

April 13, 2016

Judge Floyd,

“As the wanderer in the desert welcomes the oasis, so the Texas motorist hails with joy these little off-the-road nooks, which offer rest and relaxation after a ride in the broiling sun.”

— Texas Parade magazine, September 1936 edition on the topic of roadside parks.

Roadside parks were constructed as early the 1930s, when Lyndon Baines Johnson, later the 36th U.S. president, took the reins as director of the newly established National Youth Administration — a federal program designed to put youths ages 16–25 to work during the Great Depression.

These basic rest stops are now **obsolete, deteriorated and a maintenance problem; some are victims of vandalism, vagrancy, nuisance activity, illegal dumping, drug use and crime.** Most of the remaining are facing some tough competition with today’s spacious, flashy, WI-FI-wired, air conditioned, rest-roomed, museum-like tourist stops with hot and cold running vending machines that dispense treats ranging from hot coffee to ice cream.

In the 1990s, the public began to complain the parks were old and run down; modern vehicles were fancier, more comfortable and offered air conditioning. Grills at these areas have outlived their purpose now that fast food restaurants and convenient stores are abundant.

To maintain 19 picnic areas in our area costs tax payers \$255,246. We have an opportunity to remove most of the obsolete and unsafe picnic areas. The picnic routine maintenance contract will let this August, so it is imperative that we remove these areas prior to contract letting.

Tom Green County picnic areas proposed to be removed/demolished:

Tom Green Site # 15, 0.1 miles North of FM 2105 on US 87 North bound lane. One Asbestos roof top. This rest area, we had a lot of problems with Indigent/Vagrant people camping out at this site.

Tom Green Site # 14, 2.2 miles North of FM 2105 on US 87 South bound lane. One Asbestos roof top. Site has a Historical marker. A&M extension center

Tom Green Site # 18, 1.5 miles North of FM 380 on US 67 North Bound lane. One Asbestos roof top.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Casey L. McGee, P.E." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Casey L. McGee, P.E.

San Angelo Area Engineer

April 13, 2016

Removal of Tom Green County roadside picnic areas

TxDOT proposes to remove the following picnic area sites due to safety concerns, illegal activities, cost of maintenance and outliving intended purpose:

Tom Green Site # 15, 0.1 miles North of FM 2105 on US 87 North bound lane (non-friable asbestos roof top). We have a lot of problems with Indigent/Vagrant people camping out at this site. Location is very close to town.

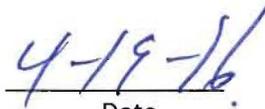
Tom Green Site # 14, 2.2 miles North of FM 2105 on US 87 South bound lane (non-friable asbestos roof top) near A&M extension center. Site has a Historical marker (to be relocated). Location is very close to town.

Tom Green Site # 18, 1.5 miles North of FM 380 on US 67 North Bound lane (non-friable asbestos roof top) near Howard College. This site has been vandalized in the past along with illegal dumping. Location is less than a mile from convenience store.

I have reviewed the matter and am aware of the proposal to remove said picnic areas.



Tom Green Co. Judge Steve Floyd



Date