



CITY OF MELISSA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Melissa and TxDOT to Collaborate on Signalization of SH 5 at Pennsylvania

Melissa, TX – The City was informally notified by TxDOT on Wednesday, September 13 that the signal warrant study conducted earlier this month at the intersection of SH 5 and Pennsylvania satisfied the warrants evaluated by TxDOT for signalization. This is welcomed news as the City had identified this intersection as a high priority for signalization and the traffic count has only grown since the initial request was denied in 2016. The City's understanding of the typical path forward from warrant approval to signal installation is as follows: (1) signalization of the intersection is designed by TxDOT, (2) the intersection is added to the list of other approved signalization installations (3) as TxDOT has funding allocated, the intersections are funded in order as they are on their list. Altogether the installation of an approved signal can be anywhere from 9 – 18 months depending on State funding.

With this process in mind and as mentioned in our previous statement, the City had approached TxDOT asking they consider allowing the City to install the signal after TxDOT approved the design of the signalization. This is the most efficient path forward since the design by TxDOT will be completed in accordance with the rules and regulations of TxDOT. Otherwise, a traffic engineer would have to be selected, the signal designed, TxDOT review and permit, then the City could bid the project only after TxDOT approval.

TxDOT has accepted the City's offer and agreed to allow the City to install the signal at the intersection of SH 5 and Pennsylvania. TxDOT believes the design of the signalization could be completed in two-three months. The City has already delivered all the design files, survey information, and utility locations to TxDOT for the SH 5 and Pennsylvania intersection in hopes of expediting the design process.

As with any project, the City will carry out the procurement of the installation of the plans in accordance with the State of Texas procurement laws. Due to the cost estimates, a sealed bid method must be used, whereby there is a required publication notice in the newspaper as well as a defined time frame for bids to be accepted by a specific date and time where the sealed bids are publicly opened and read aloud. The City Council will then authorize the contract at the next regular meeting. City staff is preparing the standard bid notice and procurement documents so that once the design is delivered to the City by TxDOT, the publication can begin.

So, what can we do in the meantime? Overall, be patient. Understand that there are required processes that are involved that dictate a certain length of time. We are doing all we can to shorten any timeframe where it is legally feasible. Please know that the TxDOT McKinney Office, specifically Area Engineer Brenan Honey and his staff are working very hard to address this community issue as quickly as possible. I would like to personally thank him for finding a means to allow this collaborative effort for signalization.

The City will not be able to provide any additional information until we have the approved design from TxDOT and can officially proceed with the procurement stage of this project, which as noted could take two to three months. To that end we ask your patience and trust that the City is doing all it can to address the traffic flow concerns on SH 5 and see this project to completion.

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