City of Rowlett
Traffic and Safety Committee
Unofficial Minutes of September 18, 2008 Meeting

1. Call meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

   Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Melvin Warren. Present were Bill Barber, John Collis, Cel Ololo, Leisa Peebles, Nicholas Kreekon, Chief of Police Matt Walling, Interim Fire Chief Don Poovey, Police Lieutenant Steve Ferrie and City Engineer Shawn Poe.

2. Consider approving the minutes of the August 21, 2008 meeting.

   The minutes of the August 21, 2008 meeting were reviewed. No corrections or changes were suggested. The August 21, 2008 minutes were approved as written.

   Due to Pat Stoval being present to speak about the rumble strips on Merritt Rd, the committee agreed to address item 6 prior to the others.

6. Discussion of rumble strips located on the north end of Merritt Rd.

   Pat Stoval stated she lives in the 9700 Blk of Merritt Rd and believes the rumble strips are installed on the wrong side of Merritt Rd. Ms. Stoval stated the rumble strips are installed on the south bound side and actually need to be installed on the north bound side to warn motorists of the 90 degree turn that is located north of Castle Rd. Ms. Stoval stated that more collisions are occurring with north bound traffic rather than south bound traffic. City Engineer Shawn Poe stated that the rumble strips were placed on the roadway on a trial basis. The vendor of the product offered the rumble strips to the city at no expense, so the Street Department decided to have them installed to see if they were effective. Shawn Poe stated he believes the rumble strips were installed too close to the curve, so he is going to see if they can be moved and possibly have more installed.

3. Update on handheld communication device ordinance.

   Lt. Ferrie advised the committee that the school year began on August 25, 2008. Officers from the Rowlett Police Department issued warning for the first two weeks of school to all motorists that were observed using handheld communication devices in school zones. On September 8, 2008 the two week warning period ended. Since that time officers have issued five citations for use of handheld communication devices in school zones.

4. Rowlett Elementary traffic flow and any school related traffic issues.

   Lt. Ferrie advised the committee that one complaint was received from the Crossing Guard at the intersection of Carla Dr and Miller Rd concerning motorists not wanting to yield the right of way to pedestrians crossing the roadway. Traffic Officers were sent to the location to monitor the intersection and did not observe any violation while they were there. Brad Hope with the Street Department was contacted to see if the traffic signals could be modified to prevent traffic movement while the crosswalk signal was active.

Lt. Ferrie also advised that he received a complaint on September 18, 2008 concerning north bound Carla Dr. being blocked during afternoon pick up time, but did not have the opportunity to observe the problem prior to the meeting.

City Engineer Shawn Poe stated the city has hired a Traffic Engineer to optimize the signal time at Carla Dr and at Rowlett Rd. Included in the scope of the study is to count the amount of pedestrians that cross at the crosswalk at Carla and Miller.

5. PGBT Eastern Extension Construction update (monthly).

   City Engineer Shawn Poe briefed the committee concerning the four stages of construction for section 30 of the PGBT. The briefing included, but was not limited to, the proposed timeline, lane closures on various roadways, impact on Rowlett High School traffic and impact on various neighborhoods along the route.

7. Future agenda items.

   1.Review of committee goals.
   2.Crime Prevention public awareness.

8. Public Announcements

   1. Chief Walling announced that the Traffic & Safety Advisory Committee name has changed to the Traffic & Safety Advisory Commission.
   2. Chief Walling announced that the Police and Fire Department will be playing the annual Shoots and Ladders softball game on September 20, 2008 at 2:00 pm at Community Park.

Adjourn

Chairman Warren adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:45 pm.

Melvin Warren 10/16/08

Melvin Warren, Chairman