



Steiner Ranch Neighborhood Association

Meeting Summary: TXDOT / SRNA

Date: January 22, 2013

Place: TxDOT Austin District Office

Attending:

TXDOT: Victor Vargas, Mark Jones, Gerald Pohlmeier

SRNA: Brian Thompto, H. Lobdell

A. RECAP OF ACTIVE PROJECT STATUS:

1. Dual right turn lanes at the 620/2222 intersection, etc.
 - a. Construction scheduled for 1Q 2013.
2. Dual left turn lanes at McNeil from 2222
 - a. Planned for summer 2014.

B. DISCUSSION ON 620/2222 INTERSECTION

1. As part of 1Q13 improvements, restriping of WB 2222 to extend the double left turn lanes approaching 620 to allow earlier entry into the inner turn lane – increasing the queuing capacity of the approach. The extension should go back as far as possible subject to critical business access requirements; e.g. at least to Wells Fargo. TxDOT agreed to look at this for action.
2. Adjustment of the timing of traffic signals at the 620/2222 intersection and the 2222 and Riverplace Blvd. intersection to alleviate excessive wait times of traffic on 620 NB approaching 2222. The request was made to adjust the former signal to provide additional right turn time for traffic coming north and more through traffic time for traffic headed south. For the second signal, additional time for east-west traffic was requested to avoid backups to 620 and putting all traffic on both 2222 and 620 at a standstill. The principle discussed was to re-balance the waiting time for all motorists at these two intersections to optimize the net traffic flow including stemming cut-through flow. Adjusting timing will be examined as a short term fix – especially during peak rush hour times. The longer term fix for signaling is to equip these two intersections with the equipment necessary to provide real-time monitoring so that human intervention to regulate traffic when needed. TxDOT indicated that they would discuss the signal re-timings and longer term strategy with Austin Traffic as the monitoring would be done by them.
3. The possibility of creating an additional “auxiliary lane” from Steiner Ranch Blvd. to 2222, connecting directly to the new second right turn lane was discussed. It would be a “right only” lane, increasing the turning queue and approach capacity for the intersection to allow more optimal/independent flow of traffic. It would also provide a protected right turn out of Steiner Ranch. Space for the new lane might be achieved by restriping, eliminating the center turn lane between Steiner Ranch Blvd. and the BBQ Outfitters, and using some or all of the current shoulder space. TxDot agreed to take a look at this option.

C. DISCUSSION ON 620 CORRIDOR – PLANNING

1. TxDOT will be in receipt of a 620 corridor study (Hwy 71 to Hwy 183) within roughly 30 days. They will look for "low hanging fruit" opportunities identified to improve traffic flow along the corridor.
2. SRNA asked that TxDOT take on some planning projects to look at several problematic intersections for possible overpass construction, recognizing that no money currently exists for those projects; e.g. 620/2222, 620 and Anderson Mill. This would at least get plans on the shelf and possibly environmental studies done. TxDOT pointed out that once an environmental study was done, it was only good for three years, which is a difficulty in and of itself.
3. TxDOT indicated that in addition to overpasses, they can also explore other creative options for addressing problematic intersections. Examples include "continuous flow intersections" such as planned for the "Y" at Oak Hill. One idea discussed was the possibility of expanding 2222 in the congested area near RM 620 to provide a fully protected right turn from 620 NB onto 2222.