MONTGOMERY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AGENDA REGULAR MEETING OF MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2017, 6:00 P.M. CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 101 OLD PLANTERSVILLE ROAD, MONTGOMERY, TEXAS.

CALL TO ORDER

VISITOR/CITIZENS FORUM

Any citizen with business not scheduled on the agenda may speak to the Commission. Prior to speaking, each speaker must be recognized by the Chairman. Commission may not discuss or take any action on any item, but may place the issue on a future agenda. The number of speakers along with the time allowed per speaker may be limited.

- 1. Consideration/take action regarding May 22, 2017 minutes
- 2. Presentation of Westmont Square Development Monty West
- 3. Consideration/take action regarding Montgomery First Final Plat.
- 4. Consideration/take action regarding Montgomery First Final Plans.
- 5. Consideration/take action regarding Lake Creek Village Sec. 3 Final Plans
- 6. Report regarding Land-Use Plan for the City
- 7. Report regarding zoning changes throughout the City
- 8. Consideration/take action regarding landscape ordinance implementation
- 9. Adjournment

Jack Yates, City Administrator

Posted June 23, 2017 at _____a.m. p.m. This facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Please contact the City Secretary's office at 936-597-6434 for further information or for special accommodation



MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

May 22, 2017

MONTGOMERY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nelson Cox declared a quorum was present, and called the special scheduled meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present:

Nelson Cox, Jeffrey Waddell and Carol Langley

Absent:

William Simpson and Arnette Easley

Also Present: Jack Yates, City Administrator

Chris Roznovsky, City Engineer

VISITOR/CITIZENS FORUM

Any citizen with business not scheduled on the agenda may speak to the Commission. Prior to speaking, each speaker must be recognized by the Chairman. Commission may not discuss or take any action on any item, but may place the issue on a future agenda. The number of speakers along with the time allowed per speaker may be limited.

Consideration/take action regarding April 24, 2017 minutes.

William Simpson moved to approve the minutes as read. Carol Langley seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

Report regarding Land-Use Plan for the City.

Mr. Yates presented a map showing the proposed Land Use in the City. Mr. Yates reviewed the proposed changes showing the areas and their proposed use. Mr. Yates distributed the map and asked the Commission to review the map and make notes, and then come by and visit with him regarding their questions and comments.

After discussion, Mr. Yates advised that the information would be on the next Planning and Zoning Commission Agenda. A copy of the presentation materials are attached to the minutes.

3. Report regarding zoning changes throughout the City.

Mr. Yates presented the proposed zoning changes to the Commission. Different zoning options were discussed. Carol Langley asked whether institutional use had been included. Mr. Yates advised that institutional use was included where it currently is in the City.

Mr. Yates said that they could schedule a Joint Meeting with the City Council and the Commission to discuss the proposed zoning changes and proposed land use plan. Carol Langley asked whether public hearings would be necessary for the changes. Mr. Yates advised that they would conduct public hearings. Mr. Yates advised that he would also be preparing a press release. A copy of the presentation materials are attached to the minutes.

4. Consideration/take action regarding landscape ordinance implementation.

Mr. Yates advised that he had been checking and there are no specifically corridor landscaping designers. Mr. Yates said that the City of Frisco hired landscape architects. Mr. Yates said that TxDOT has a design manual and said that he would write an RFP for a landscape designer. Mr. Yates said that the City will work with the designer and prepare urban and rural corridors and come up with areas that are to be rural and urban.

Mr. Yates said that Texas Landscapers are located on Rabun Chapel Road, and said that he needed to get together with them regarding information to prepare the design pack. Mr. Yates said that the summary of corridor planning from TxDOT will be used as a guide for preparing the Request for Proposals.

Carol Langley asked if City Council had to approve the action. Mr. Yates said that he would take the information to City Council. Mr. Yates said that Council Member Dave McCorquodale had asked to be on the Committee, so he will send the RFP to Dave McCorquodale, Mr. Roznovsky and the Commission.

Mr. Yates advised that Scottsdale, Arizona has a landscape corridor for all their streets. Mr. Yates said that the City of Frisco requires developers to pay for landscaping corridors. Mr. Yates stated that he spoke to Texas A&M and they have an architectural school, so they might be able to use their students for design.

Mr. Yates said that Montgomery EDC might be able to help with the costs for the plans. Jeffrey Waddell said that it would be easier to do the corridor landscaping now versus waiting until later.

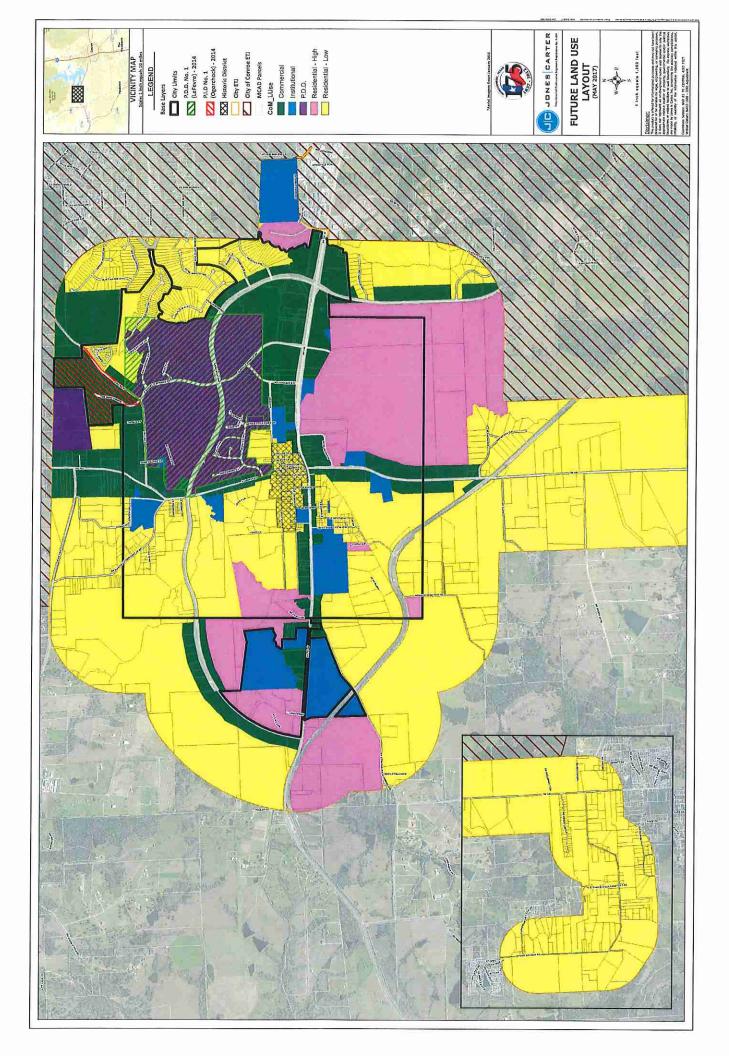
There was no action taken on the matter.

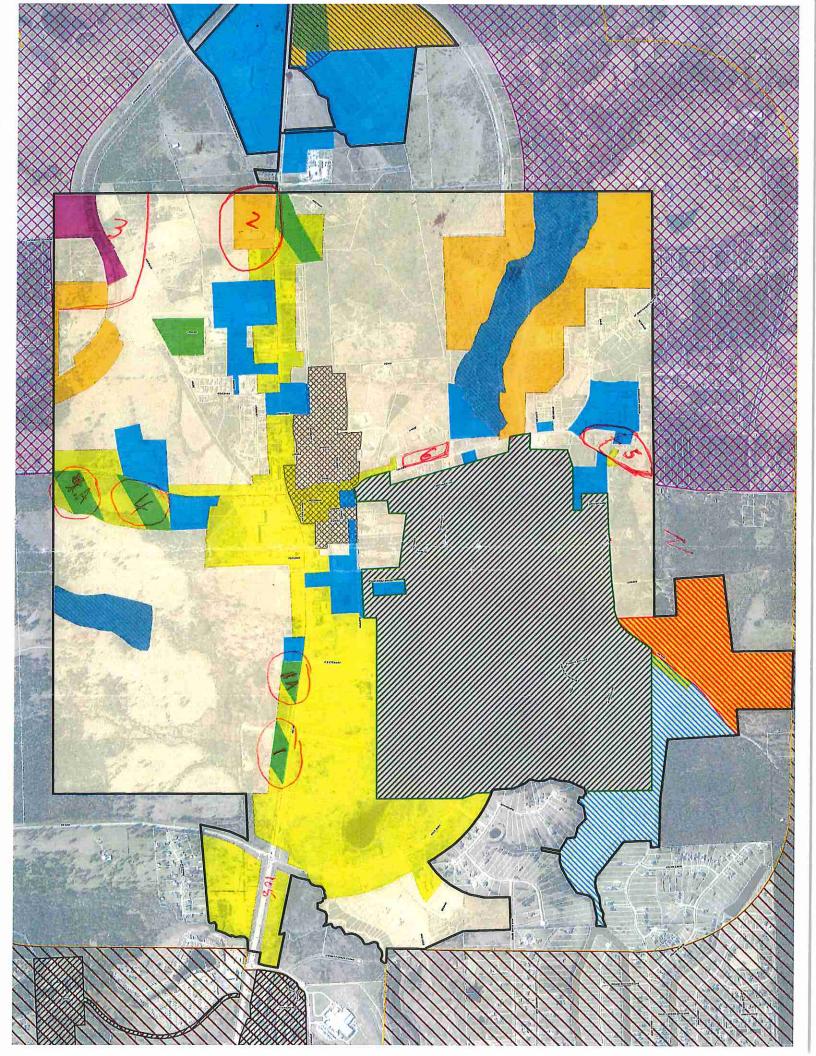
5. Adjournment

Carol Langley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Jeffrey Waddell seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously. (3-0)

Submitted by: Date approved:
Susan Hensley, City Secretary

Chairman Nelson Cox





Meeting Date: June 26, 2017	Budgeted Amount:
Department:	
	Exhibits: Site Plan,
	Rendering of buildings
Prepared By: Jack Yates	
City Administrator	
Date Prepared: June 23, 2017	

Subject

This is a presentation from Monty West and Megan Stultz of their plans to build a retail/office complex on North Liberty Street across from where Clepper Street ends at Liberty Street.

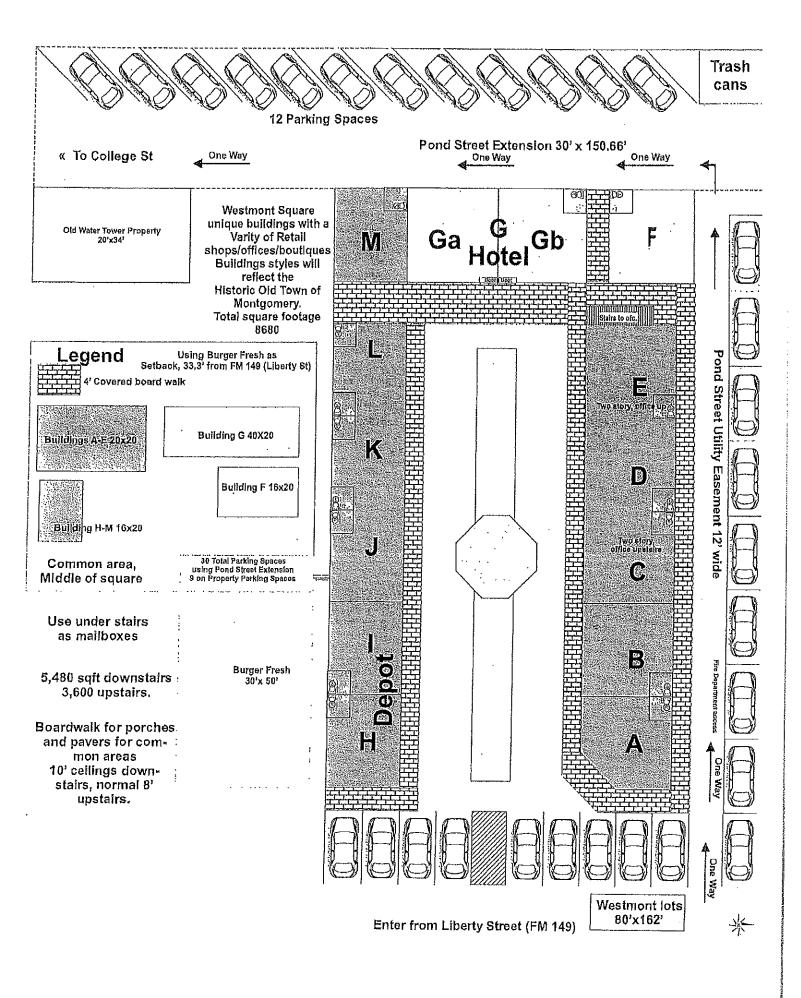
Description

The site plan is in your packet. I think what they have in mind is a U-shaped grouping of businesses with a courtyard of pavers in the center. Note the one-way alley on the north side and the new construction of Pond Street that will be needed north of College Street.

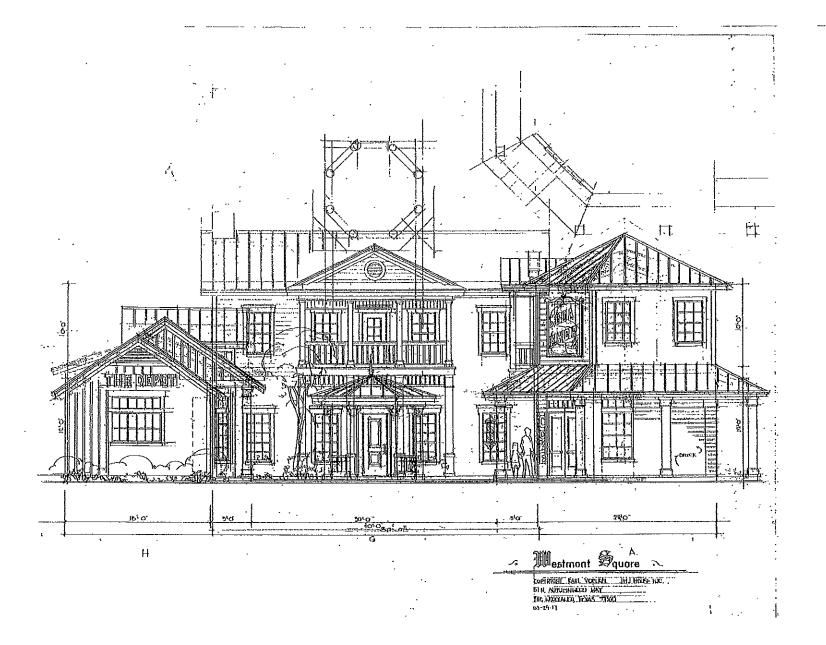
Recommendation

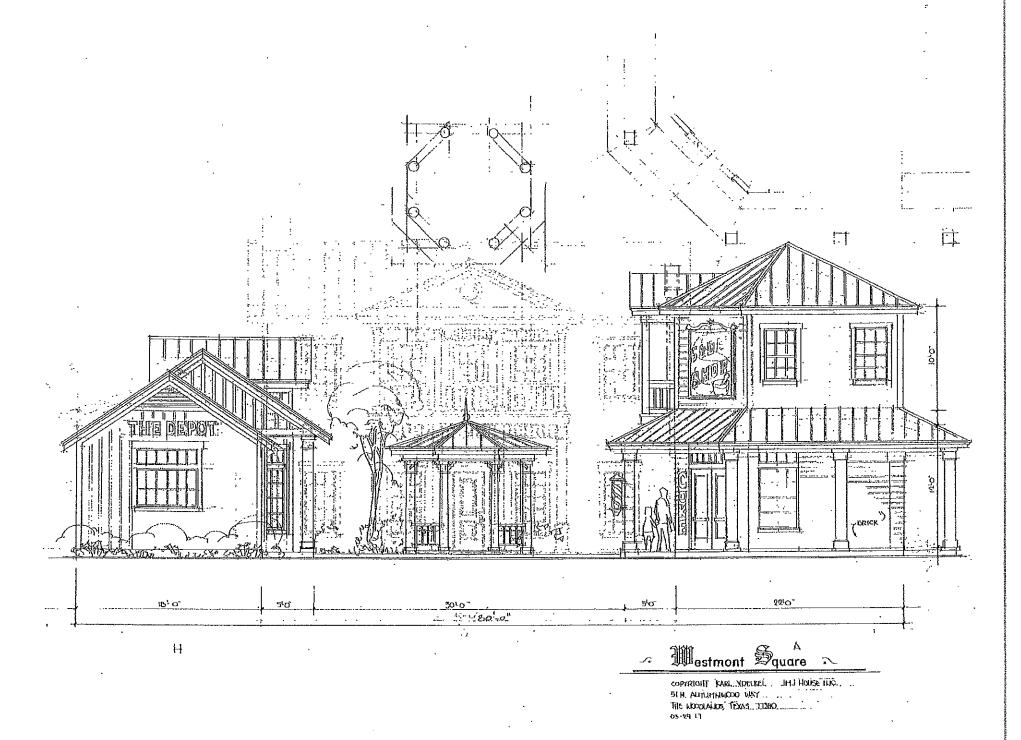
Listen and comment/ask questions as you think.

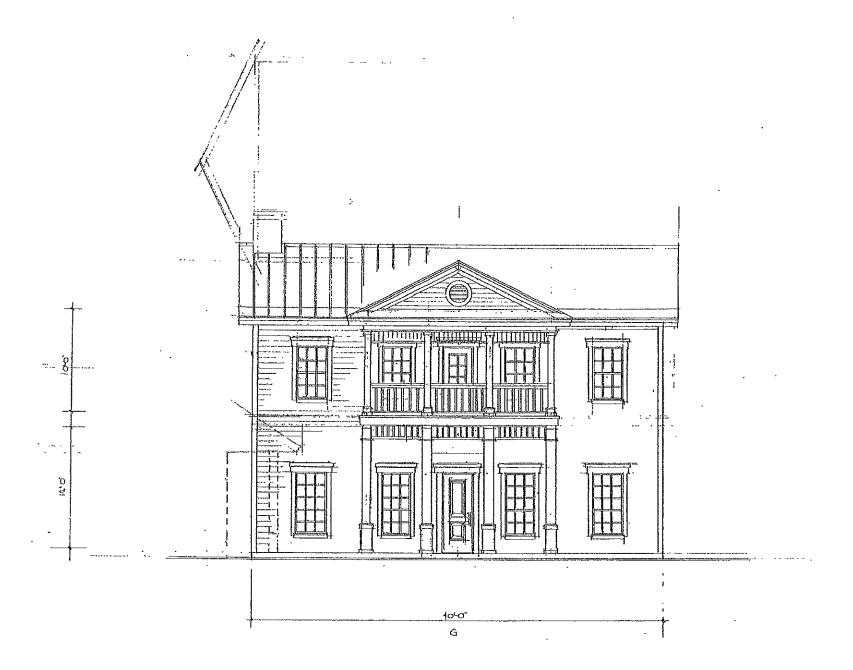
Approved By		
City Administrator	Jack Yates	Date: June 23, 2017



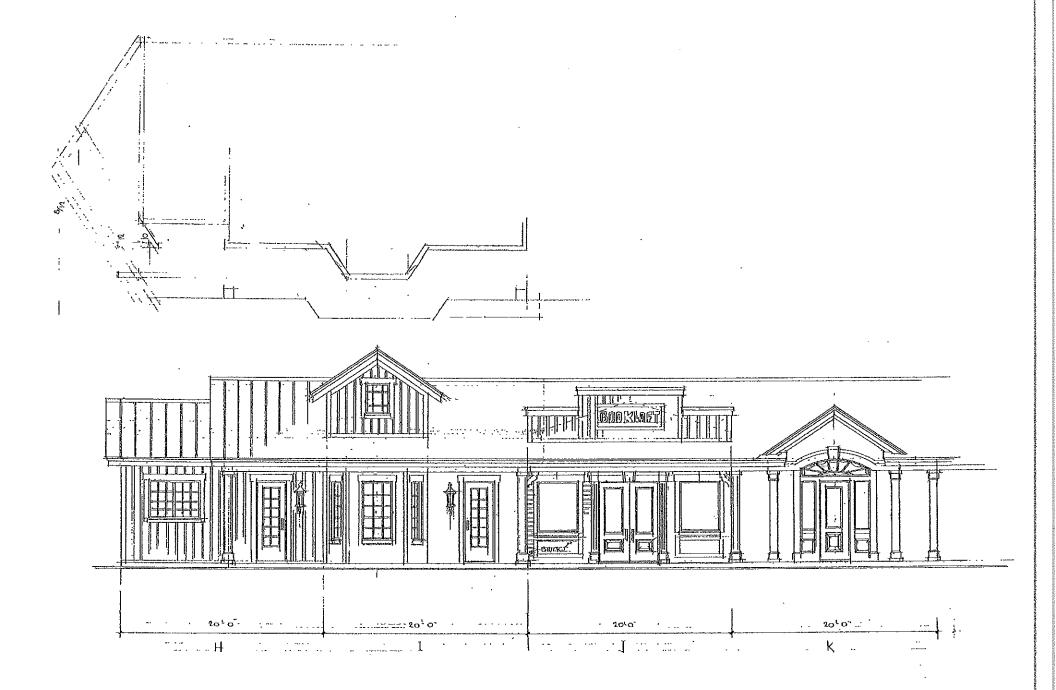


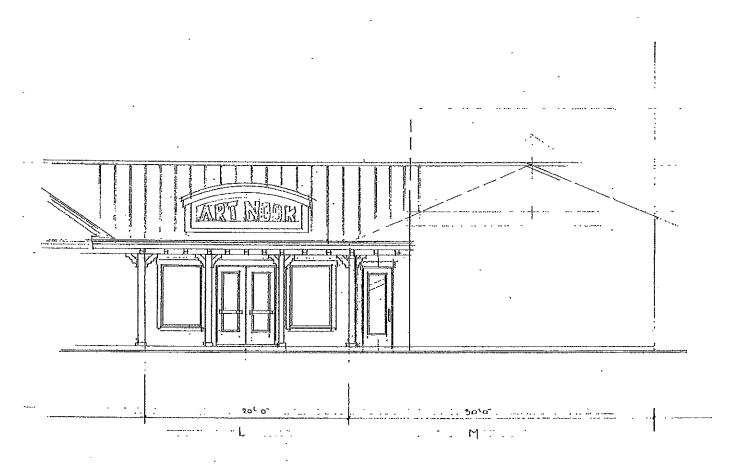






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Meeting Date: June 26, 2017	Budgeted Amount:
Department:	
	Exhibits: Memo from City Engineer, Drawings showing public infrastructure
Prepared By: Jack Yates City Administrator	
Date Prepared: June 22, 2017	

Subject

This is to consider approval of the Final Plat for the Montgomery First property, that is situated immediately west of the new Pizza Shack property.

Description

The engineer states, in his memo, that most review comments have been addressed however, the Engineer recommends that you grant provisional approval to allow addressing of the minor items remaining prior to final plat being signed and filed of record.

Recommendation

To give provisional approval to allow addressing of the minor items remaining prior to final plat being signed and filed of record.

Approved By		
City Administrator	Jack Yates	Date: June 22, 2017



1575 Sawdust Road, Suite 400 The Woodlands, Texas 77380-3795 Tel: 281.363.4039 Fax: 281.363.3459 www.jonescarter.com

June 21, 2017

The Planning and Zoning Commission City of Montgomery 101 Old Plantersville Road Montgomery, Texas 77316

Re:

Submission of Final Plat and Construction Drawings

Montgomery First City of Montgomery

Commission Members:

We have reviewed the referenced Final Plat as prepared by Mr. Jay Dean Canine, RPLS. Most review comments have been addressed however there are still outstanding items to be addressed. We have also reviewed the accompanying construction drawings as prepared by Mr. E. Levi Love, PE. Again, most review comments have been addressed however there are still outstanding items to be addressed. We offer the recommendation that should the Commission grant provisional approval of the referenced documents we will continue to coordinate with Messers. Canine and Love to ensure all review comments are addressed prior to formal approval of the final plat and accompanying construction drawings.

As always, should you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Roznovsky and or myself.

Sincerely,

Ed Shackelford, PE Engineer for the City

EHS/cvr:kmf

P:\PROJECTS\WS841 - City of Montgomery\W5841-0900-00 General Consultation\2017\P&Z Reports\6.26.17\Montgomery First Final Plan and Plat P&Z Opinion.doc

Enclosure:

Montgomery First Final Plat

Montgomery First Construction Plans

cc/enc:

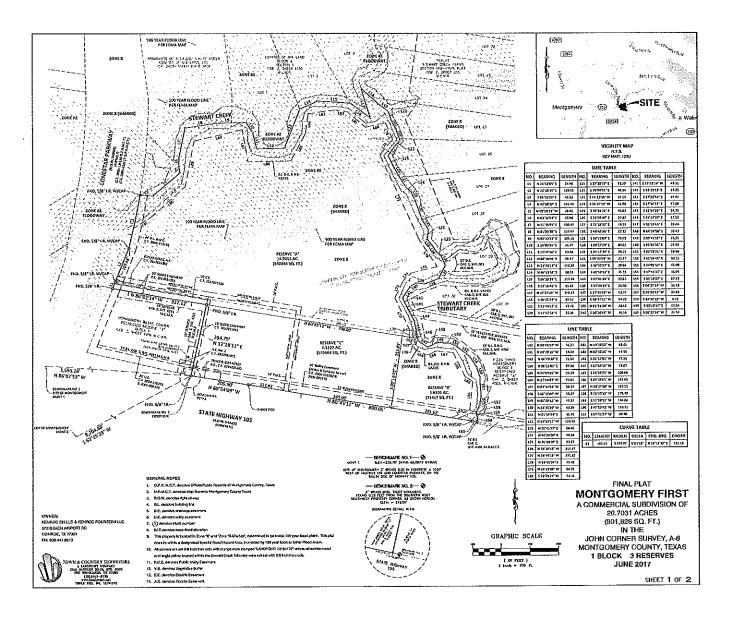
The Honorable Mayor and City Council, City of Montgomery Mr. Jack Yates — City of Montgomery, City Administrator

Ms. Susan Hensley – City of Montgomery, City Secretary

Mr. Larry Foerster - Darden, Fowler and Creighton, LLP, City Attorney

Mr. E. Levi Love, PE - L Squared Engineering

Mr. Jay Dean Canine, RPLS - Town & Country Surveyors



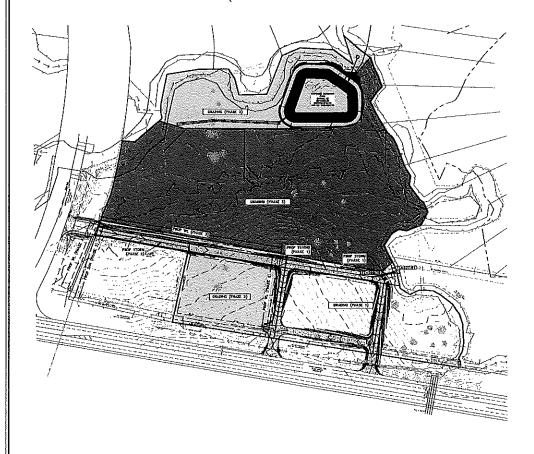
STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY	SURVEYORS CERTIFICATION	This plst and subdivision has been submitted to and evosidated by the City Plausing and Zening Cremistics and the City of Management, Texas and is hereby
We, Kenneth Ray Yangh, Ir, Trustee and Recky Del Papa, Periféent, respessively of Kentre Sie, LLC and Kentre Founcer, LLC, by Yangh Investments, LTD, a Texas limites patteensile, by its General Partner Vaught 1997 Family Trust and by R. Del Papa, LUC evaces	4 accurate survey of the land and that the corner monuments shown thereof were properly placed under my personal supervision, in accordance with the subdivision regulations of	zoning Lettinization and the Lip Crastics of the City of Stongardery, 1 can and it nereby approved by such Commission and Council. Dated this
of the property substituted in the above and foregoing map of Montgomery First do hereby make subdivision of said property for and on behalf of said Kentre Six, i.L.C and Kentre Fournes, 11.C. according to the lives arrows between south and lives and according to the lives arrows between	a. Ge city of producinery. Iexas.	ATTEST:
shown, and designite said subdivision as Montgorney First, located in the John Corner Survey Abstract B, Montgorney County, Texas, and no behalf of said Kennes Sir, LLC and Referen- Feotence, LLC and dedicate to public use, as such, the streets, alleys, parks, and essentials shown thereon forever and do hereby waive any chinat for durages accessioned by the	. By: By: Sy Dyan Canine Sy Dya	By:
abows mecron hospit, and the feety waite easy china for damages accessioned by the establishing of guides as approved for the version and eight edicinated, or occasioned of the alternation of the surface of any position of streets or alloys to confiom to guide guides, and hereby bids orderlyets, our successive and assigns to marrant and forever defined the title to the land so desilenced.	Texas Registration No. 4245	Kitk Jones Nelson Cax Mayor Claiman - Phaningan Zoning Comesitylea
FURTHER, we do hereby drelare that all parcels of load designated as lost on this plat as originally intended for the construction of craffordial develling units thereon (or the placement of mobile been published) and shall be treatriced for same under the trens and creditions of such restrictions filed reportably, unless subservice noted.	r	By: Susan Hemsley - City Secretary
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Kenarth Ray Yaught, Ir., Trustee and Rocky Del Papa President, respectively of Kearoe Six, LLC and Kenree Fourteen, LLC, by Yaughs Investment LTD, a Texas limited partnership, by its General Partner Veughs 1937 Family Trust and by R	CITY OF MONTGOMERY	
and thereum authorized, attested by its President, Rocky Del Paqu, and its common seal bereum authorized, attested by its President, Rocky Del Paqu, and its common seal bereum affixed this	THE UNDERSIGNED. Engineer for the City of Montgomery, hereby cortify that this subdivision plat conforms to all requirements of the subdivision regulations of the City as to which his approval is required.	We, Prosperity Bank, owners and backers or licus against the property described in the plat known as Montgomery First, said licus being evidenced by instrument of record in County Clerik's File Number 2016034520, 2016034521, 2016034518 and 2016034519 of the Real Proprity Records of Montgomery County, Texas, to bettoby in 3th likely subvedinate to said plat.
Kenros Six, LLC and Kenroc Fouriera, LLC By: Vaught 1997 Family Trust	8V; E6 Sinckelford, P.E. City Engineer - City of Montgomery	axid lites, and we hereby confirm that we are the present owners of said Liters and tave not assigned the same ner may part thereof.
By its Goseral Partner Yanght 1997 Family Trust	tay ingrecer very of blongomery	av:
Byr Kenneth Ray Vaught, fr. Truste		Prospectly Bank
By: A. Del Papa, LLC	This plat and subdivition has been submitted to and considered by the City Flaming and Zening Commission and the City Council of the City of Montpourry, Texas and is hereby	STATE OF TEXAS
By: Rocky Del Papa President	appeared by socit Controlstion and Council. Dated this Day of, 2017	COUNTY OF HARRIS
BEFORE MB, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Kenneth Ray Virught To. Trustee of the Kenne Six. 11C and Kenne Proposes, 11C by Visuch Javestments (TD)	-	BEFORE ME, the sudersigned authority, on this day personally appeared of the Françairy Duck. A Texas backing corporation, tenoms to me to be the persons whose nanear are subscribed to the frençairing laterateds, and afficient fedged tome that they executed the same for the purposes and considerations that their expected, and in the expecting therein and benefit account, and as he are land defend in paid corporation.
Texas limited partnership, by its Glearel Banner Vangh 1997 Family Tous and by B. Del Frys. E.C., Jassons in one to be the presens where nones are substribed to the foregoing liatonument and acknowledged come that they executed the same for the purposes and considerations therein expressed, and in the capacity therein and berein set out, and as the zer and deed of sale expenditure.	Kirk Jones Nelson Cox	GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, INK day of2017.
OIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, this day no	By	Netary Public for Harris County, Texas
Notary Public for Montgomery County, Texas	and the state of t	Princed name
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My commission expires		
DEFORE ME, the undersigned numbering, as this day personally appeared Rocky Del Papa, In.		
bet these of the sense file, LL most receive may personally systems energy set (§ 2.), where the of the sense file, LL most receive may personally systems energy set (§ 2.), and the set of personal mining special set (§ 2.), the set of the se	o'clock M, and duly recorded on day of	
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE, this day of		FINAL PLAT
Notery Public for Montgomery County, Texas		MONTGOMERY FIRST A COMMERCIAL SUBDIVISION OF
Printed page My commission expires	BY: Nark Tourbul, Clerk, County Court, Montgomery County, Texas	20,7031 ACRES (901,826 SQ. FT.) IN THE
TOWN & COUNTRY SURVEYORS A LLEGEORY TREAST TIMES TOWN A COUNTRY SURVEYORS TOWN A COUNTRY SURVEYO	ву г. Deputy	JOHN CORNER SURVEY, A-8 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS 1 BLOCK 3 RESERVES
INCLUDED TO SOLATED SOLATED STATE SOLATED STATE SOLATED SOLATE		JUNE 2017 SHEET 2 OF 2

SHEET 2 OF 2

CITY OF MONTGOMERY, TEXAS

MONTGOMERY FIRST PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

(CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR PHASE 1 & PHASE 2)



NDEX

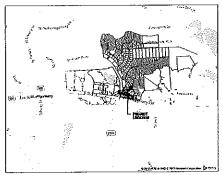
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1	COVER SHEET
2	EXISTING SURVEY CONDITIONS
3	OVERALL SITEPLAN
4	GRADING PLAN
5	CUT AND FILL MITIGATION
6	UTILITY PLAN
7	ROAD 1 UTILITY PLAN & PROFILE
8	ROAD 2 UTILITY PLAN & PROFILE
9	RDAD 3 UTILITY PLAN & PROFILE
10	ROAD 4 UTILITY PLAN & PROFILE
11	PRE-DEVGLOPED OVERALL ORAINAG
12	DRAINAGE PLAN
13	DRAINAGE CALCULATIONS
14	DETENTION POND DETAIL
15	SWPPP
16	GRADING PLAN - PHASING
17	CONSTRUCTION NOTES
18	UTILITY DETAILS
19	STORM SEWER DETAILS
20	PAVING DETAILS
21	PLAT (SHEET 1)
27	PLAT (SHEET 2)

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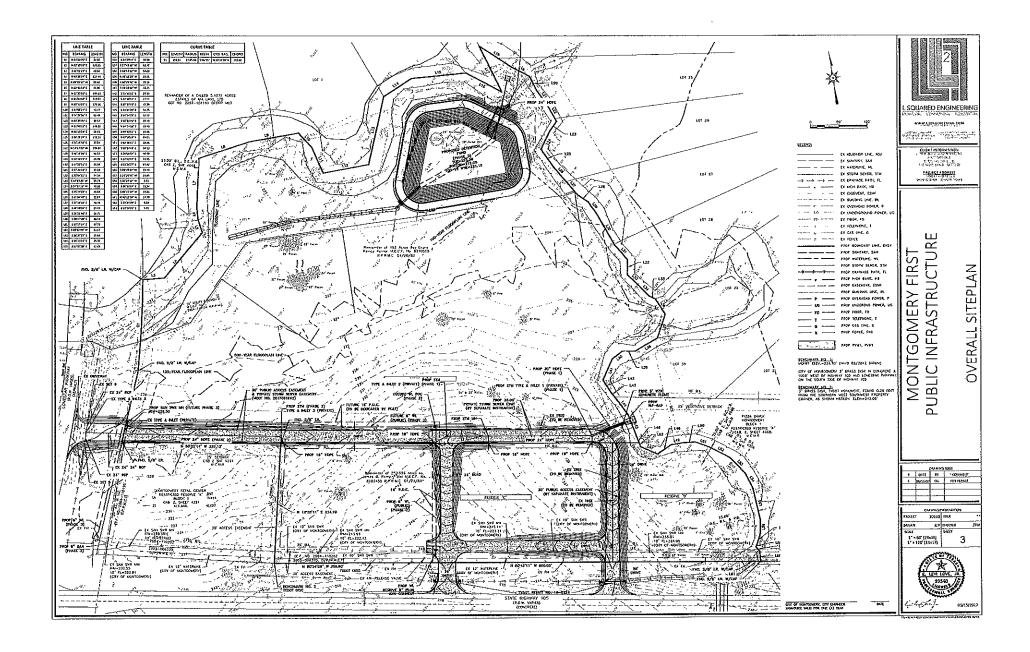
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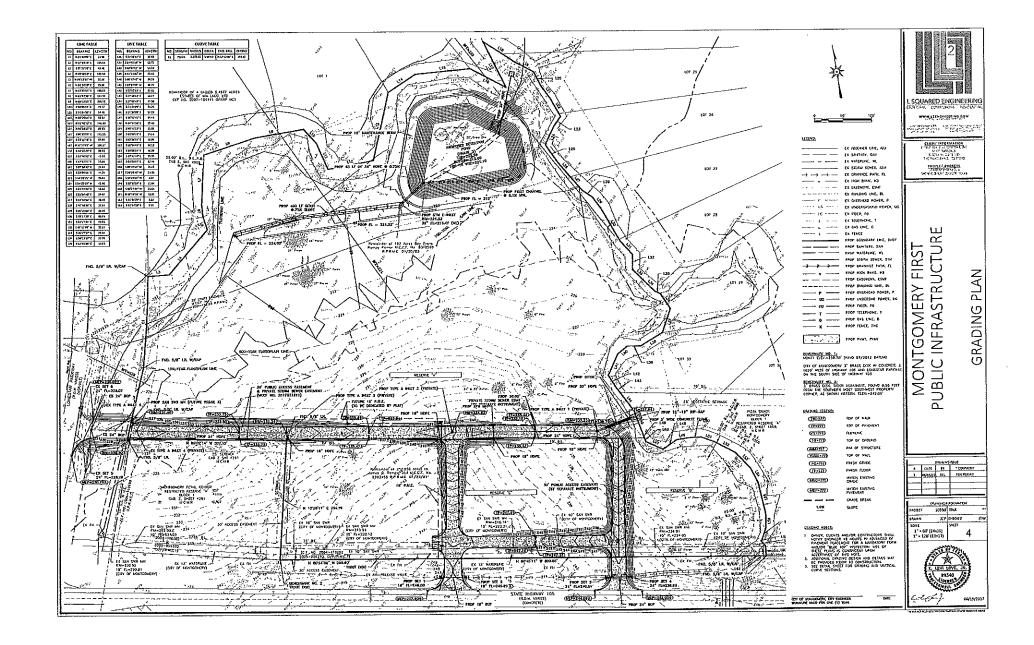
MONTGOMERY FIRST PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

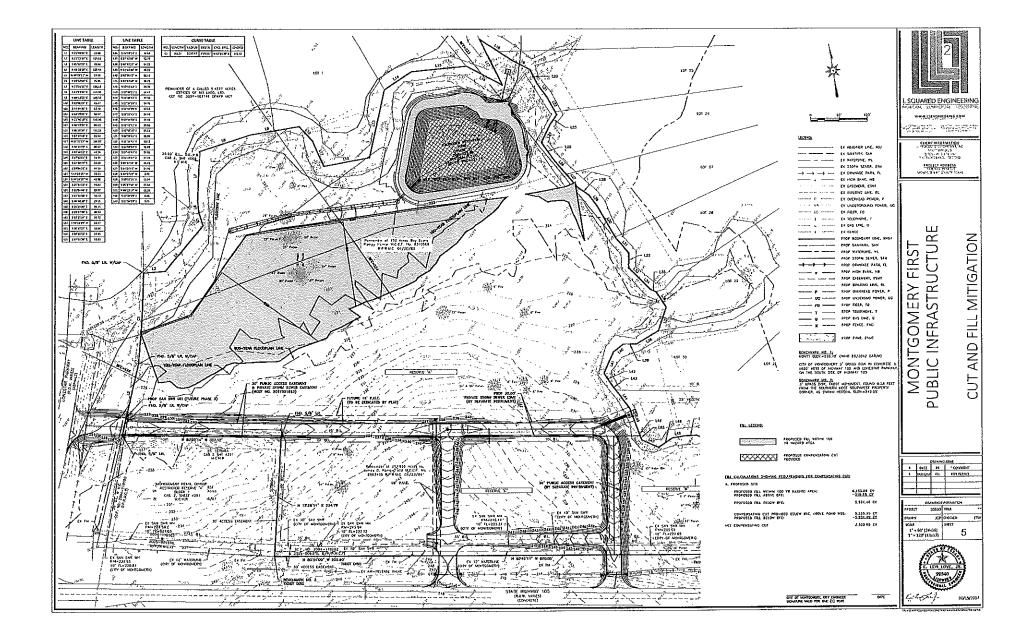
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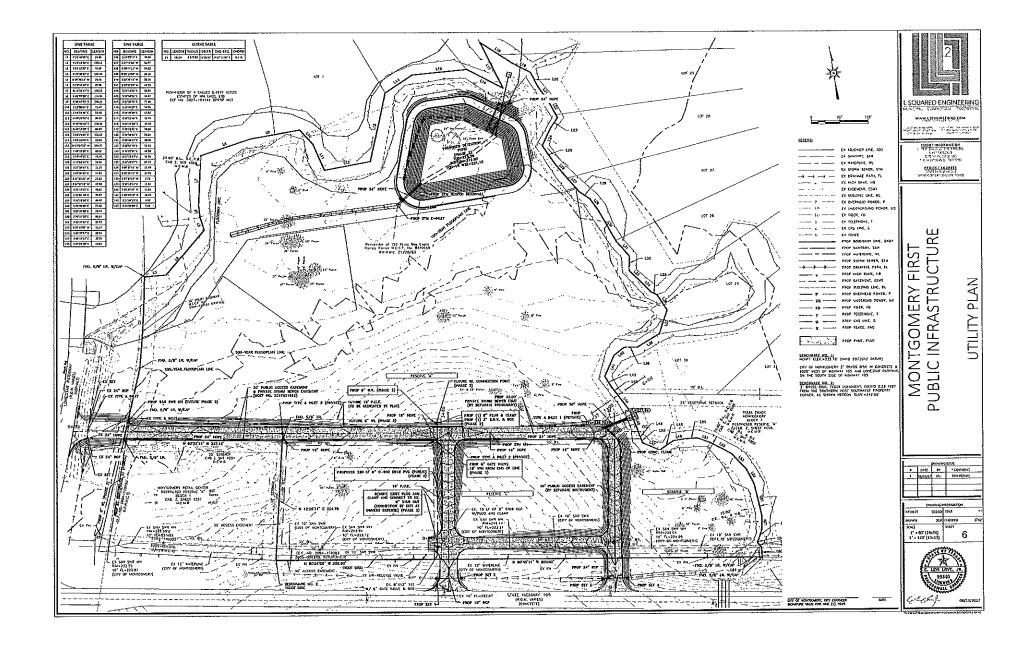
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Meeting Date: June 26, 2017	Budgeted Amount:
Department:	
	Exhibits: Memo from City Engineer, Drawings showing construction intent
Prepared By: Jack Yates City Administrator	
Date Prepared: June 22, 2017	

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This.is the planned construction for Lake Creek Village Section Three.

Description

The engineer states, in his memo, that he recommends approval of the plans as shown.

Recommendation

To give approval to the construction plans as shown.

Approved	By
Approved	Ву

City Administrator	Jack Yates	Date: June 22, 2017



1575 Sawdust Road, Suite 400 The Woodlands, Texas 77380-3795 Tel: 281.363.4039 Fax: 281.363.3459 www.jonescarter.com

June 21, 2017

Planning and Zoning Commission City of Montgomery 101 Old Plantersville Road Montgomery, Texas 77316

Re:

Approval of Construction Drawings Lake Creek Village, Section Three

City of Montgomery

Commission Members:

We have reviewed the referenced construction drawings as submitted by GLS Engineering and offer no objections to the plans as submitted to us. We offer our recommendation that the Planning and Zoning Commission approve the construction plans as shown. A final plat will be recorded following completion of construction.

As always, should you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Roznovsky or myself.

Sincerely,

Ed Shackelford, PE Engineer for the City

EHS/cvr:kmf

K:\W5841\W5841-0900-00 General Consultation\Correspondence\Letters\2017\MEMO to PZ RE Lake Creek Village Section 3 Plan Approval.doc

Enc: Construction Plans - Lake Creek Village, Section III

cc: The Honorable Mayor and City Council, City of Montgomery

Mr. Jack Yates – City of Montgomery, City Administrator Ms. Susan Hensley – City of Montgomery, City Secretary

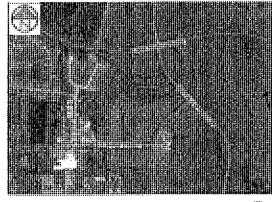
Mr. Larry Foerster - Darden, Fowler & Creighton, LLP, City Attorney

Mr. Troy Toland, PE - GLS Engineering

CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR

LAKE CREEK VILLAGE SECTION III

8.25 ACRES, 1 BLOCK, 22 LOTS, 3 RESERVES (PAVING, WATER, SEWER, DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS) MAY 2017



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

MEXICO

SUBMITTED:

I certify that these plans which bear my seal have been prepared by me or under my direct supervision and are, to the best of my knowledge, in compliance with all applicable city, state, and federal requirements. This proposed site will not impede the flow of surface waters from higher adjacent properties, will not alter the natural flow of surface waters so as to discharge them upon adjacent properties at a more rapid rate (except where previously agreed upon) or in a different location, and will not concentrate flow of surface waters in a manner which exceeds the capacity of the receiving watercourse (see note on sheet C1.4).

City of Montgomery, City Engineer Signature Valid for One (1) Year

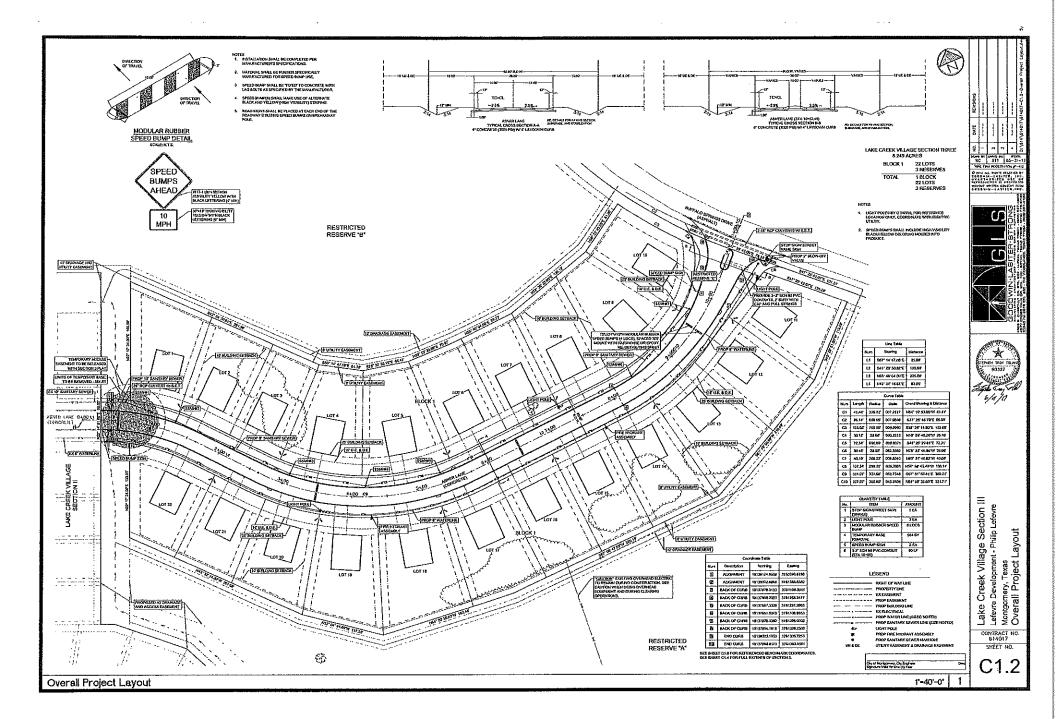
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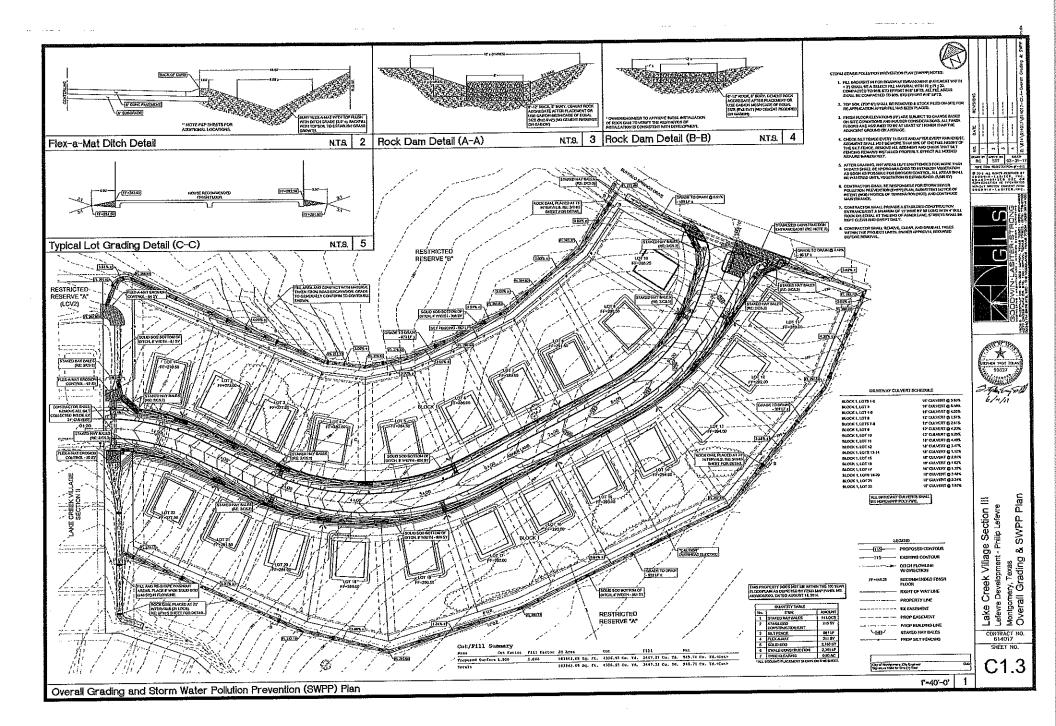
Drawing Index			
Num	Sheet Title	Revision	
-	Cover Sheet		
C1.0	Project Notes & Information		
C1.1	Project Notes & Information		
C1.2	Overall Project Layout		
C1.3	Overall Grading & SWPP Plan		
C1.4	Drainage Area Map		
PP1	Preliminary Plat		
	Roadway and Drainage Plan & Profil	e	
C2.1	Roadway and Drainage Plan & Profile		
C2.2	Roadway and Drainage Plan & Profile		
Sanitary Sewer Plan & Profile			
C3.1	Santary Sower Plan & Profile		
C3.2	Sanitary Sower Plan & Profile		
Waterline Plan & Profile			
C4.1	Watedine Plan & Profile		
C4.2	Waledine Plan & Profile		
	Project Details		
C5.1	Project Dataits - Paving Details		
C5.2	Project Details - Sanitary Sewer Details		
C5.3	Project Details - Drainage Details		
C5.4	Project Details - Water Details		
* Sheets updated this revision.			

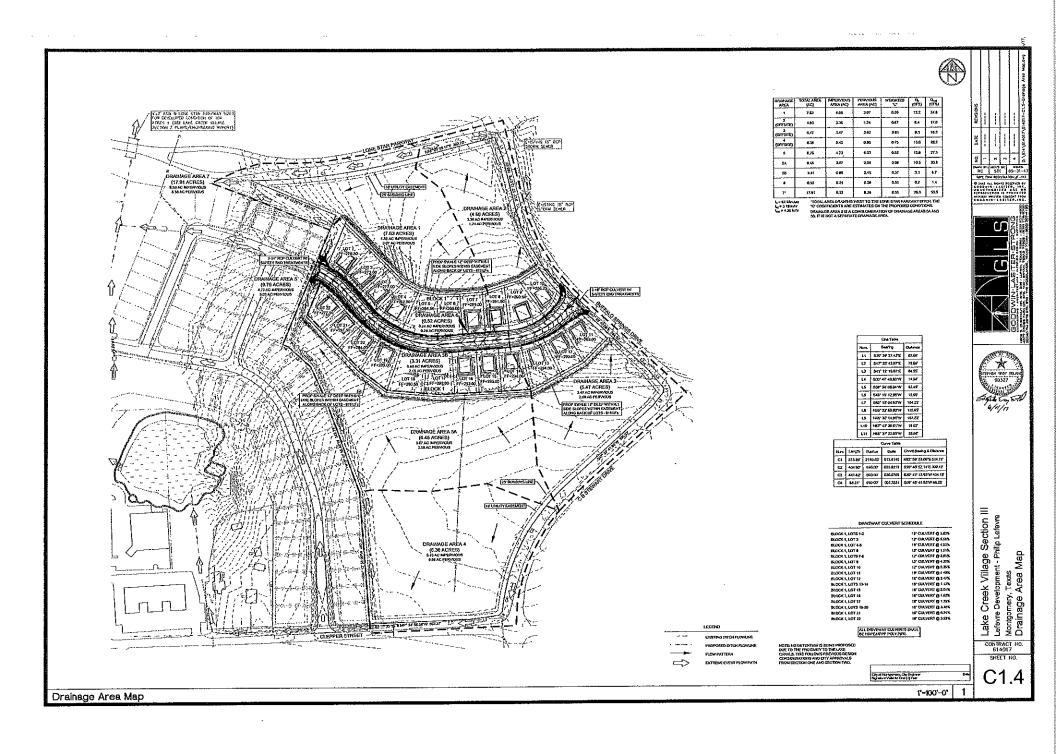
Design speed of 30 MPH in lieu of 40 MPH.

PREPARED BY









	Budgeted Amount:
Meeting Date: June 26, 2017	
Department:	
	Exhibits: Land Use Plan
Prepared By: Jack Yates	
City Administrator	
Date Prepared: June 23, 2017	

Subject		
Land Use Plan		

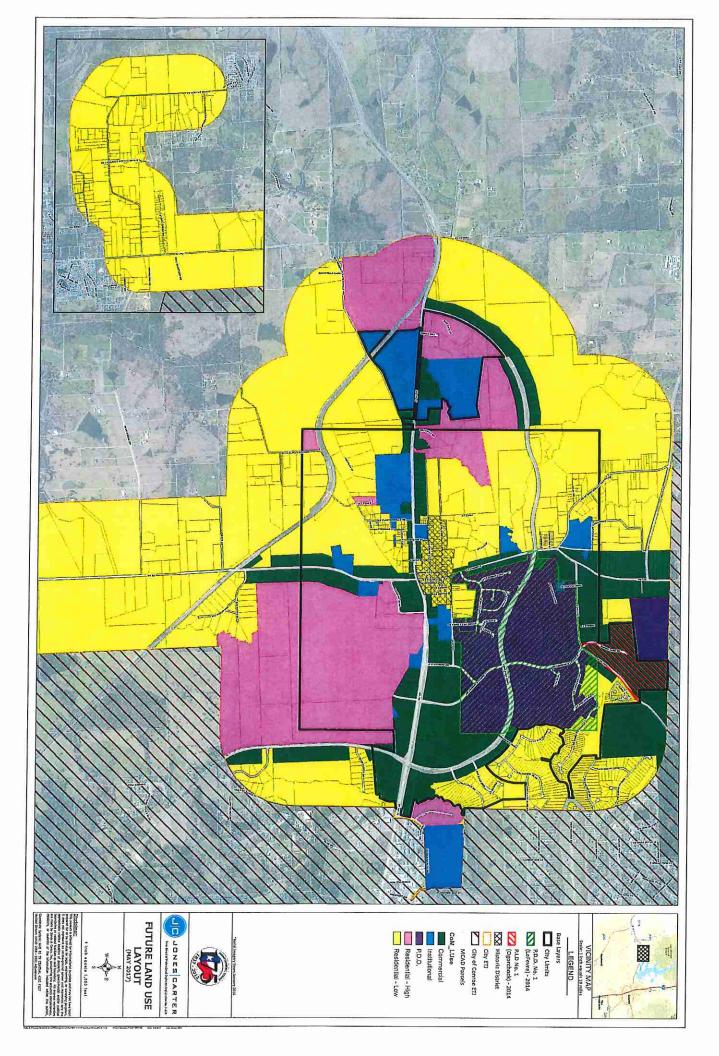
Description

The small map is attached, you have your large maps. The intention is for you to submit a Plan to the City Council at a joint July 13th meeting.

Recommendation

Review the maps, direct City Administrator to change as needed.

Approved By		
City Administrator	Jack Yates	Date: June 23, 2017



Meeting Date: June 26, 2017	Budgeted Amount:
Department:	
Prepared By: Jack Yates City Administrator	Exhibits: Zoning change map
Date Prepared: June 23, 2017	

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Proposed zoning changes to be initiated by the city.

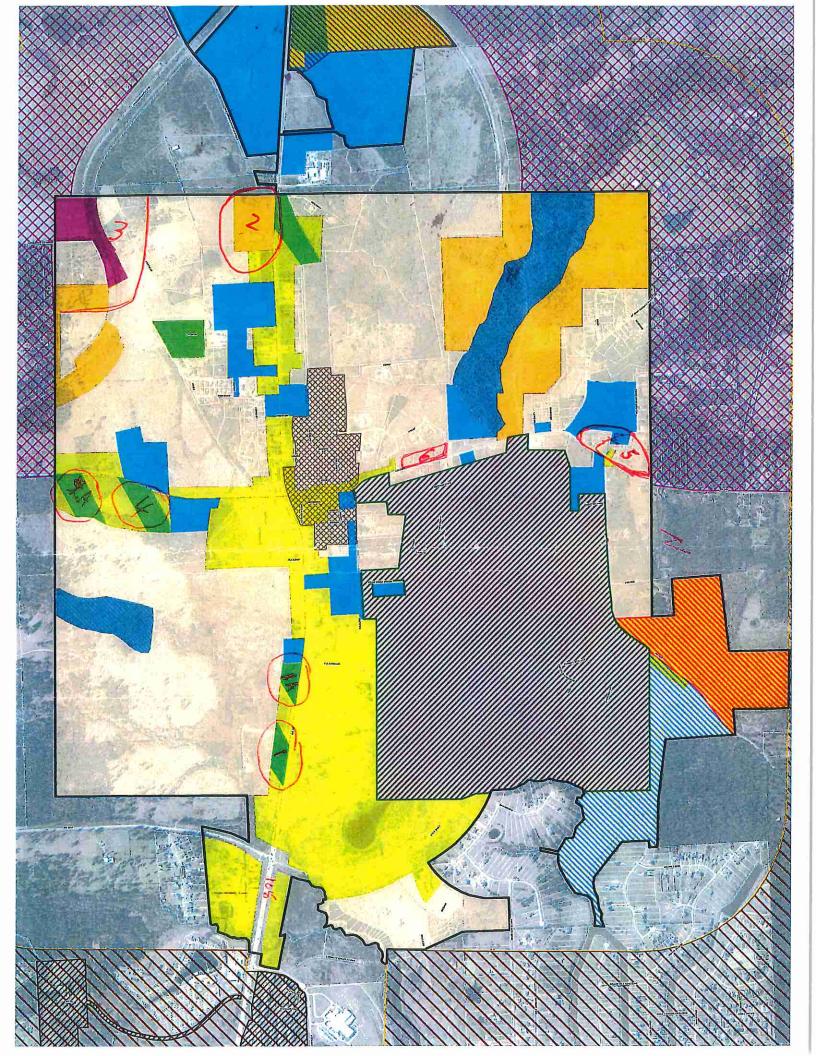
Description

The small map is attached, you have your large maps. Area 2 is intended to be stricken off the change list. The intention is for you to submit the proposed changes to the City Council at a joint July 13th meeting.

Recommendation

Review the maps, direct City Administrator to change as needed.

Approved By		
City Administrator	Jack Yates	Date: June 23, 2017



Meeting Date: June 26, 2017	Budgeted Amount:
Department:	
Prepared By: Jack Yates City Administrator	Exhibits: Request for Proposals
Date Prepared: June 23, 2017	

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Hiring someone to do Street Corridor Landscape Planning

Description

The drat of an RFP is attached. I am waiting on Dave McCorquodale to review the draft, plus the Commission can add whatever you think. Dave, has been on vacation for most of the past month.

Recommendation

Review the RFP and suggest changes as needed.

Approved By		
City Administrator	Jack Yates	Date: June 23, 2017
the defense		

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS STREET CORRIDOR LANDSCAPING PLANNING

The City of Montgomery is accepting Proposals for Street Corridor Planning in the City limits. The street corridors initially to be involved include: Lone Star Parkway from SH 105 west to FM 149, Lone Star Parkway from FM 149 west to SH 105, FM 149 from SH 105 south to City Limits, SH 105 from Lone Star Parkway west to FM 149 and FM and that 1097 from east city limits to FM 149. The work needed includes: developing a landscaped corridor Master Plan (Plan) for the five corridors (one at a time, progressively in the order of the corridors listed above), the Plan should include aerial maps of the corridors with drawings/sketches/designs of the landscaping features to be placed, horizontal drawings/sketches/designs of the landscaping features at key locations, details of the plants/trees, landscape materials to be placed and dirt to be moved. Attendance at public meetings and presentation of the design is expected.

The City is thinking that Rural corridor design is the appropriate aesthetic design characteristic for the corridors listed, although Urban design principles may apply, the determination will be discussed with the City Planning Commission before detailed design begins.

As a guide to the type of consideration for the design desired, attached to the full RFP document that is available to each Respondent is Section 4: Landscape and Aesthetics Design Manual: Highway and Transportation Corridors of the TxDOT Design Manual.

A Letter of interest along with documentation of Qualifications (20 copies) are due in the office of the City Secretary, 101 Old Plantersville Road, P.O. Box 708, Montgomery, Texas 77356 on or before 3:00 p.m., July 10, 2017.

For further information you may contact Jack Yates, City Administrator at 936-597-6463 or at iyates@ci.montgomery.tx.us

Section 4: Highway and Transportation Corridors

Overview

The physical and visual relationship of the roadway to its surroundings is a key factor in the aesthetics of the roadway. A corridor is defined as a long, narrow passageway. While we tend to think of corridors in association with building, the corridor concept applies to highways as well. The concept is useful because it prompts the designer to consider the linear nature of the roadway as a movement in space and time. Figure 1-2 shows the concept of a rural corridor, and Figure 1-3 shows the concept of an urban corridor.



Figure 1-2. The visual definition of rural corridors is determined by landform changes, vegetation, and distant views.

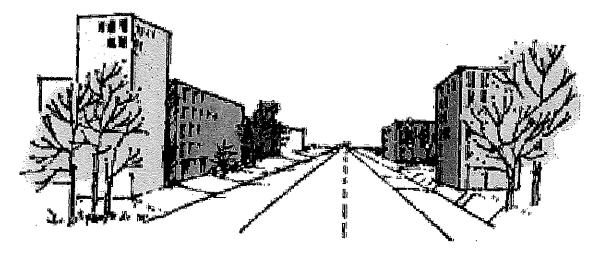


Figure 1-3. Urban corridors tend to be linear and are visually defined by the surrounding architecture and alignment of the roadway.

As individuals move along corridors, their perceptions change as the character of roadway and the surrounding landscape change. Sections of roadway usually maintain a particular character for a distance, which can also be

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described as a unit of time. Areas that are in view for a longer period tend to take on greater significance in the viewer's perception of a place.

Changes in the character of the landscape usually occur at important landmarks that people use to orient themselves (see Figure 5-8). Landmarks may be very subtle, such as a distinctive building, bridge, or an intersection. More dramatic changes are usually associated with changes in topography, panoramic vistas, river crossings or views of large water bodies.

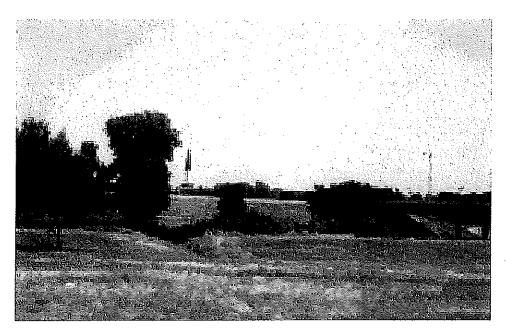


Figure 1-4. Landmarks can be important orientation elements that may also carry cultural significance for a community.

The contextual landscape can be grouped into two categories, urban and rural. While there is variation within each category the basic aesthetic considerations are similar within each category. Sections in this chapter cover the following aesthetic considerations for roadway corridor design:

- · corridor segments as a unit of design
- defining a corridor segment
- urban corridors
- · urban design principles and application
- rural corridors
- rural design principles and application

Corridor Segments as a Unit of Design

TxDOT develops highways in project units. Project limits are based on concerns of budget, construction sequencing, buildability, environmental fit, and other issues of priority and need. However, user understanding and experience of traveling on highway are strongly related to travel patterns and cultural sense of the city or region.

Researchers have found that highways tend to be perceived as edges or boundaries that segregate parts of the city or landscape. <u>Interchanges</u> and intersections are perceived as nodes or gateways to precincts that are usually identified in terms of their land use. Structure, such as major bridges, are seen as landmarks used for orientation.

These facts argue strongly for design approach that recognizes perceived cultural boundaries and deals with the landscape and aesthetics design of highway system as corridor segments rather than on a project basis.

Defining a Corridor Segment

The limits of a corridor are essentially defined by the perception of the resident population of a city or region. The sense of corridor limits tends to grow up with the city. For example, in Houston there is no formal land use designation of "Museum District" but Houstonians will generally agree that it lies south of US 59 between South Main Street and Montrose. This is one example, but every community has some sense of corridors, and where the beginning and ending point are. Designers working on the development of landscape and aesthetics plans should work with local residents to identify meaningful corridor units.

Urban Corridors

This visual character of an urban corridor tends to change more rapidly when compared to changes in a rural setting. This is due to the visually distinct characteristics of various abutting land uses and the limited area likely to be occupied by a given land use. Some design characteristics that affect aesthetic design decisions in urban areas include the following:

- social and cultural influences
- impact of adjacent land use
- visual complexity
- views
- bicycle and pedestrian access
- environmental mitigation

Social and Cultural Influences. Social and cultural patterns have a marked impact on what will constitute an acceptable design solution. Increasing the population close to the highway increases the potential for conflicts between special interests and those with the responsibility for the design of the transportation infrastructure. More intense land use means that there is a closer contact with the highway and associated structures. Land uses in close proximity to the highway are more affected by noise and vibration, stray light and other impacts associated with highway operations.

Impact of Adjacent Land Use. Adjacent land use establishes the character of the landscape. During the design process a conscious decision must be made as to whether the highway should be blended with the surrounding landscape or allowed to contrast. The basis for this decision involves consideration of the engineering properties of the highway, cross section, structures, and operational needs in relation to the character of the landscape. It is usually desirable to keep the highway visually neutral in residential and commercial area while in larger scale landscapes such as industrial zones it may be desirable to design for visual contrast.

Visual Complexity. The urban setting is dominated by structure connected by a network of transportation links and utilities. The aggregation of building, streets, drives, signs, power distribution lines, light standards, etc., combine to create a very complex visual environment. Drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists are required to extract from the visual scene information appropriate to the individual situation. As the visual scene becomes more complex the task of interpretation becomes more demanding. Recent research has demonstrated that older adults and inexperienced drivers often have trouble interpreting and reacting to visual information.

Views. Views to and from the highway are very important. In residential areas it is usually desirable to restrict views to and from the highway corridor. However, in commercial, institutional, and industrial zones maintaining views to and from properties becomes very important. Businesses in particular depend on being seen from the highway. Likewise, open views of business and public properties tend to reduce vandalism and other criminal activities.

The viewsheds in an urban landscape tend to be limited. Panoramic views in urban settings are most likely associated with high bridge structures or roads that ascend major topographic features. Buildings and other structures usually obscure the natural horizon. Therefore there is less sky and a more shadow. Shade will wash out contrast in color and texture and can make it difficult for viewers to distinguish colors and materials. The lack of natural references increases the reliance on landmarks and other information devices in way finding.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Access. Bicycle and pedestrian access has been mandated under Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century (TEA-21) legislation. TxDOT seeks to provide safe accommodation of pedestrians and cyclists on all state maintained right-of-way. The AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities is the basis for detailed design of bicycle facilities. The authority for pedestrian facilities is the AASHTO publication A Policy on the Geometric Design of Highways and Streets.

Environmental Mitigation. Environmental <u>mitigation</u> embraces a broad scope of activities dealing with issues of air quality, water quality, noise and vibration, and environmental justice. Environmental mitigation requires a variety of structural features that can be incorporated as landscape and aesthetic assets at no additional cost.

Urban Design Principles and Application

This section provides basic design principles that can be employed to address urban landscape characteristics. Each of these principles is broad, and intended to give designers a point of beginning when making design decisions about materials, colors, forms, and levels of design complexity in an urban setting.

- Use the public participation process to understand the social and cultural influences acting in a project area and avoid conflicts with special interests.
- Consider adjacent land use as a paramount consideration in making design decisions.
 - The colors, textures, material, and scale of adjacent structures should influence selections for the highway.
 - When noise and vibration mitigation are necessary, design should be integrated into the highway as well as influenced by adjacent properties.
 - The form of land and other structures should complement the adjacent land uses to the extent possible.
 - Views to important community landmarks should be identified and maintained.
 - Views to commercial properties should be maintained or enhanced.
- Reduce visual complexity where possible. Techniques that can be employed are:
 - Use vertical screens to reveal landscape and highway elements in understandable sequences. For example vegetation can be placed to divide a complex scene into a series of understandable spaces.
 - Where possible, maintain or enhance the views to commercial properties.
 - To the extent possible reduce the number of free standing signs.
 - o Compose signs in a way that reduces visual complexity.
- Utilize environmental mitigation requirements as an integral part of the aesthetic design decision process.
 - Utilize noise mitigation as visual screens and structural landscape elements.
 - Utilize water quality and flood control basins as features to complement the landscape of interchanges and other highway design elements.
 - o Integrate historic, cultural, and scenic themes into structural details of the highway.
- Use design elements to manage desirable and undesirable view to and from the highway.

- Early in the design process alignment and landform can be used to good advantage to manage views to and from the highway.
- Traffic barriers, vegetation, signs, fences and walls of all types are effective tools for managing views to and from highway.
- Use contrast in material color, texture, and scale to draw attention to important points along the highway corridor.
- In shaded areas use shape color contrasts to help observers distinguish between driving lanes, shoulders, vertical, and horizontal surfaces of the highway.
- Use more intense colors on surfaces that receive some shading because the intensity will be diminished by the shade.
- Use very bold, rough textures on surfaces to make them more visible.
- Plants with coarse texture will be more effective than small leafed plants.
- Trees should be planted so they break the horizon line of sight. If trees are planted on a slope so that they do not break the horizon they will appear to be little more than a different shade of green.
- To the extent possible, bicycle and pedestrian traffic must be accommodated with the right-of-way.

Rural Corridors

Rural corridors have aesthetic design characteristics quite different from urban settings. The key properties of a rural corridor are:

- The natural or agricultural landscape dominates the visual field.
- Viewers perceive more of the adjacent land.
- There is less visual change in the landscape.
- The landscape is visually simple.
- Views extend far beyond the right-of-way.
- The scale of the highway is perceived as smaller in relation to the rural landscape.

Dominance of the Natural Landscape. In the rural landscape the natural landform and vegetation dominate the visual field. Structures such as farmsteads, barns, or small subdivisions of single family homes are viewed as individual objects within the landscape as opposed to objects that compose the landscape. This makes the highway read as a ribbon of pavement through the landscape and the boundaries of the right-of-way become blurred. There is also less variation in color. Generally greens, warm grays, and muted blues dominate the color palette. This means that the introduction of bright colors, particularly reds and yellows, will quickly draw attention.

Perception of a Larger Landscape. Traffic volumes tend to be lower and traffic less concentrated in the rural setting. While this is not always true on the interstate highway system, it has the effect of widening the cone of vision. As the cone of vision increases the view extends further into the landscape and there is less focus on the immediate right-of-way. Observers tend to perceive more of the landscape than they will in a confined urban condition.

Perception of Change in the Landscape. The rural landscape is much more uniform in its visual properties and does not change character rapidly. If the landscape is forested it will usually remain forested for a considerable distance and if it is agricultural cropland it will also remain so for some time. This simplifies the driver's workload because there is much less visual information to be interpreted.

Perception of Scale. In the rural landscape the perceived scale of the highway is much smaller than in a confined urban setting. Drivers perceive that the natural landscape is larger than the highway and it's

Rural Design Principles and Application

This brief discussion of rural landscape characteristics suggests some aesthetic design principles that should guide development of landscape and aesthetic plans. Each principle is general and only a guide to making aesthetic design decisions about materials, colors, forms, and visual complexity in a rural setting.

Importance of the Natural Landscape. The natural landscape of a rural highway tends to be visually dominant. Therefore landscape improvements should be designed to supplement or enhance the existing conditions. This may include activities such as:

- marking community entrances
- enhancing existing vegetation
- screening or focusing views

Scale of the Rural Landscape. The scale of the rural landscape requires dramatic contrast if an introduced design feature is to be effective.

- Colors that contrast with the basic background colors will be the most effective in the rural landscape. Other colors will simply fade into the background.
- Limit ornamental planting to very large shrubs and trees that will break the horizon line or line of sight.
- Use the features of the existing landscape where possible. Add structural features and plant materials so that they complement existing landscape features.

Change in Visual Character. The landscape character changes infrequently in a rural setting and the views are less complex.

- The pattern of the landscape changes slowly in the rural landscape. This means the areas of greatest importance are the transition points. For example, moving from open pastureland into a forested area marks a distinct change.
- There is much less information to process in a rural landscape, and drivers tend to relax. This has been linked to the loss of driver concentration and possible mistakes that could lead to accidents. For this reason designers should be alert to opportunities to add interest to the rural setting.

Viewsheds. Viewsheds tend to extend well beyond the boundaries of the right-of-way.

- Views tend to be less focused on objects.
- Because the landscape area is much larger, small disturbances or unattractive occurrences tend to have much less visual impact.
- Edges and boundaries are the most sensitive to change because they form the background or end of a viewshed.

Perceived Scale. The perceived scale of the roadway is smaller in the rural landscape.

- The pavement tends to be the only visual reference to the roadway in an open landscape, which minimizes the perceived scale of the roadway.
- In forested land the mass and height of the trees tends to dominate the scale of the road.
- Because of the perceived scale it is difficult to achieve sharp contrasts with the landscape and architectural forms.

• Contrast in a rural landscape is best generated with the use of color.