



To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

April 16, 2024

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SUBJECT: UPDATE ON SUPPLEMENTAL EFFORTS TO CONTROL LITTER ALONG TXDOT HIGHWAYS

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide an update on the highway litter control 90-day pilot project.

Background

During FY23, litter control challenges along highways became a key area of concern for the community. Highway greenspace maintenance in Texas is the responsibility of TxDOT, and litter collection is scheduled by TxDOT and their contractors. During Summer 2023, TxDOT contractor availability and extreme temperatures resulted in an increased buildup of highway litter.

The City and TxDOT began collaborating to overcome barriers to highway maintenance with a focus on litter in greenspace. Based on community feedback and a unified goal of maintaining clean, safe highways, the City and TxDOT signed an amendment to the existing Municipal Maintenance Agreement on November 6, 2023 which allows the City to provide supplemental maintenance along previously restricted state highways.

Litter Control Pilot Project for Highway Greenspace

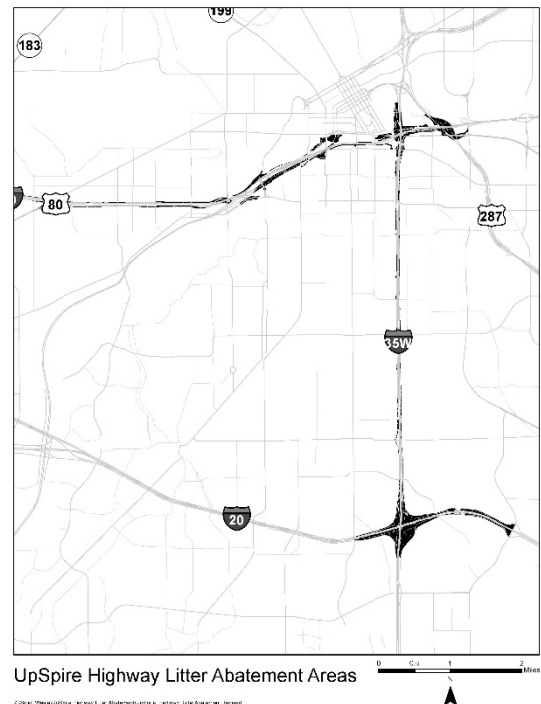
In November 2023, in collaboration with The Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant County, Inc., through its UpSpire program (UpSpire), city staff developed a highway greenspace litter abatement pilot project along two highway segments: (1) I-35W from downtown south to I-20, and (2) I-30 from downtown west to Loop 820. Two dedicated litter crews collected litter from respective highway greenspace segments daily (Monday – Friday).

The pilot project resulted in a significant increase of supplemental collection frequency to support the maintenance cycles that are provided by TxDOT contractors yearly (ranging between 6 and 26 cycles each year). City staff and UpSpire litter crews worked in collaboration with TxDOT contractor schedules to ensure greenspace along the two highway segments were cleaned without overlapping existing TxDOT work orders.

The 90-day pilot project was successfully completed on March 15, 2024. City staff and UpSpire crews advanced the goal for a noticeably cleaner city and have demonstrated a faster response time to highway litter complaints. The pilot project resulted in 331 total acres cleaned (weekly cycles) with over 116,600 total lbs. of litter collected. Based success from the pilot project, city staff and UpSpire plan to continue supplemental litter control along highways.

Next Steps

An M&C to authorize an amendment to increase contract spending authority with UpSpire will be on the April 23rd council agenda for approval. Staff seek to expand efforts along additional highway segments





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which include: (1) I-30 from downtown east to Loop 820; (2) Hwy 287 between I-20 and I-30; and (3) select segments of I-20 in future project phases.

For questions on the information in this report, please contact Cody Whittenburg, Interim Environmental Services Director, at (817) 392-5455.

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City Manager