



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Mike Garza, P.E., Director of Public Works
Jessica Carpenter, Director of Community Experiences

Date: March 28, 2023

Reference: Discussion regarding future median designs.

2040: Enhance the Unique 'Community Oasis' Experience

Introduction:

The purpose of this agenda item is to discuss the current design of City-owned medians and provide information on proposed median designs in conjunction with future street improvement projects.

Background:

In 2014, the Parks and Recreation Department adopted a Streetscape Master Plan in support of the Coppell 2030 Plan. The 2030 Plan specifically provided strategies for a beautiful, green city with attractive and consistently maintained corridors, streets, alleys, and streetscapes which add value to the community. At this time, the City had already begun incorporating “green” concepts including xeriscapes with low water use plant materials, well-fed irrigations systems, and a variety of landscape materials that added texture and interest to the visual experience.

The median planting design used for Sandy Lake Road began to give the community a unique identity in its appearance and practicality. Sandy Lake Road was used as a template as the City improved roadways and added municipal facilities to its inventory. After the adoption of the Streetscape Master Plan, medians along Denton Tap, Parkway, Freeport, and Bethel followed the same design aesthetic.

As more street improvement projects have median designs included (ex: South Beltline and Royal Lane), the City has begun to investigate whether the current median design and standard plant materials are the most effective option. Since the original adoption of the plan, water conservation has become even more critical. The drought conditions experienced during the summer of 2022 identified areas where the City consumes large amounts of water, and medians are a major portion of the City’s water usage. Making adjustments to these new medians by incorporating additional

drought-tolerant materials and hardscapes will benefit the City by reducing irrigation needs, as well as saving time and resources in maintenance activities.

Benefit to the Community:

Shifting new medians to more drought-tolerant materials and increased hardscaped areas will still achieve a similar aesthetic to the City's current medians, while significantly reducing the need for additional water consumption.

Legal Review:

There is no legal review required for this item at this time.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact related to this agenda item at this time.

Recommendation:

This agenda item is an informational update only.