

Rural Address Sign Project General Information

A few years ago the Rice County Board of Commissioners convened the rural address signage task force to study the issue of rural address signs in Rice County. Law Enforcement and Emergency Responders had brought the topic to the attention of the County Board and encouraged the County to examine the issue in more detail. The task force included members from throughout Rice County representing a variety of entities and was chaired by former Sheriff Richard Cook.

The task force worked to identify the issues and develop a recommendation for address signs. The last comprehensive examination of this process was over 25 years ago. The over 8,000 address signs in Rice County vary in design, color, size and location. Emergency service providers cited a multitude of examples where finding the proper location for a call was problematic and subsequently delayed their response time. The old adage about looking for the flames to determine the location of a fire does not apply since most emergency responses are not for fires, but medical emergencies.

The task force examined ordinances, policies and practices from other nearby counties. There are several good examples of address signs that are very visible and meet the need. The task force acknowledged that implementation of a new system will require cost to the property owner, but the task force felt the benefit outweighed the cost. The task force ultimately recommended replacing all address signs in Rice County. The County Board considered this recommendation and decided to implement replacement of all address signs.

Another aspect of the project involves addresses that need to be changed because they are out of sequence or do not adhere to the guidelines for the naming and numbering of rural address signs. Details of these issues are outlined in the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of the webpage.

Also listed on the webpage is additional information pertaining to the timeline for the project as well as answers to frequently asked questions about the project. If your question is not answered here, please note there is a form that you can submit questions or comments that will that will receive a prompt response.