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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town installs flashing crossing signals near high school *Amber flashers add to safety of students at three intersections*

LITTLE ELM (August 31, 2015) In an effort to increase the safety of students crossing Walker Lane to enter the grounds of Little Elm High School, the Town of Little Elm has installed new flashing warning systems along three intersections, says Public Works Director Kevin Mattingly.

“The Town works hand-in-hand with the school district on several fronts,” he said. “We place police officers as School Resource Officers, we patrol the streets to ensure compliance with speed laws, we place signage on streets to alert drivers of pedestrians crossing, and now we have installed flashing beacons at the high school. Our goal is to keep students and parents safe as they cross Walker Lane.”

Three amber-colored rectangular rapid flash beacons (RRFB) have been installed by Town personnel, one each at Walker Lane and Waterside Drive, Ashford Drive and Peach Drive.

The new beacons are an additional signal to motorists in both directions that pedestrians are present in the crosswalks, and that extra caution, including a complete stop of all vehicular traffic, is necessary. The devices issue warnings with an irregular flash pattern, much like the emergency flashers on police vehicles.

“The warning beacons can either be activated passively from a motion sensor that monitors pedestrians entering the ramp access areas, or manually by pressing the appropriate buttons,” he said. “The rapidly flashing signal is a clear indication to motorists approaching the intersections that they must stop.” The motion sensors are on back order and will be installed as soon as they arrive. The flashers can only be activated manually at this time.

Diamond shaped markings, conspicuously painted on the pavement, as well as curbside signs, clearly indicate the stopping points for traffic.

The RRFBs are a new addition to the high school’s safety procedures and thus will require some time for drivers to become accustomed to their presence. Message boards will be placed in the area temporarily to serve as a reminder to drivers.

“The flashers add to the effectiveness of the signs and other pedestrian crossing markings already in place,” said Mattingly. “Our intent, of course, is to make pedestrians more visible and noticeable, whether before and after school or during evening events at the high school.”

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state’s fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm’s population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town’s footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.