

Community Corridors (Beautification and Signage) July 9, 2015

Highway 30

Highway 30 through Grand Island will be re-constructed in 7-10 years. This is a Department of Roads project. The City does some maintenance on the State Highways within City limits; the County may do some weed control (contract).

East Highway 30

Currently, there is a Welcome to Grand Island sign on the south side of Highway 30, near Aurora Co-op (former Sundance Seed & Feed) visible to those traveling west enroute to Grand Island. The City had/has? An agreement with the property owner to place the sign at this location. The group support this location for a new sign and believe the property owner would support.

West Highway 30

With planned re-routing of West Highway 30, it may be wise to hold off on placement of a sign for this entrance. A sign would have to be placed on the north side of the highway as the south side was railroad right of way. Suggestions: The Edge or Shamrock.

Railroad Area

The railroad areas need fenced and cleaned up.

John noted that Amarillo Texas had a successful landscaping/cleanup program with BNSF.

Highway 281

Optimum placement sites for south Highway 281 were discussed in relation to city limits, potential growth/annexation, and available site.

Maintenance needed throughout the year

Detention cells are filled with debris. John noted that the PW Department had a plan to raise the bottom of the wet cells; may use geotherm to help keep dry so can be mowed. It was suggested that if the public would support/accept natural grasses, funding for this purpose could be designated for other beautification improvements. John stated there was neighborhood opposition to the cattails along Highway 281/Webb.

Locust Street

Suggest wellfield site for sign

Travelers are often confused at exit 314. They think they're headed to Grand Island but without development, some turn around and get back on the interstate believing they are too far from the community.

Consider signage that indicates "Conservation Easement" and "Hike / Bike Trails" to explain why there is no development after the exit. Turn these areas into a unique element for Grand Island.

Airport

Sign should be part of new terminal plan

Route to/from airport via downtown does not create a positive impression for visitors to our community. Improvements are needed.

John: could re-route Locust north so it continues to the Airport. Downside is this causes travelers to bypass the downtown area.

Highway 2

Did not address due to time constraints.

General:

John: Should plan placement of signs with anticipated growth of community. The "life" of signs is approximately 10 years. Ongoing maintenance will be needed for the grasses/greenery surrounding the sign. Who will be responsible for maintenance and landscaping for the new entryway signs?

Chad: Would we want to take a look at billboards along Highway 281 at the same time as we discuss signage and beautification? We did at South Locust Street. Benefit: Clean, non-cluttered appearance. Downside: Billboards 'shorten' the gap between the interstate exit and the city.

Cindy: What about vacant restaurant at interstate/exit 312? (Chad: City does not have jurisdiction; County can not do redevelopment under Community Development law).