

WAYFINDING UPDATE

Questions from City Council (from July 15 Meeting) and Answers

The Wayfinding committee met on Friday, July 25, to go over all the questions asked at the July 15th City Council Meeting. The committee was comprised of: Council Members Taline Manassian and Sherrie Parks, Michelle Fischer, Pam King, Lisa Sullivan, and Jonathan Wagner from Studio 16:19.

From the discussion, the committee decided to stay with the original design as shown below (Question #2) and the following answers were provided:

1) Will the green color be visible enough at night? Is the green reflective or just the letters?

The entire front sign face, including the text, background colors, and logo design is noted to be printed with retroreflective sheeting per plans and TMUTCD code (See image below)

As for the green color, the wayfinding sign designs and locations have been reviewed and approved by the local TXDOT district office. They would not approve if they were not visible at night.

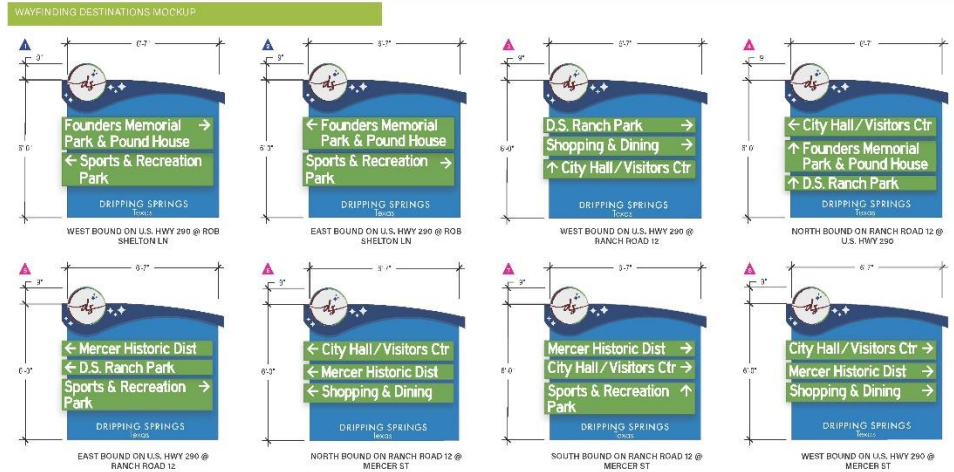
Table 2A-2. Retroreflection of Sign Elements

Means of Retroreflection	Sign Element
Reflector "buttons" or similar units	Symbol Word message Border
A material that has a smooth, sealed outer surface over a microstructure that reflects light	Symbol Word message Border Background

2) What if we made the green the dark blue?

We had different versions made to see the visibility and look of the different color combinations (including all blue, removing the color green from the design). The committee decided to keep the original design. This was based on TxDOT's approval that the sign will be seeable at night. It was also based on that the original design includes all the brand colors and that the original design works with and complements the Parks signage (that uses green).

WAYFINDING SIGNS



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City of Dripping Springs

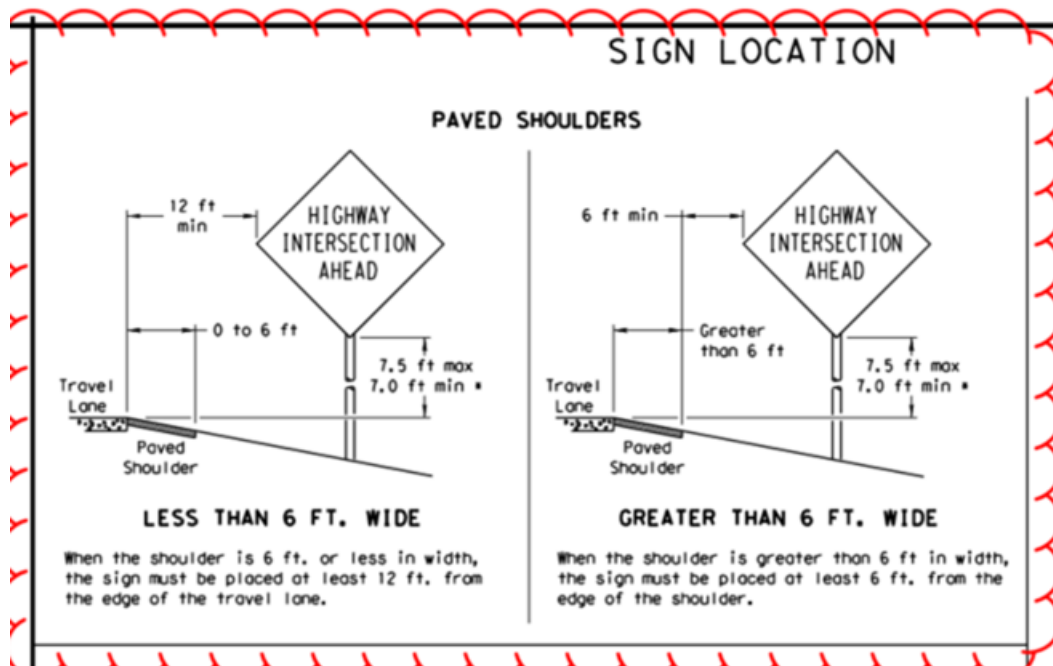
Wayfinding Signage Plan - Issue for Bid Package

July 2025



3) How far from the road are the signs? They look too close in the mock-ups.

Per TXDOT details shown on page 18 in the sign package (SMD(GEN)-08), sign location is indicated on the width of the paved shoulder. The mockups in the package are schematic for site context and final locations of the signs will be field located and verified by the contractor based on the TXDOT guidelines provided in the package.



4) Do they need to be this tall?

Per TMUTCD (shown below and above), the minimum clearance height of a roadway sign must be 7 feet from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the edge of the roadway.

The sign size is determined by the 6" letter height requirement and the destinations being shown. Per TMUTCD and TXDOT guidelines, 6" minimum lettering is required for legibility in a vehicular context. This was also verified and approved by the local TXDOT district office.

All the existing roadway signs in the City, within the TXDOT right of way, abide by these guidelines. While at a pedestrian scale these signs may appear large and tall, they are scaled appropriately to a vehicular scale with the surrounding context.

TMUTCD SECTION 2A.18.04 MOUNTING HEIGHT

- 04 The minimum height, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near edge of the pavement, of signs installed at the side of the road in rural areas shall be 7 feet (see Figure 2A-2).
- 05 The minimum height, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the top of the curb, or in the absence of curb, measured vertically from the bottom of the sign to the elevation of the near edge of the traveled way, of signs installed at the side of the road in business, commercial, or residential areas where parking or pedestrian movements are likely to occur, or where the view of the sign might be obstructed, shall be 7 feet (see Figure 2A-2).

TXDOT WAYFINDING GUIDELINES SECTION 5C

Word messages should be as brief as possible and the lettering should be large enough to provide the necessary legibility distance. A minimum specific ratio of 1 inch of letter height per 30 feet of legibility distance should be used. Except as noted in the option below, the minimum size of sign legend is 6" for signs on conventional roads. Low speed (25 mph) local streets may have a minimum legend size of 4" (see TMUTCD Section 2A.14).

TMUTCD TABLE 2D-2 MINIMUM LETTER HEIGHTS

Type of Mounting	Type of Street or Highway	Speed Limit	Recommended Minimum Letter Height	
			Initial Upper-Case	Lower-Case
Overhead	All types	All speed limits	12 inches	9 inches
Post-mounted	Multi-lane	More than 40 mph	8 inches	6 inches
Post-mounted	Multi-lane	40 mph or less	6 inches	4.5 inches
Post-mounted	2-lane	All speed limits	6 inches*	4.5 inches*

* On local two-lane streets with speed limits of 25 mph or less, 4-inch initial upper-case letters with 3-inch lower-case letters may be used.

5) Does the height of the signs fit within our Sign Ordinance? Do the signs comply with the ordinance? Yes.

Here are some of the parts of the Sign Ordinance that apply to the wayfinding signs:

Directional signs. Any sign with on a property zoned or used for a commercial purpose that includes directional information to the site of the sale, rent, or lease of goods, services, or property.

Government sign. A government sign is a sign that is constructed, placed, or maintained by the federal, state, or local government or a sign that is required to be constructed, placed, or maintained by the federal, state, or local government, including a water district, either directly by the governmental entity or to enforce a property owner's rights. Local government includes any political subdivision including the county, the city, the school district, the water district, or an emergency services district.

Sec. 26.01.004. Prohibited signs.

(b) Signs which cannot be expressly authorized include:

- (1) Signs, except government signs, located in or projected over any public right-of-way or across the public right-of-way line extended across a railroad right-of-way, except when attached to and projecting no more than 18 inches from a building wall legally located at or near the right-of-way line in the city limits or in the ETJ.
- (7) Signs, other than flagpoles, that are taller than 15 feet.
- (8) Signs that are attached to any utility pole or wire, traffic sign, or public easement or are placed on government-owned property unless placed by written permission of the governmental entity.

Sec. 26.01.005. Authorized signs without a separate permit.

The following signs authorized under this section are authorized in every zoning district or property in the ETJ without a permit, unless specifically required below:

- (1) Government signs including signs placed by the city, county, state, or federal governing in their governmental capacity which are not otherwise prohibited.
- (2) Traffic-control devices that are erected and maintained to comply with the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic-Control Devices.

APPENDIX A. CHART OF SIGN DESIGN STANDARDS

Type of Sign	Maximum Area	Maximum Height	Maximum Number	Permit Required	Conditions (Section Number)	Fee
All Districts						
Government signs			n/a	no	26.01.005	N/A

6) It really doesn't fit with the look and feel of our downtown area.

Signage placed along TxDot roadways must comply with TxDOT regulations. These guidelines govern everything from the size and shape of the sign to font, colors, and materials used. Because these are on TxDOT roadways, and not our private property, we have to follow their guidelines. While we aim for visual consistency throughout our community, these regulatory limitations are outside our control. So, we try to match our brand, with our colors and logos, but we are limited in what it can look like.

Parks signs do not have to follow our guidelines, as they are on our property.

7) Is there a more decorative pole or other pole options for these?

Similar to the answer above, we are limited to what we can do.

Per TXDOT details (SMD(SLIP-2)-08) included in the package and TMUTCD guidelines, all post-mounted roadway signs are required to be supported on a breakaway/slip base. This is a safety feature that allows signposts to break away from their base if a vehicle crashes into it, minimizing the severity of the crash. Based on our previous experience and research, there are limited types of poles that are designed to fit into the breakaway base. Therefore, we have opted to use the recommended schedule 80 post, per the TXDOT detail, with a black powdercoat/paint to provide a more polished finish.

TMUTCD SECTION 2A.21.01 POSTS AND MOUNTINGS

- 01 **Sign posts, foundations, and mountings shall be so constructed as to hold signs in a proper and permanent position, and to resist swaying in the wind or displacement by vandalism. Post-mounted sign supports shall be crashworthy (breakaway, yielding, or shielded with a longitudinal barrier or crash cushion) if within the clear zone.**

Note From Lisa Sullivan: I may have confused City Council. The pictures of the signs below (on the left) that were in my presentation are most likely on City Property, not TxDOT wayfinding signs. The photo on the right is more in line with TxDOT wayfinding.



Also note that other wayfinding signs, such as Kyle's below, that are on TxDOT roadways, are most likely noncompliant with TxDOT guidelines and were not approved by TxDOT. The letters are too small, the signs are too small.



8. What are the height and sign area of off-premises directional signs that have been approved by the City?

Off-premises directional signs approved by the City through a Master Sign Plan:

Belterra Residential: 6' height; 3' 4" width; A few inches above ground; 26 square feet area.

Belterra Commercial: 8' 10" height; 6' 10" width; Monument style; 60.30 square feet area.

Big Sky Residential: 6' 8" height; 3' 8" width; 2 feet above ground; 24.48 square feet area.

Cannon Ranch Residential: 6' height; 3' 8" width; 1' 2" above ground; 22.02 square feet area.

Compared to City Wayfinding: 13' 2" height; sign face is 6' height by 6' 7" width; 7 feet above ground; 39.48 square feet area. Two signs only directing to Charro Ranch Park: 10' 6" height and 23.03 square feet area.