work with him on that and maybe try and work out some kind of rotation for future years. Russell would agree with that too especially since they are doing the post office. At least put them on the same rotation since they will be right there in that area at that time.

Toby said this is a maintenance issue. The Traffic Commission's purpose is not to vote every time a sign or marking needs replaced; therefore, we will move on to Item C.

### ***Traffic Study for Wickens Street in Highland Subdivision***

Paul Satterly said we received this request from Ms. Heather Gustafson to look at the traffic on Wickens Street. She says there is an increase in traffic due to the Wick Development opening and she is concerned about the speed of traffic on Wickens Street. The speed limit in the subdivision is currently posted at 20 mph. We've added speed limit signs recently in the neighborhood as part of a previous request. An all-way stop has been added to the intersection of Hennessy and McDougal Streets as part of a previous request. East/West traffic and cut-through traffic has been a problem in the neighborhood do to the fact of the thru corridor, which is something we are working on with the Fullerton Pike project. East/West traffic will diminish once Fullerton is put in. He believes the increase in traffic on Wiccans is most likely due to the subdivision traffic diverting from Tennessee and going straight north to connect with Rockport Road.

Paul Satterly's recommendations are to add 20 mph speed limit signs on the new section of Wiccans once the roadway is taken over for County maintenance. The new part of Wiccans connects into the Glasgow roundabout and the yield signs are somewhat small so he recommends installing larger yield signs. Currently there are manhole covers sticking up on the pavement and we've requested that the developer add reflective drums to delineate those manhole covers.

Paul White asked if it would work just as well to put a little Burma of asphalt around those manhole covers. Paul Satterly said they have, they just stick up so high that it would take quite a bit of asphalt. They put some around it, but there's not enough. If someone got up and over them, they'd probably high center the vehicle. Toby asked if this is the new section. Yes, it's the new section between Glasgow and Rockport. Lisa asked if some of that is to remain private. Paul Satterly, said, it's all going to be public. It's just they haven't put the final surface on and they are going to hold that until they are further along with the development.

Toby asked if the Traffic Commission could make recommendations on roads that are not ours at this point. Lisa said, we couldn't, because we would have to do it by ordinance and it is not a county road. Usually on roads that we have not taken in, we have the developer deal with it. Toby asked if we could close the road if they do not want to make it safe. Paul Satterly said we requested the drums be installed. Ben did a walkthrough with the developer a couple days ago, so hopefully, they've put those up already. Paul White has been through it with is rural transit bus and he didn't think it was all that bad. Russell has been through there a couple of times recently and those manhole covers are pretty high up. Toby asked if we have a time frame on when the plan to install the surface. Paul Satterly isn't 100% sure, but he believes they are estimating sometime in the spring.

Toby asked if there are any recommendations here that are actually county road. He sees something here about the roundabout, which he believes is ours. Paul Satterly could check to make sure there's a speed limit sign just past the roundabout, which is our part. Toby said we could take care of the other part when we take the road into inventory if those signs need to be posted. Paul Satterly said we have one after the roundabout going northbound and probably one coming off Rockport southbound.

Toby has a concern about the drums. He knows they don't stay. We put them up and then they get moved or the wind blows them over and they get moved. He knows during snow, sometimes wrestling with subdivisions, his guys get lost; he'd hate to run into one of those castings with a plow truck. Joe asked, if the new part has not been taken into by the county, we wouldn't be plowing it anyway, would we? Toby, said we shouldn't. However, we get guys that like to be nice. We get pressure from the community on why would you pick up your pile here, and then sit it down over there. His drivers get that pressure as well. He isn't saying it doesn't happen, but no, they shouldn't be plowing it.

Lisa asked if this is something that can be Tabled until we find out when they're going to get new surface, what their plans are, if this is going to be theirs to maintain throughout the whole winter. Paul White would move that we Table. Toby asked what information we wanted to know, when the surface is going to be put on, if it's open to traffic, how are they going to maintain it and do snow removal. Lisa said, if they do not have the asphalt on, they should know it's going to be theirs to maintain. She thinks Ben would have informed them that we would not plow those roads at all.

Paul White makes a motion to Table this item. Russell seconded the Motion. Rollcall Vote: Aye (Unanimous). Motion carried.

***2021 Meeting Schedule for Monroe County Traffic Commission***

Toby asked if anyone had any discussion for the meeting schedule for 2021 and if not, could he hear a motion to approve.

Russell makes a motion to approve the 2021 meeting schedule for the Monroe County Traffic Commission. Toby seconded the Motion. Rollcall Vote: Aye (Unanimous). Motion carried.

**IV. OTHER DISCUSSION**

*None*

**V. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2020**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT: 1:55 PM**