

City Council Work Session Handouts

February 6, 2017

- I. Review and Discuss the 2015-2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Presentation
- II. Review and Discuss the Over 65 and Disabled Person Exemption
- III. Review and Discuss West Spring Valley Road Rehab Project
- IV. Review and Discuss Lighting Installed Around Windows and Recommended Updates to the Sign Regulations
- V. Review and Discuss a Plan for an Inclusive Playground

**Executive Summary
Review of Over 65 & Disabled Person Exemption
February 6, 2017**

Background:

- The City's Financial Policies provide that the City Council will review the property tax exemption for Over 65 and Disabled Persons with a goal to maintain a tax benefit of approximately 30% of the average home value.
- There are currently 7,883 accounts that receive the exemption and the number of accounts historically has grown at about 3% per year on average.
- Senior Accounts make up 27.7% of the total number of Residential Accounts.
- The exemption was increased from \$60,000 to \$70,000 for tax year 2016 (2016-2017 fiscal year).
- At the current tax rate \$0.62516/\$100 of property value, each \$5,000 increment is worth \$31.26 in tax reduction.

Individual Impact	
Exemption Value	Tax Savings
\$70,000 (current)	\$437.61
\$75,000	\$468.87
\$80,000	\$500.13

- Property values are expected to increase and staff is recommending increasing the exemption to \$80,000.
- An increase in the exemption must be approved before July 1, 2017 in order for it to be effective for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
- If an increase in the exemption is approved by April 1, the appraisal districts can incorporate the higher amount on notices mailed to residents in May.

Over 65/Disabled Person Exemption Analysis

- The current average value of a senior's home is \$229,526.
 - This was a 13.52% increase from the prior fiscal year
 - Most seniors will have qualified for the 10% annual increase limit provided by state law
- On average, seniors would pay \$81 more for their City taxes if the exemption is increased to \$80,000 and property values increase by 10%.

- The average value of a senior's home would have to increase by 16% before an \$80,000 exemption fell below the 30% financial policy goal.
- For Fiscal Year 2016-2017 the senior exemption amounted to \$3,449,695 in exempted taxes.
- With a \$10,000 increase from \$70,000 to \$80,000, the exempted taxes are estimated to amount to \$3,942,509.
 - The incremental cost to the City is \$492,814
 - General Fund = \$291,916 and Debt Service = \$200,898

City Impact			
Exemption Value for 7,883 accounts	Total Cost of Exemption	General Fund Impact	Debt Service Impact
\$70,000	\$3,449,695	\$2,043,408	\$1,406,288
\$75,000	\$3,696,102	\$2,189,365	\$1,506,737
\$80,000	\$3,942,509	\$2,335,323	\$1,607,186

Recommendation:

- Property values for seniors are estimated to grow at a similar percent as last year's growth.
- For fiscal year 2016-2017, the \$70,000 exemption amounts to 30.50% of the current average value of a senior's home.
- At a projected 10% property value growth, the current exemption amount of \$70,000 is expected to yield an exemption of 27.73%.
- Staff recommends increasing the exemption to \$80,000. This increase will maintain the policy goal even if values increase more than last year for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
 - This is estimated to provide a 31.69% exemption for the 2017-2018 fiscal year
- An ordinance can be placed on the February 20, 2017 agenda if the City Council approves of an increase in the exemption amount.

Attachments:

- Average Senior Home Value History

Average Senior Home Value History

Average Senior Home Value Statistics									
Tax Year	Senior Exempt.	# of Senior Accounts	% Change	Avg Sr. Home Mkt Value (1)	% Change From Year to Year	% of Total Val	Exemption Loss at \$0.62516 per \$100 (2)		
							General	Debt	Total
1997	\$ 30,000	4,475	12.00%	\$ 105,093	3.88%	28.55%			
1998	\$ 30,000	4,712	5.30%	\$ 108,396	3.14%	27.68%			
1999	\$ 30,000	4,922	4.50%	\$ 114,593	5.72%	26.18%			
2000	\$ 30,000	5,074	3.10%	\$ 125,955	9.92%	23.82%			
2001	\$ 30,000	5,310	4.70%	\$ 133,573	6.05%	22.46%			
2002	\$ 30,000	5,479	3.20%	\$ 146,315	9.54%	20.50%			
2003	\$ 30,000	5,617	2.50%	\$ 151,997	3.88%	19.74%			
2004	\$ 30,000	5,630	0.20%	\$ 155,650	2.40%	19.27%			
2005	\$ 30,000	5,737	1.90%	\$ 163,726	5.19%	18.32%			
2006	\$ 50,000	5,923	3.20%	\$ 168,609	2.98%	29.65%			
2007	\$ 50,000	6,095	2.90%	\$ 173,581	2.95%	28.80%			
2008	\$ 55,000	6,302	3.40%	\$ 178,094	2.60%	30.88%			
2009	\$ 55,000	6,563	4.10%	\$ 178,961	0.49%	30.73%			
2010	\$ 55,000	6,769	3.10%	\$ 178,079	-0.49%	30.89%	\$ 1,350,723	\$ 1,013,945	\$ 2,364,669
2011	\$ 55,000	6,972	3.00%	\$ 178,788	0.40%	30.76%	\$ 1,391,231	\$ 1,044,353	\$ 2,435,585
2012	\$ 55,000	7,273	4.30%	\$ 178,609	-0.10%	30.79%	\$ 1,451,294	\$ 1,089,441	\$ 2,540,735
2013	\$ 55,000	7,431	2.20%	\$ 180,265	0.93%	30.51%	\$ 1,493,040	\$ 1,102,890	\$ 2,595,931
2014	\$ 60,000	7,597	2.20%	\$ 187,251	3.88%	32.04%	\$ 1,687,947	\$ 1,207,239	\$ 2,895,186
2015	\$ 60,000	7,700	1.40%	\$ 202,187	7.98%	29.68%	\$ 1,757,032	\$ 1,177,407	\$ 2,934,439
2016	\$ 70,000	7,883	2.40%	\$ 229,526	13.52%	30.50%	\$ 2,043,408	\$ 1,406,288	\$ 3,449,695

Inc 5,000

Inc 10%

Assuming 10% Value Increase with \$5,000 Exemption Increase									
Tax Year	Senior Exempt.	# of Senior Accounts	% Change	Avg Sr. Home Mkt Value (1)	% Change From Year to Year	% of Total Val	Exemption Loss at \$0.62516 per \$100 (2)		
							General	Debt	Total
2017	\$ 75,000	7,883	0.00%	\$ 252,479	10.00%	29.71%	\$ 2,189,365	\$ 1,506,737	\$ 3,696,102
2018	\$ 75,000	7,883	0.00%	\$ 277,726	10.00%	27.00%	\$ 2,189,365	\$ 1,506,737	\$ 3,696,102
2019	\$ 75,000	7,883	0.00%	\$ 305,499	10.00%	24.55%	\$ 2,189,365	\$ 1,506,737	\$ 3,696,102
2020	\$ 75,000	7,883	0.00%	\$ 336,049	10.00%	22.32%	\$ 2,189,365	\$ 1,506,737	\$ 3,696,102
2021	\$ 75,000	7,883	0.00%	\$ 369,654	10.00%	20.29%	\$ 2,189,365	\$ 1,506,737	\$ 3,696,102

Inc 10,000

Inc 10%

Assuming 10% Value Increase with \$10,000 Exemption Increase									
Tax Year	Senior Exempt.	# of Senior Accounts	% Change	Avg Sr. Home Mkt Value (1)	% Change From Year to Year	% of Total Val	Exemption Loss at \$0.62516 per \$100 (2)		
							General	Debt	Total
2017	\$ 80,000	7,883	0.00%	\$ 252,479	10.00%	31.69%	\$ 2,335,323	\$ 1,607,186	\$ 3,942,509
2018	\$ 80,000	7,883	0.00%	\$ 277,726	10.00%	28.81%	\$ 2,335,323	\$ 1,607,186	\$ 3,942,509
2019	\$ 80,000	7,883	0.00%	\$ 305,499	10.00%	26.19%	\$ 2,335,323	\$ 1,607,186	\$ 3,942,509
2020	\$ 80,000	7,883	0.00%	\$ 336,049	10.00%	23.81%	\$ 2,335,323	\$ 1,607,186	\$ 3,942,509
2021	\$ 80,000	7,883	0.00%	\$ 369,654	10.00%	21.64%	\$ 2,335,323	\$ 1,607,186	\$ 3,942,509

Notes: (1) Average market value is the average value for all accounts that have the Over 65, Surviving Spouse, & Disabled Person Exemption.

(2) General & Debt split is \$0.37031/\$0.25485 for 2016-2017 and future year projections.



W. Spring Valley Road Rehab Project Status Report February 6, 2017



W. Spring Valley Rehab Project Background

- Dallas County, Cities of Richardson & Dallas/Dallas Water Utilities, North Central Texas Council of Governments project
- Dallas County lead agency for design and construction
- Coit Rd. to just east of Weathered Rd.
- Design for project is 100% complete
- Dallas County coordinated bid receipt and review **complete**
- Final budget refinements for construction inflation underway for pending award on **March 7, 2017**

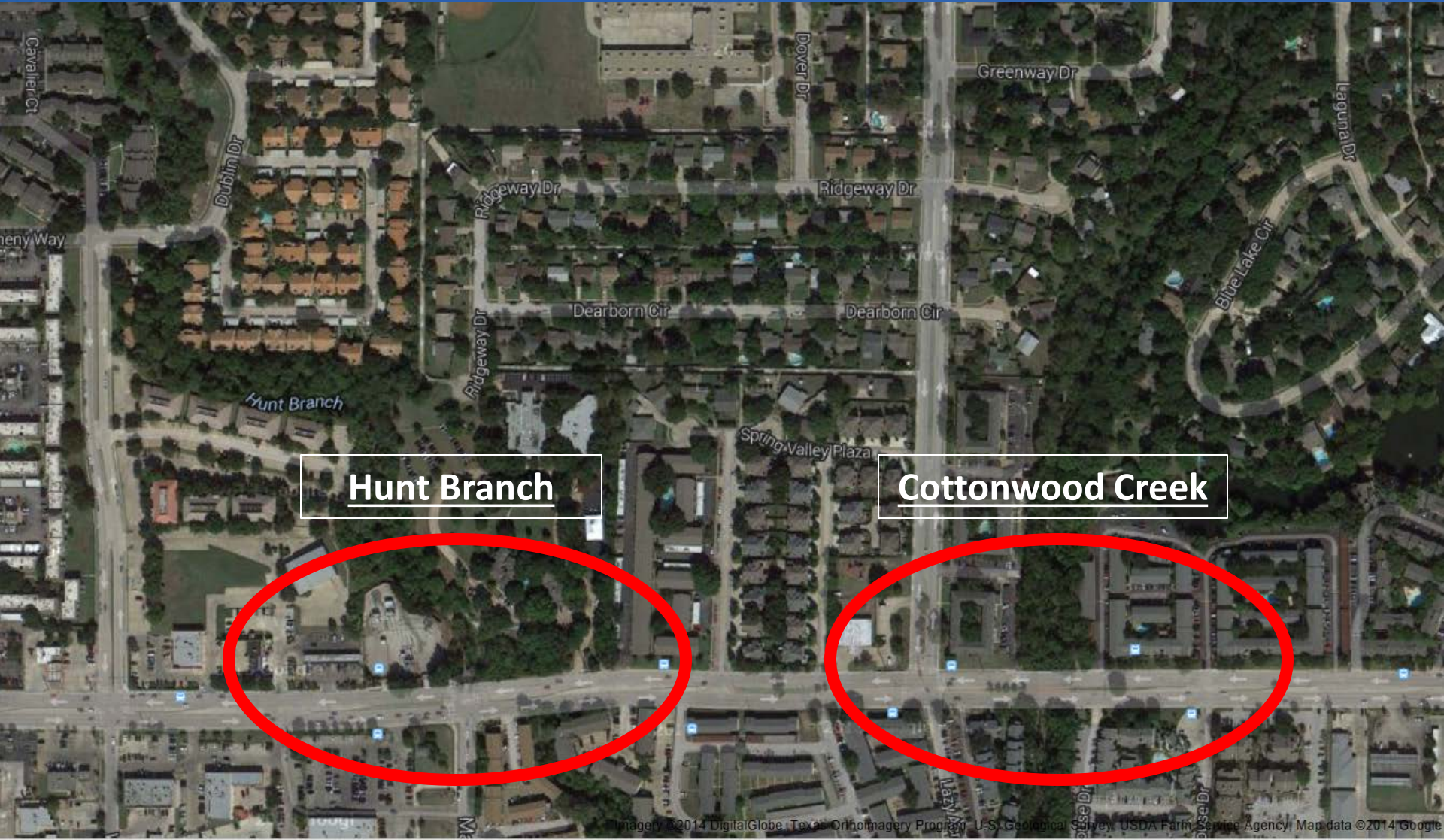


Project Scope

- **Pavement Repair: Street, Curbs, Approaches, Sidewalks**
- **Cottonwood Creek & Hunt Branch Culvert Design/Construction**
- **Z pedestrian crossings (5)**
- **Median closures (3)**
- **Street Light Upgrade (44)**
- **Traffic Signal Improvements (3) at Waterfall Way, Maham, Waterview Drive**
- **Pavement Markings, Buttons, Select Signage**
- **Weathered Intersection Improvements**
 - **Signal Upgrade & Left and Right Turn Lanes**



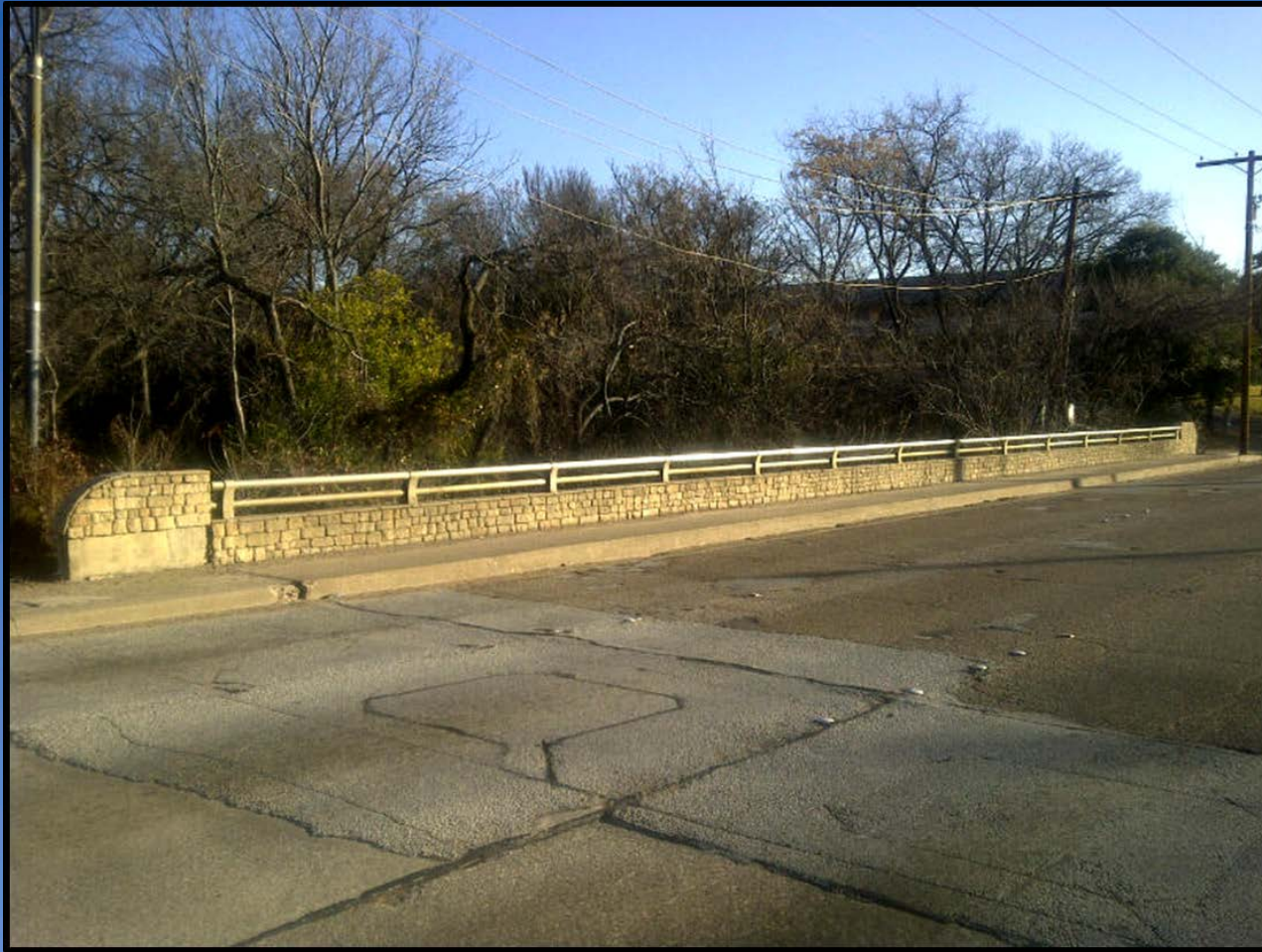
Bridge Enhancement Projects



Hunt Branch

Cottonwood Creek

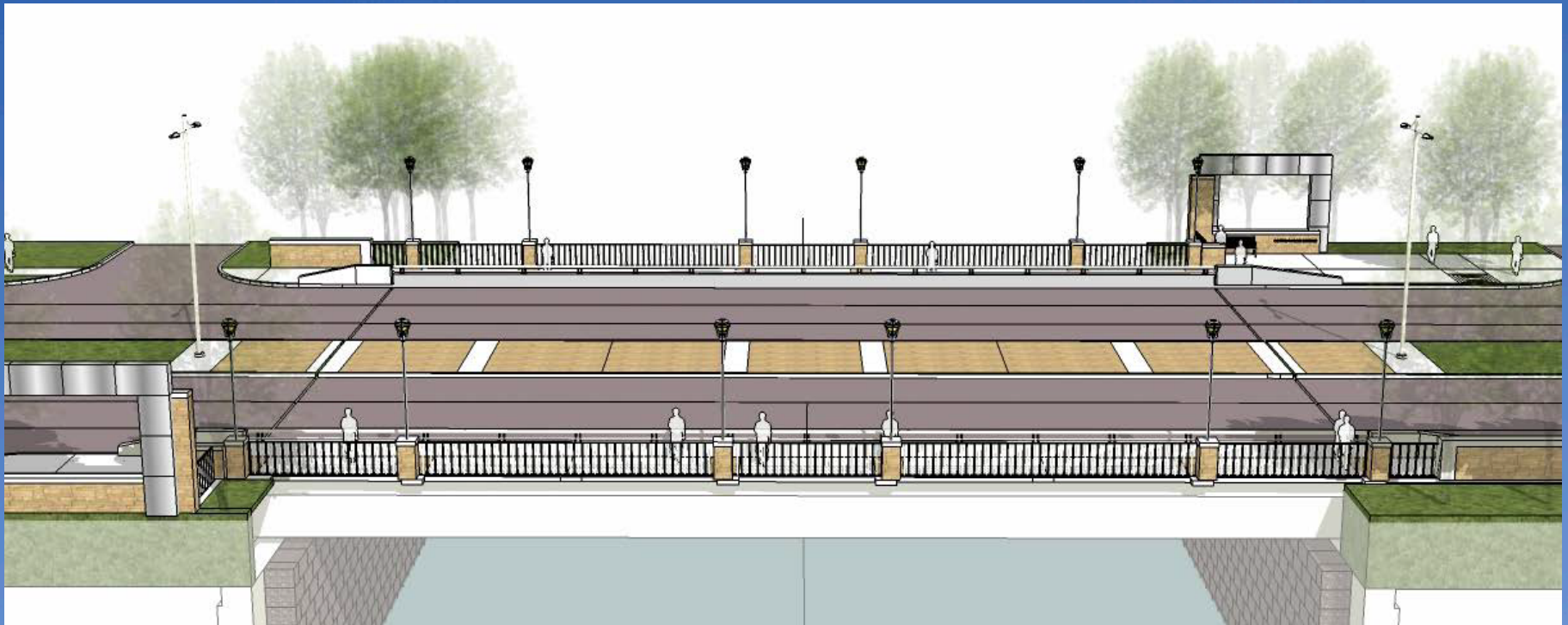
Existing Hunt Branch Bridge



Existing Cottonwood Creek Bridge



Enhanced Bridges



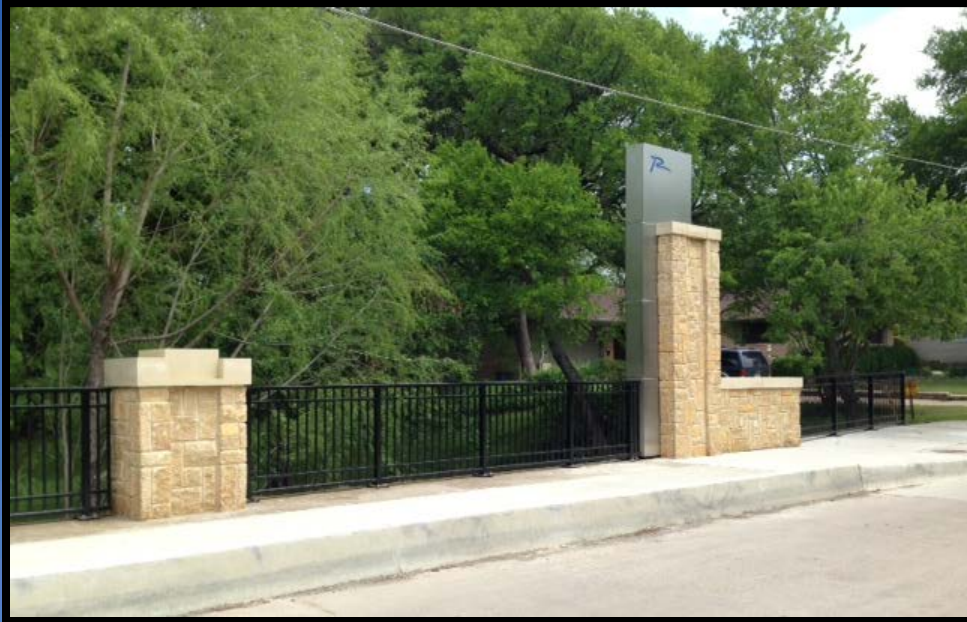
Enhanced Bridges



Enhanced Bridges



Neighborhood Bridges



Selected Stone



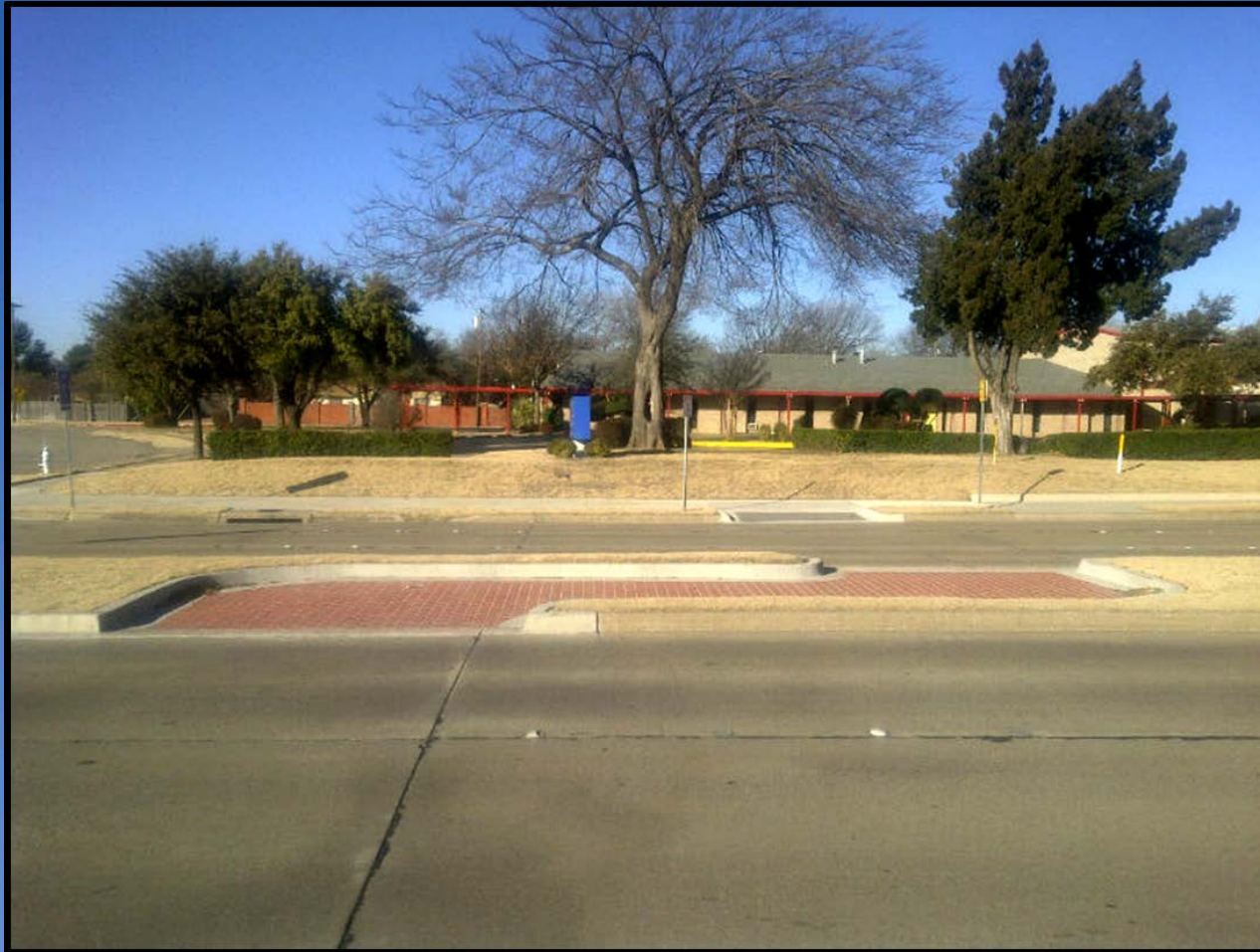
Median Closures



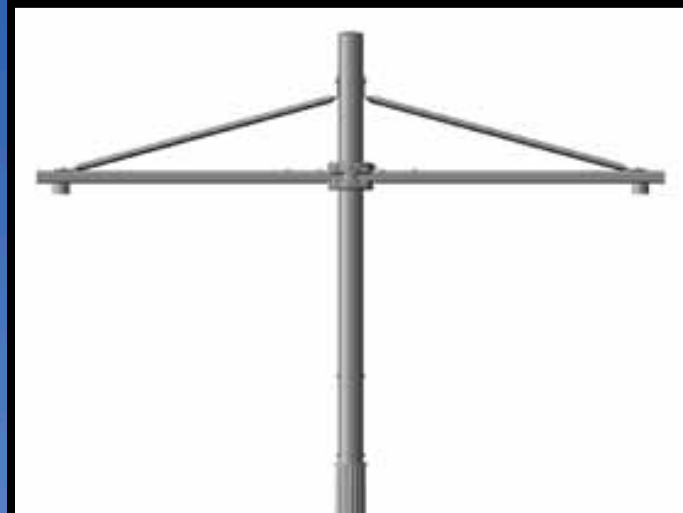
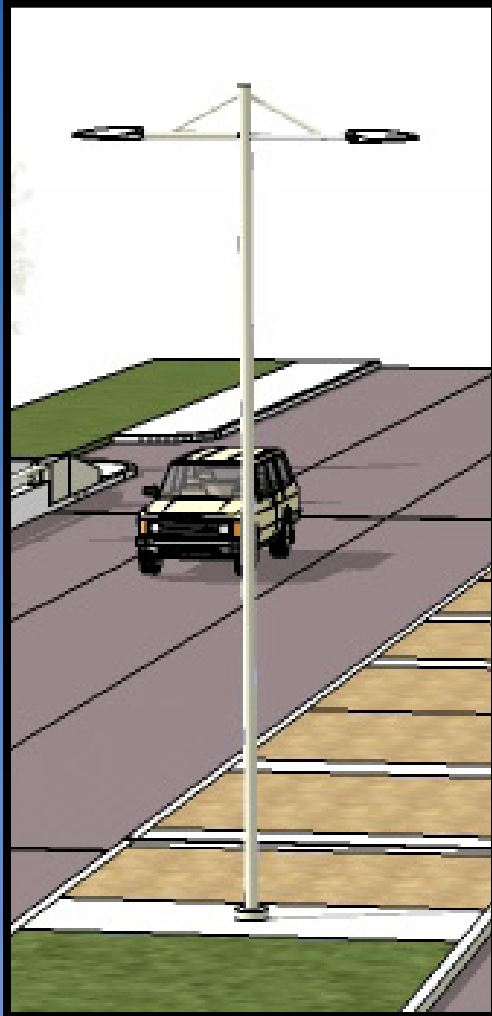
- Legend**
- Existing Medians
 - Revised Medians
 - Impacted Properties
 - Existing Driveway Locations
 - Existing Cross Access
 - Proposed Prohibited Movement
 - Recommended All. Movement



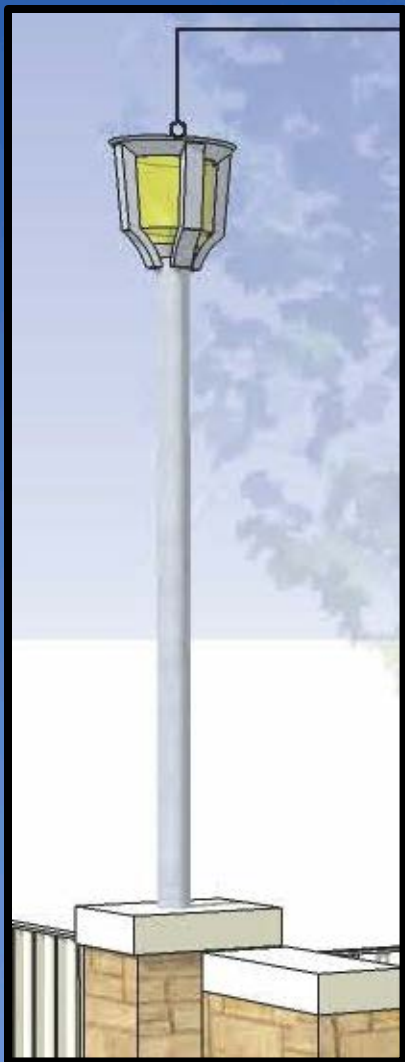
Z Pedestrian Crossings



Street Lights



Pedestrian Lights



Traffic Signal Poles



Project Funding

Source	January 2017
Dallas County	\$3,297,000
City of Richardson	\$1,895,000
City of Dallas/DWU	\$1,840,651
COG	\$4,230,009
Total Funding	\$11,262,660



Project Expenses

Funding	\$11,262,660
Base Bid	\$12,726,246
Alternates <i>Weathered Intersection: Signal upgrade & left and right turn lanes. Does not include asphalt overlay.</i>	\$66,227
Engineering/ROW/Utility	\$2,587,640
Total	\$15,380,113
Required Supplement	\$4,117,453



Project Supplement Funding Strategy

Required Supplement	\$4,117,453
City of Richardson* <i>Additional Bridge Amenities</i>	\$561,700
City of Dallas/DWU	\$602,269
Dallas County <i>Share of Base Bid/Alternatives</i>	\$1,476,742
City of Richardson* <i>Share of Base Bid/Alternatives</i>	\$1,476,742

*Total Richardson Share: \$2,038,442



Richardson Supplement Funding Strategy

COR Supplement	\$2,038,442
Series 2017 CO	\$500,000
CMAC Refund from Dallas County	\$400,000
<i>Capital Funding – FY 17-18</i>	<i>\$650,000</i>
<i>Capital Funding – FY 18-19</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>



Project Schedule

Stage	Month/Season	Year
ROW Acquisition Completed	December	2015
Final Design Plans Completed	May	2016
Utility Relocation Complete	July	2016
Construction Bidding Commence	July	2016
COR/Dallas County Project Specific Agreement to be amended to specify final scope, budget, funding	March	2017
Project Awarded by Dallas County	March 7	2017
Construction Commences	May	2017
Construction Complete	Winter	2018





W. Spring Valley Road Rehab Project Status Report February 6, 2017



Illumed Window Sign Regulations

City Council Briefing: February 6, 2017

Introduction

- The utilization of light emitting diode (LED) light strips to outline windows at retail establishments has emerged as a new marketing strategy intended to advertise the business by drawing attention to the store front.
- The City has received numerous concerns about the use of these light strips, specifically regarding how many lights are being used at individual businesses and collectively on certain building elevations.
- The purpose of tonight's briefing is to recommend regulations to assure these lights are used in accordance with our window signs standards.

Examples of LED Window Signs



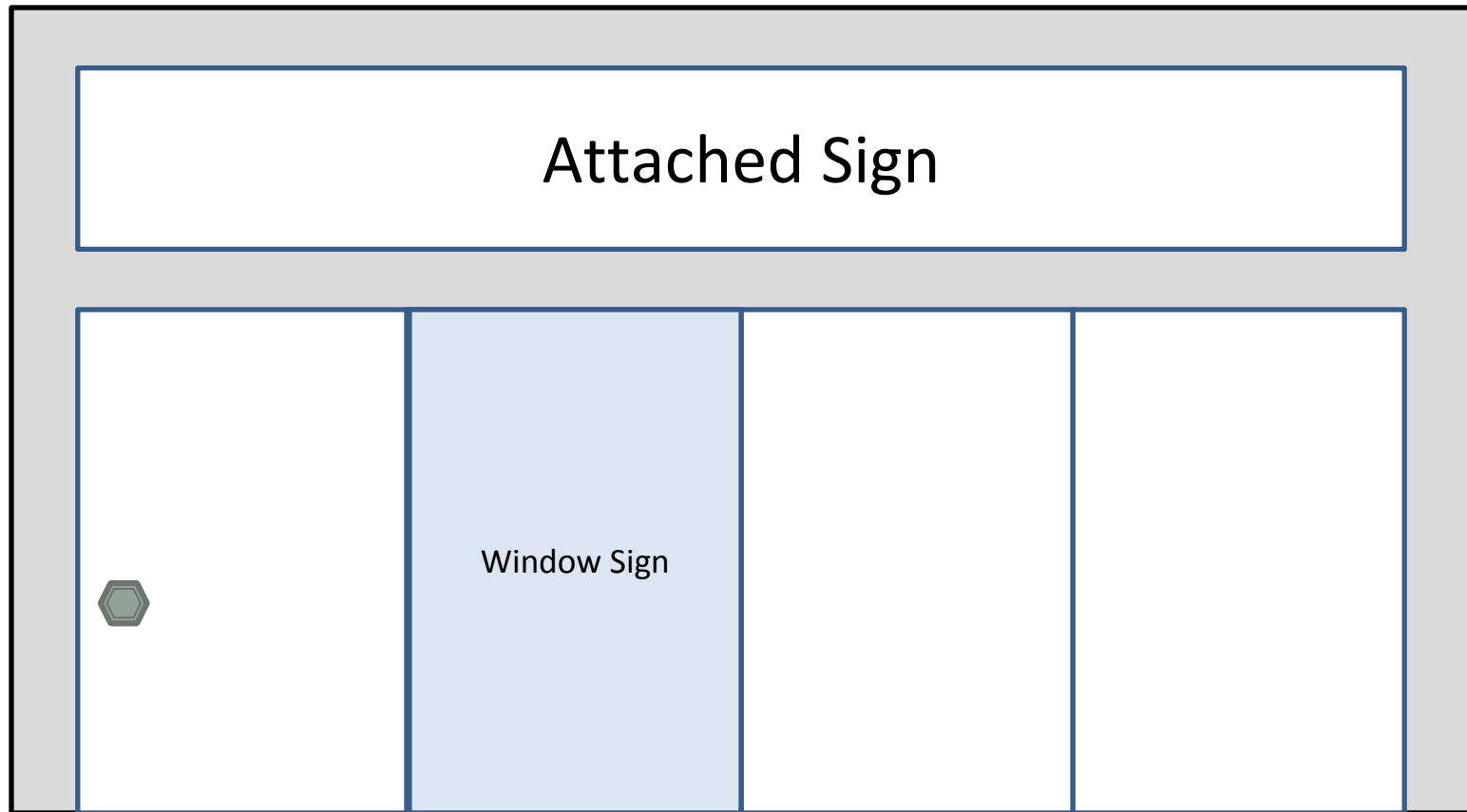
Examples of LED Window Signs



Existing Regulations

- Chapter 18, Section 18-2: Definitions - Sign
 - A display, **light device**, figure, painting, drawing, message, plaque, poster, billboard, name, announcement, insignia, banner, mural, description, logo, illustration, neon tube or other thing that is designed, intended or used to advertise or inform about an activity, place, product, person, organization, business or other legally-permitted service.
- Chapter 18, Section 18-96 (35): Window Signs
 - Signs located on the internal or external surface of a window.
 - Signs may not obscure more than 25 percent of the total visible window area of each facade.

Window Signage



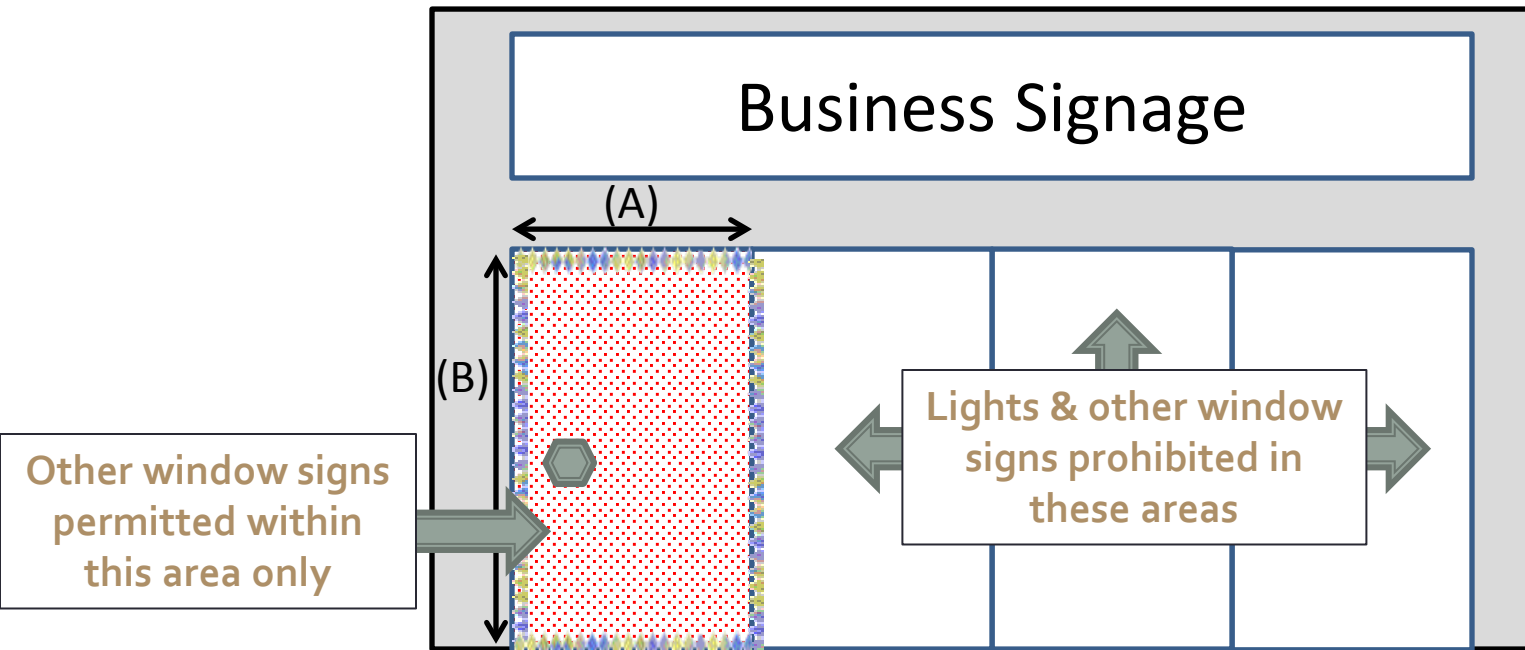
25% of total visible window area of each facade

Permitted

Recommendation

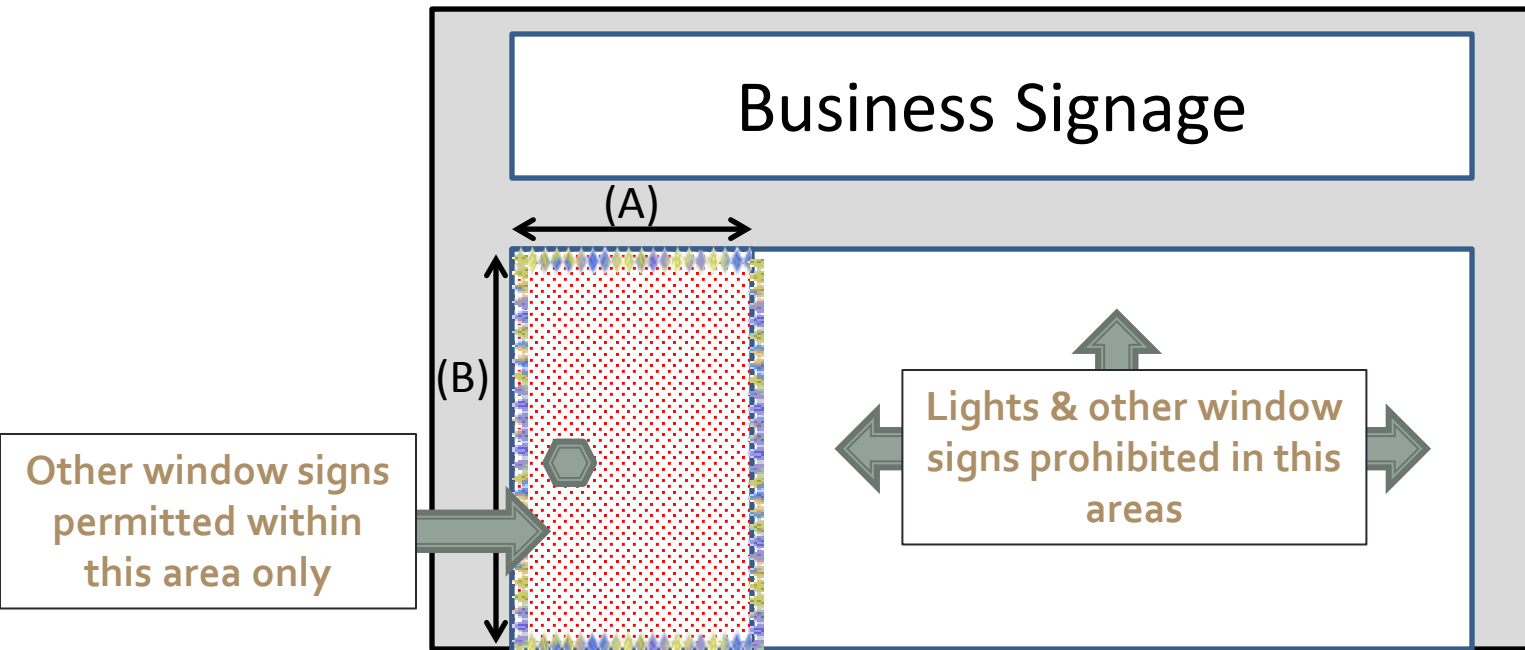
- **Add the following language to Chapter 18**
 - The outlining of a single window, any portion of a window, or multiple windows on the same elevation on one or more sides with lighting, luminescent gaseous tubing or any similar means shall constitute a window sign.
 - The effective area of a window sign shall be determined by calculating the length of the light strip, gaseous tubing, etc. by the height or width of the entire window, as applicable.

Illuminated Window Signage



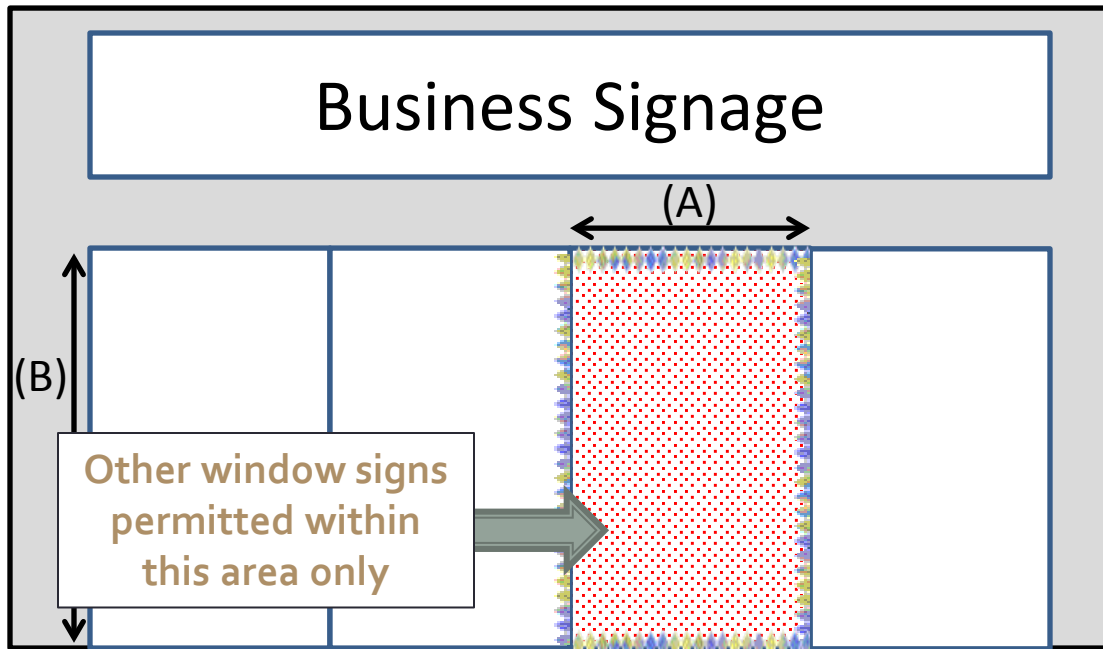
Sign Area (A x B) = 25%
Permitted

Illuminated Window Signage



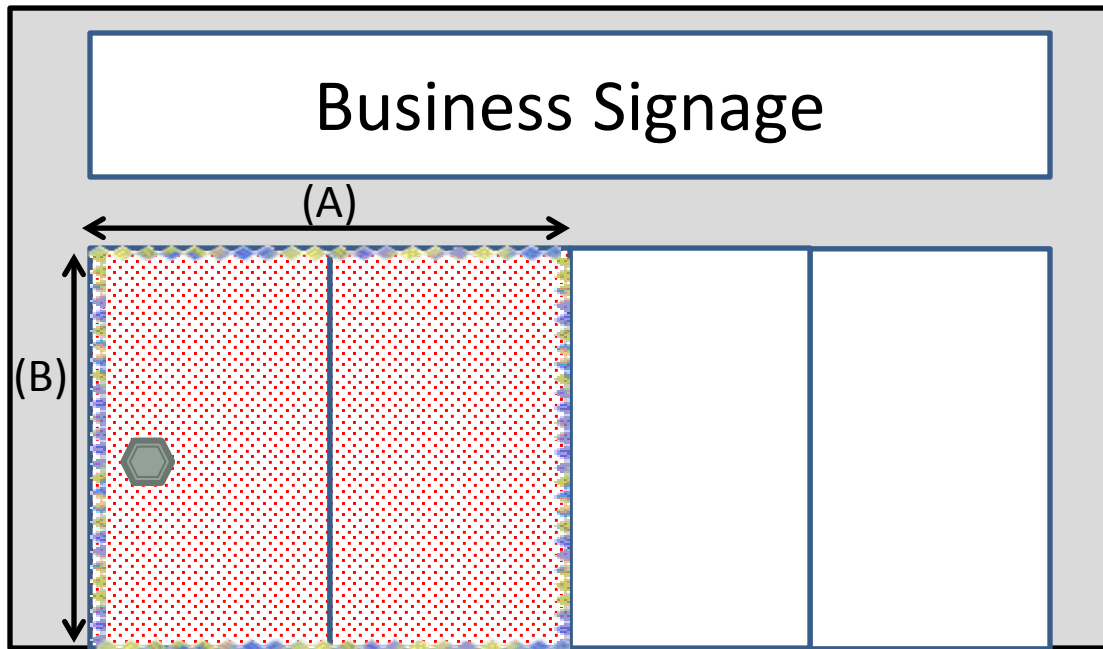
Sign Area (A x B) = 25%
Permitted

Window Signage



Sign Area (A x B) = 25%
Permitted

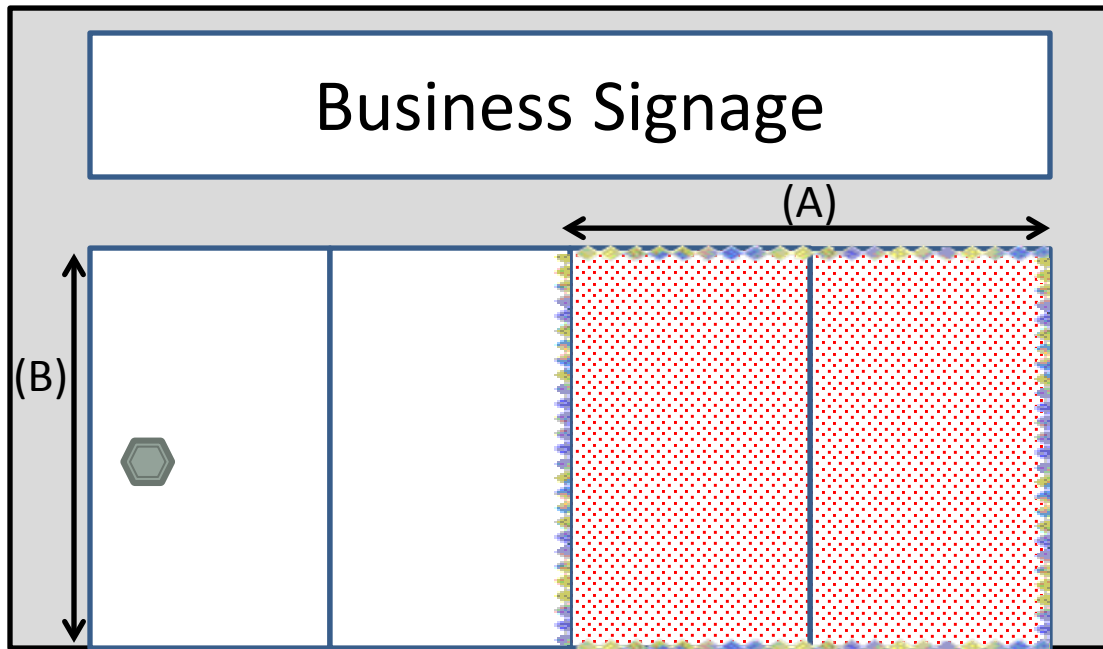
Window Signage



Sign Area (A x B) = 50%

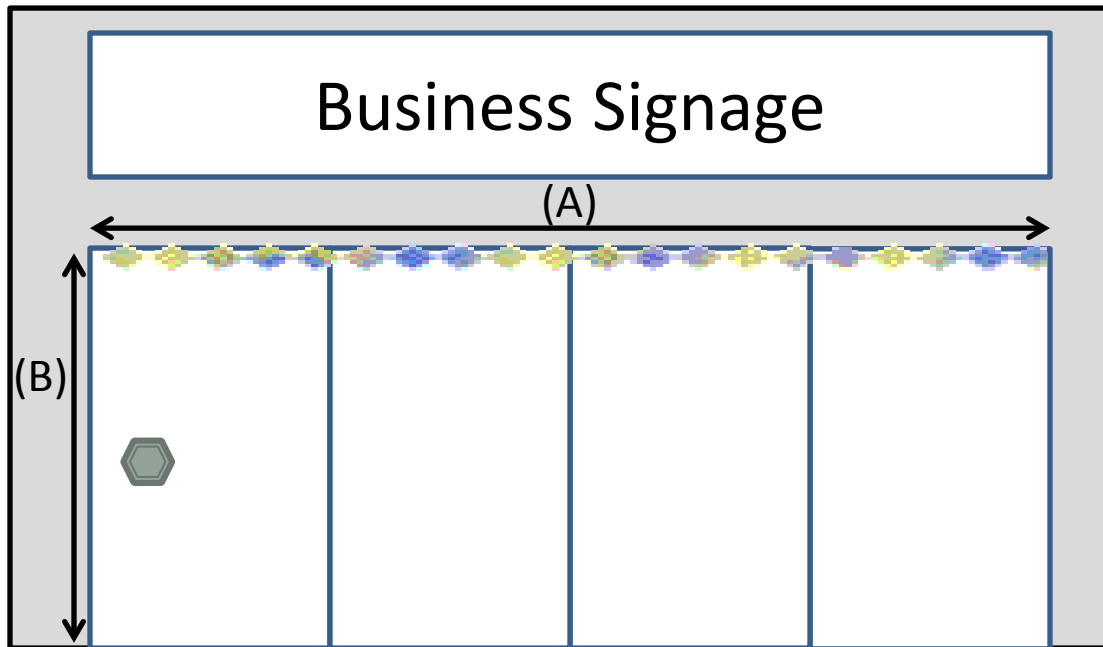
Not Permitted

Window Signage

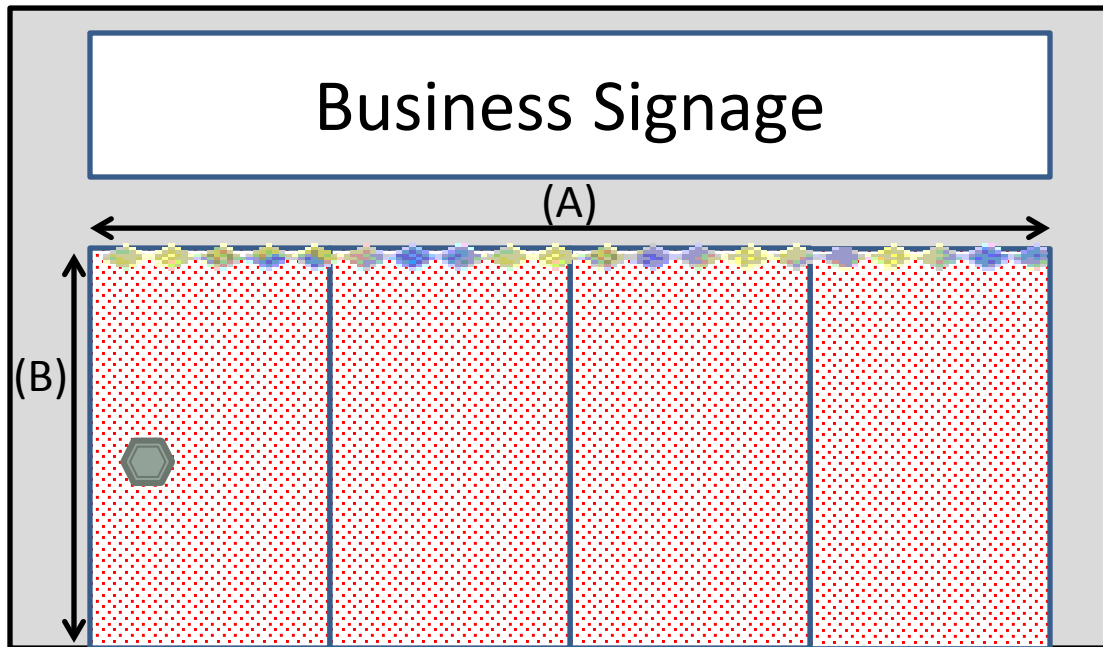


Sign Area $(A \times B) = 50\%$
Not Permitted

Window Signage

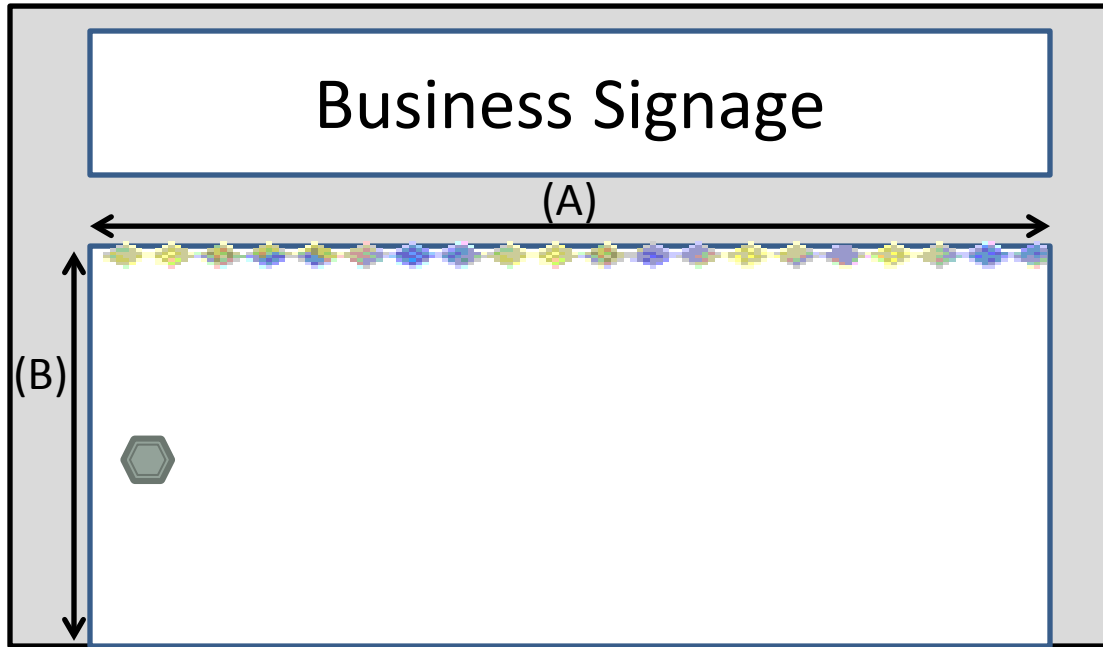


Window Signage

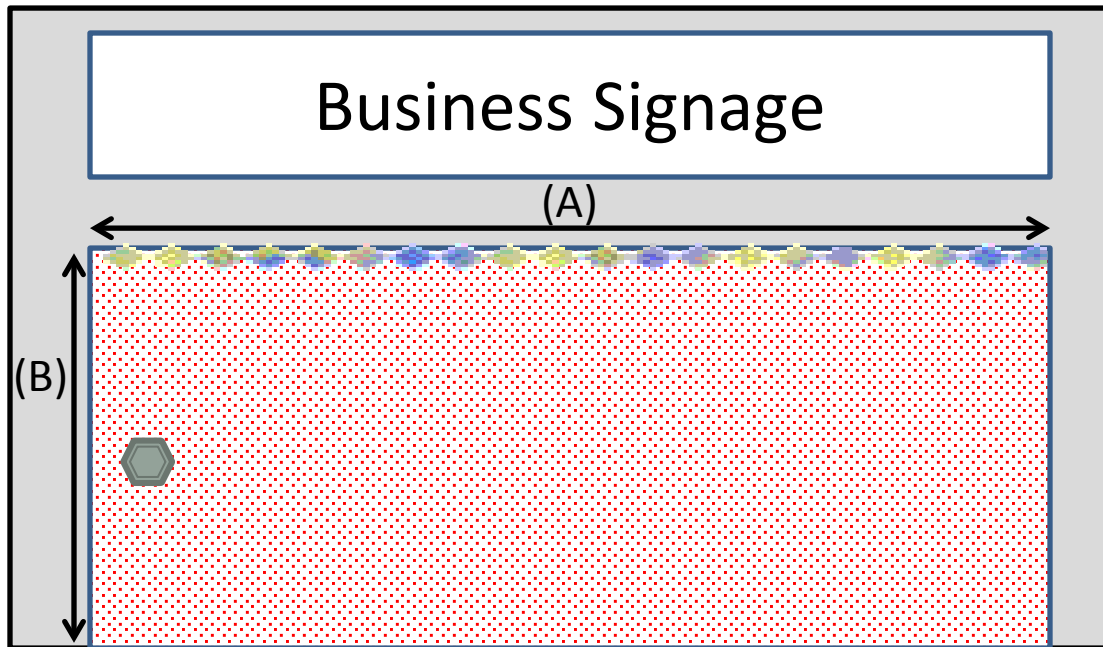


Sign Area (A x B) = 100%
Not Permitted

Window Signage

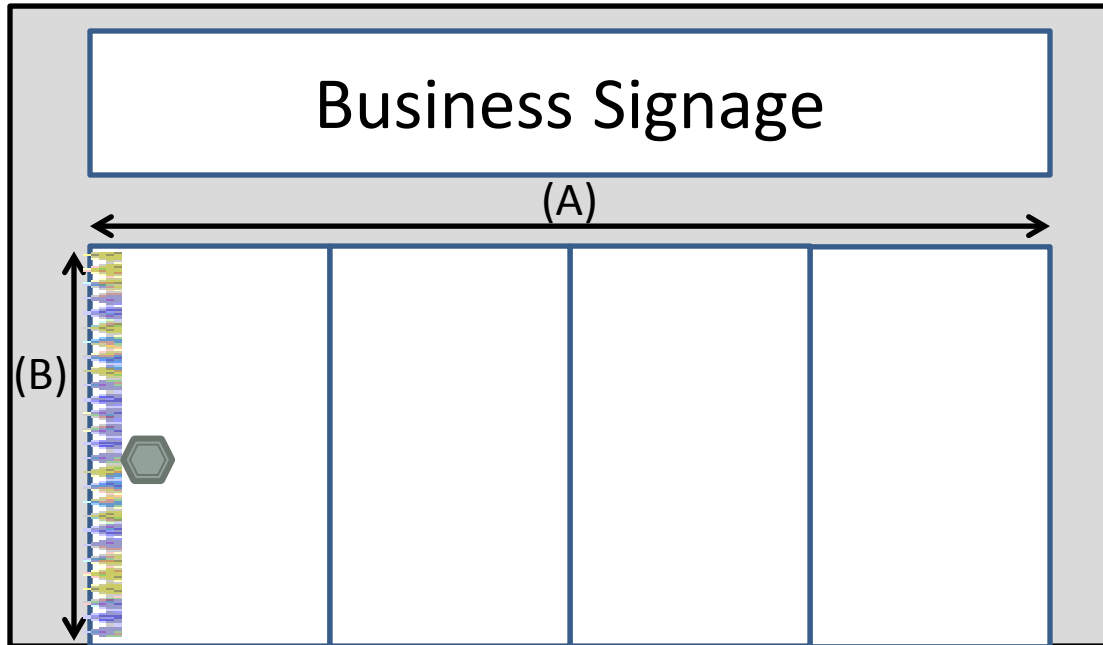


Window Signage

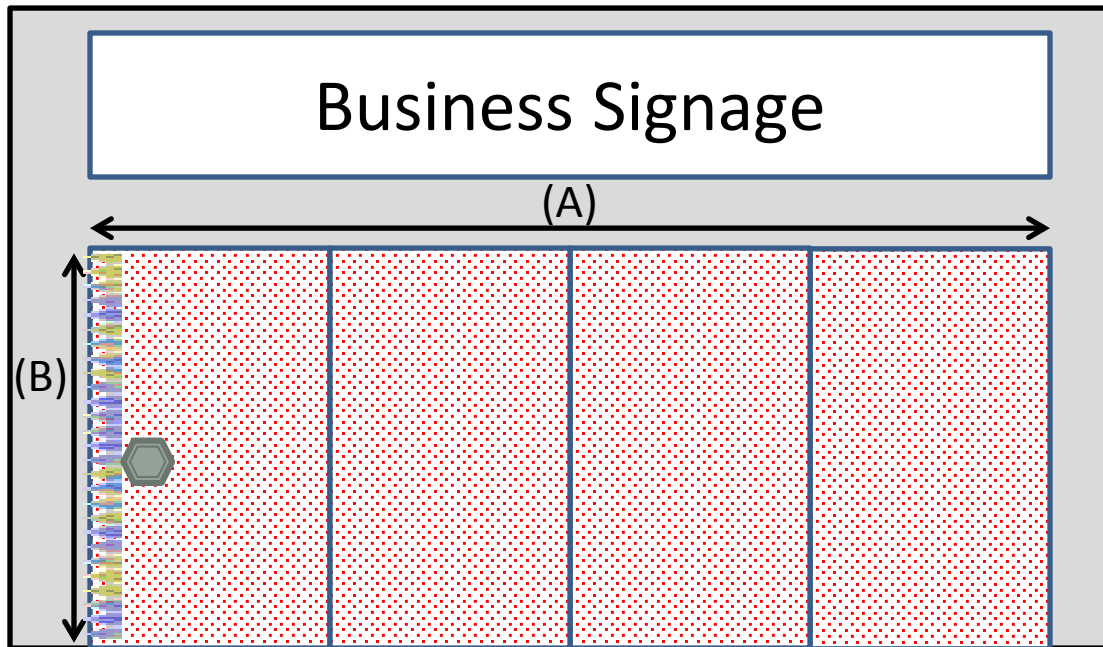


Sign Area (A x B) = 100%
Not Permitted

Window Signage



Window Signage



Sign Area (A x B) = 100%
Not Permitted

Window Signage

- **Existing Conditions:**
 - Considered legal non-conforming
 - Staff will create an inventory to document current conditions
 - Any changes to window signage or lighting will require the business to bring all of the signage into compliance with new regulations

Next Steps

- Accept City Council suggestions and feedback
- Place the enhancements on a future City Council agenda for consideration
- Update online resources and print materials used to educate sign contractors and business owners
- Publicize new regulations in the Richardson Today, Week In Review, and via Chamber of Commerce outreach
- Send notice to business owners with legal, non-conforming cases so that are aware of new regulations and what changes to existing window signs may trigger

Illumed Window Sign Regulations

City Council Briefing: February 6, 2017



Inclusive Playground: A Community Partnership

Richardson City Council
February 6, 2017

City of Richardson
Parks & Recreation Department



Overview

- What is an “inclusive playground”?
- The link to City Council’s strategies
- Playground example
- City/Richardson East Rotary partnership and progress to date
- Project details and estimated timeline
- Actions to date
- Next steps



Inclusive Playground

- A playground that in its design and development, provides play experiences for the widest range of needs, users and abilities in the same setting.
- All of Richardson's playgrounds meet the minimum standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act for accessibility.
- Accessible does not equal inclusive.
- Inclusive is enhanced accessibility.
- Inclusive playgrounds bring communities together.
- Mission driven project – inclusive playgrounds are becoming a core service for cities and their parks and recreation departments, often accomplished through partnerships.
- Residents are taking their children to play at inclusive playgrounds in other cities.



Inclusive Playground – A Link to City Council Vision & Strategies

Vision – City of Richardson is a clean, safe, vibrant and inclusive community in which residents and businesses enjoy a high quality of life and are proud to call home.

- Enhance the quality of life of our stakeholders
- Increase the sense of community
- Increase private participation and contributions
- Improve accessibility to the city



Inclusive Playground – Example Only



Poured-in-place
Surfacing

Ramp System

Loose Engineered
Wood Fiber Surfacing



Parks & Recreation



City and Richardson East Rotary Club Partnership

- Briefed Parks and Recreation Commission in June, 2016
- Explored with Richardson East Rotary Club a partnership to include:
 - RERC supports the planning, development and installation of an inclusive playground;
 - RERC will assist in promoting and building public awareness and community support;
 - RERC will host an annual community picnic with special emphasis on organizations providing services for special needs individuals and the families they support;
 - Provides for a landscape garden at or near the playground to be built and maintained by RERC.



Project Details

- Proposed location – Cottonwood Park
- Park access, infrastructure and playground footprint are highly desirable for this project. Current playground is scheduled for replacement through 2015 G.O. Bond Program.
- Potential Funding Opportunities (in addition to bond funding):
 - Community support campaign; RER Foundation will host a web page and donations portal
 - RER Foundation’s annual fund raising events
 - Business community fund raising
 - Corporate/Philanthropic support
 - Grants



Actions to Date

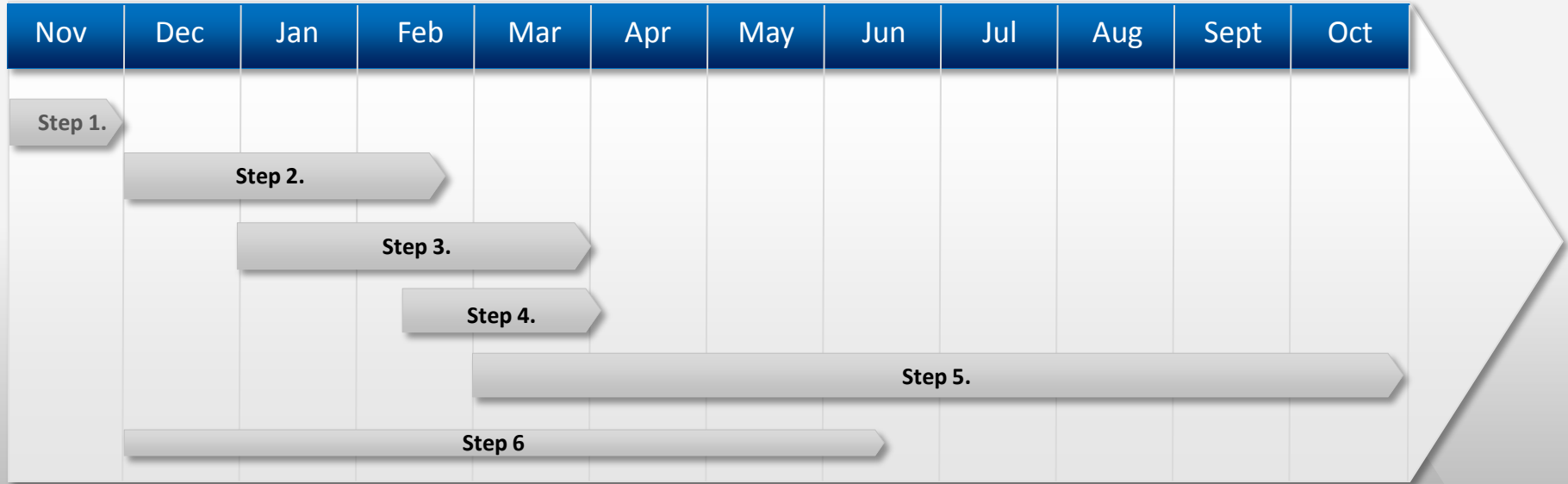
- Committee formed with COR staff and RERC members.
- Conducted a tour of inclusive playgrounds in the area.
- Developed a project mission statement.
- Developed project time line.
- Review of initial concepts from playground manufacturers scheduled for February 2017.



INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND – A CITY OF RICHARDSON & RICHARDSON EAST ROTARY CLUB PARTNER PROJECT

To create a community playground that will inspire children and families of all ages and abilities to have fun in a safe, inclusive environment.

2016 - 2017



- Step 1. Mission Statement, N.A. contact, CMO briefing
- Step 2. Invite add'l stakeholders, review concepts, set fundraising goal, establish giving chart
- Step 3. Set campaign strategies, develop campaign materials, PR strategy, ANNOUNCE
- Step 4. Set up web portal (Rotary), launch speakers bureau
- Step 5. Fundraise
- Step 6. Community Picnic (Rotary to plan)

FUTURE STEPS: Public Input, final design selection, design Rotary garden, build playground, ribbon cutting



Next Steps

- Receive City Council input, February 6, 2017.
- Initial review of playground concepts.
- Formally announce COR/RERC partnership project.
- Determine preferred concept and establish financial goal.
- Finalize campaign strategy and launch fundraising effort.

