



**CITY OF MELISSA  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Statement Regarding Recent Traffic Safety Concerns on State Highway 5***

**Melissa, TX** – The City has heard from many concerned citizens about the recent accidents and general traffic safety on State Highway 5 (SH 5), particularly at the intersections of Pennsylvania and the Outer Loop. Please understand that the City Council and staff shares your concerns, however SH 5 is operated by the State (TxDOT specifically), the City is limited in what it can directly do to resolve this issue. Any accident is a concern of the City, we all travel and live in this community, and the City has been as proactive as we can in working through the State's requirements. None of us like this reality, but we are trying to find any and all ways to get through the requirements while continuing to voice our concerns to TxDOT. Below is a brief background on what has been done to date and where we are at in this process with TxDOT in obtaining a signal and other measures along this area.

The State requires that any signalized intersection meet the state warrants (minimum requirements) for the authorization of a traffic signal. The City requested the initial warrant study in September 2016, and the warrant study did not pass at that time. The City was informed it could reapply for the study again in September 2017, and the City did so in August 2017, requesting that the warrant study be done the first week in September to make sure the study includes the peak traffic that is experienced. TxDOT installed the counters on Tuesday, September 5, and the counters were removed on Friday, September 8. We are waiting for the results, but have notified TxDOT of the recent accidents and asked the study be evaluated as soon as possible.

For temporary measures, the City has asked that the speed limit be reduced, but that request was unfortunately denied. The City has since asked for the school zone to be incorporated into SH 5, and we are waiting their response to this request, but it is important to note that we are not sure the distance will meet the requirements. The City has asked TxDOT to allow the City to fund the light installation, and TxDOT has not committed to that at this point. They will first see what the study says, and thus our push to get that question answered ASAP.

The signal at the Outer Loop intersection was approved by TxDOT and the railroads are working on the paperwork and logistics to ensure the light is signalized with the railroad crossing. The cities of Melissa and Anna have provided all the information and items required by TxDOT on the Outer Loop signal. Additionally, there is a traffic signal being installed at SH 5 at Fannin Road which TxDOT says will be operational in October 2017. TxDOT has so far offered no firm date but the concrete pad for the control box is poured and the conduit for the power is already installed at the location. While not at the locations many are concerned about, this signal should help establish safe traffic breaks for side street traffic to merge onto SH 5.

Again, please understand we all share your concerns and that it is a top priority to get this resolved within the confines of what the State requires. The City will continue to voice these concerns and try to define any option for TxDOT to consider for the safety of us all.

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