



Erie Median Policy Recommendations

Board of Trustees Presentation
October 27, 2020

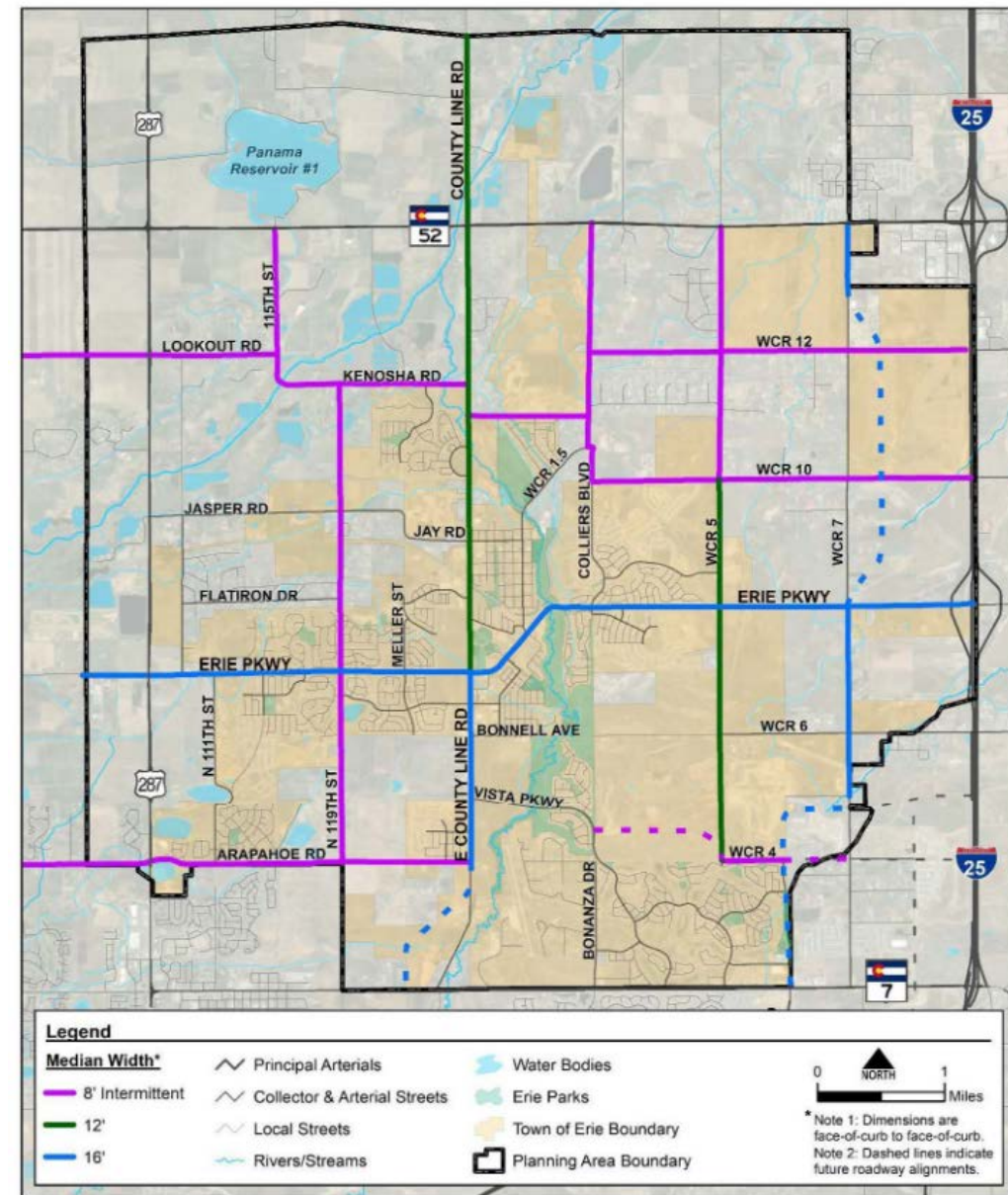


Intent

- Create a Median Policy that Establishes a consistent, sustainable, attractive, and identifiable placemaking aesthetic for the Town of Erie's Arterial Roads.
- Set a standard for Development Projects and for Capital Projects as they occur.
- Compliment and elevate existing Town Ordinances, Plans, Resolutions, and BMPs.
 - 8-1-10 Water Conservation
 - 8-1-11 Waste of Water
 - Resolution 19-299
 - Water Conservation Master Plan
 - Drought Mitigation Plan
 - WaterWise Landscaping Best Practices Manual.
- It is not intended to identify the responsible party to construct, propose a construction time line, or identify or appropriate funding for construction of these medians as part of approval of this policy.

Future Arterial Median Widths

- Weld County Road 5 modified appropriately
- Future Roadways taken in to consideration
- Future Developments taken in to consideration



Reduced Maintenance

- Use of wood mulch minimized to greatest extent to reduce maintenance while facilitating plant growth in planting beds.
- Alternative options provided at bull nose.
 - Perennials in wood mulch. This option provides an aesthetically pleasing option that is consistent with other areas of Erie Parkway.
 - Boulder with Town of Erie Logo surrounded by cobble and native grasses. This provides a placemaking feature for the Town while also providing a low maintenance approach.



Desire for Uniformity/Placemaking

- There is a lack of uniformity that exists.
- Policy will provide a guide that will establish a uniform aesthetic for Arterial Road Medians through the Town.
- Placemaking
 - Aesthetics promote the sustainable philosophy which drives the Town of Erie.
 - Unique Hardscape features will be identifiable with the Town.





September 2020

Board of Trustees,

The Town of Erie Tree Board, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB), and Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) are supportive of the Town's Median Policy. Our boards endorse all three pillars of this Policy; Placemaking, Sustainability, and Development. The Policy thoughtfully takes in to consideration beautification, development costs, pedestrian comforts, aesthetic appeal, water conservation. It further institutionalizes Town Ordinance 8-1-11 Waste of Water and prioritizes adopted values in our Town's Water Conservation Master Plan, Drought Mitigation Plan, Sustainability Master Plan, WaterWise Landscaping Best Practices Manual, and Resolution 19-299 Promoting the use of native landscaping and low-irrigation practices.

This policy directly supports Resolution 19-299 and will be an important tool for Erie to use as the Town continues to become a leader in promoting native landscaping (including trees) and low-irrigation practices. This Median Policy is a visible way for Erie to promote the Colorado character of our community, enhance natural habitat values, promote native pollinator-friendly plantings, conserve diminishing sources of water, promote safety through reduced maintenance, and save money on maintenance. The logo of the Town itself displays a tree in silhouette. As a community along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, our identity is closely tied to our geographic location. Emphasizing native plants in Erie demonstrates that we value our unique regional "place" and seek to preserve and enhance it.

The Town has this unique opportunity to set forth a median policy that establishes a placemaking identity and works to incorporate the sustainable practices that are consistent with other Town policies as many of the Town's arterial roads are not yet built out to their ultimate configurations identified in the Master Plan and do not yet have medians. Raised medians provide many community benefits, including improved pedestrian safety, access control, environmental 'cooling', visual aesthetics and placemaking. They can be hardscaped or landscaped, wide or narrow, elaborate or simple – the design possibilities are endless. A set of standards will help ensure that medians are designed to meet the individual micro-climates in a context-appropriate manner that takes into account the many different types of median materials and configurations available. Medians are infrastructure that we all interact with and observe every time we leave our homes. This Policy, along with many other strategies, greatly reinforces the Town's social, economic, and environmental priorities.

We are excited at the prospect of the Town of Erie Board of Trustees adopting this Median Policy and will continue working alongside staff to promote and celebrate best management practices as this new Policy is implemented. Thank you for your consideration and please contact our Board Chairs with any questions or comments.

DocuSigned by:

 2EF3CF7C5362459
 Leanne Vielehr, Tree Board Chair
lvielehr@erieco.gov

DocuSigned by:

 519FB0430664428
 Ken Martin, OSTAB Chair
kmartin@erieco.gov

DocuSigned by:

 F40234E89A01418
 Adam Jackson, SAB Chair
ajackson@erieco.gov

Letter of Support from Advisory Boards

- Town Staff have presented this Policy to the following Advisory Boards:
 - Town of Erie Tree Board
 - Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
 - Sustainability Advisory Board
- All three of these Advisory Boards have signed a letter in support of this Policy.

Questions?

