



# **Certified Cities Decertification and Re-establishment of Billboard Fees**

City Council  
December 17, 2019



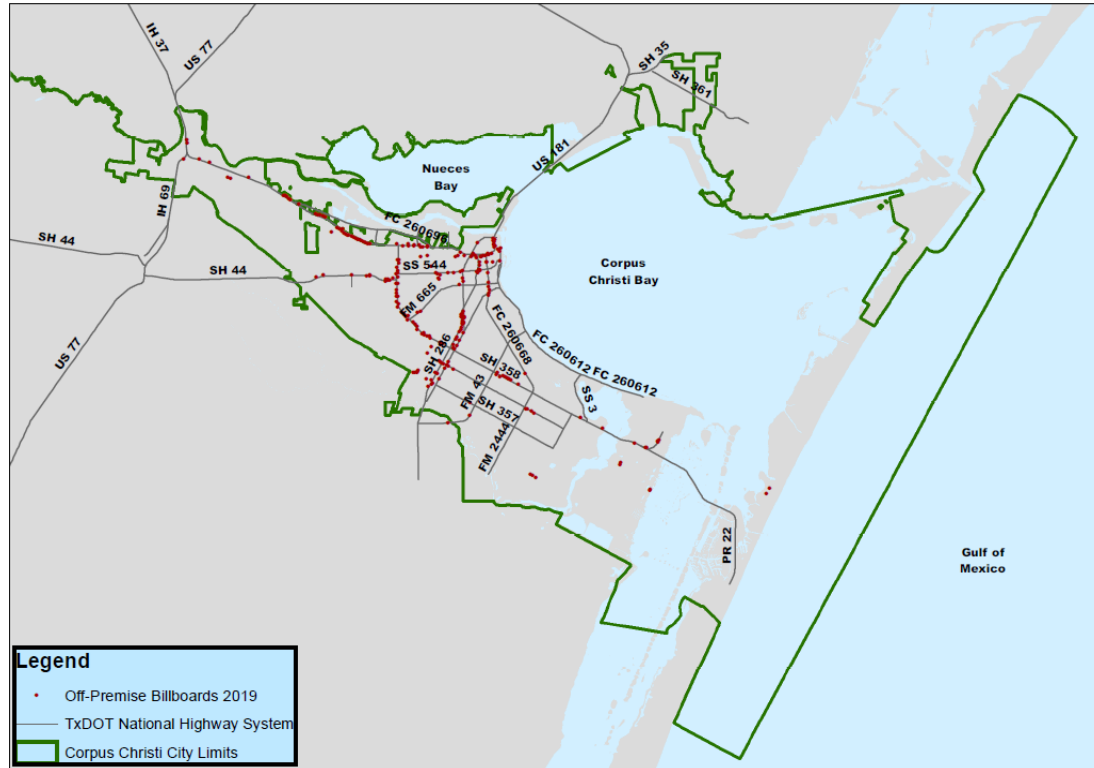
# History



- 1972 - Agreement with TxDOT for control of billboards Interstates and highways based on the Highway Beautification Act.
- Authorized billboard permitting and enforcement by the City of Corpus Christi.
- The City has been a certified city for over 46 years.
- The Federal Highway Administration could withhold 10% of the state's federal aid if standards are not enforced.



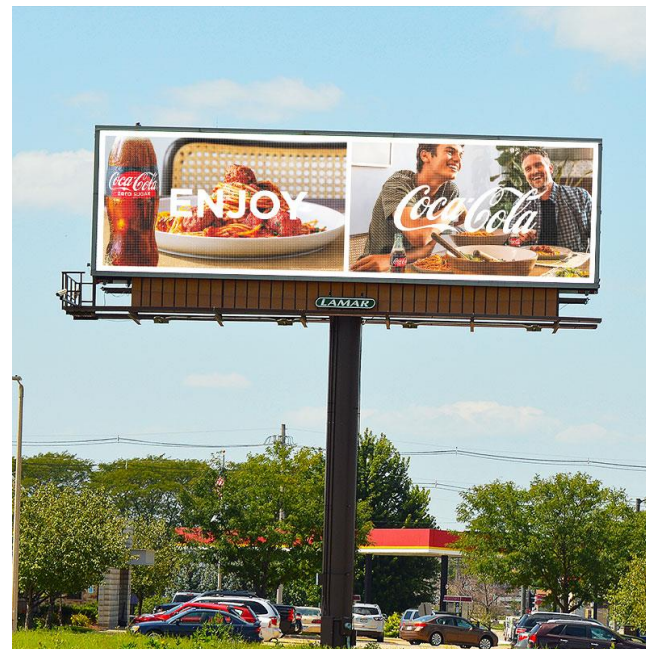
# Billboard Locations





# Enforcement

- Historical permit records from sign companies and individual property owners.
- The city has not received sufficient permit information.
- Out of the 68 signs not meeting the minimum requirements, no permits were provided demonstrating grandfathering prior to May of 1972.
- The remaining 10 signs not listed in the city's annual inventory, only one permit was provided illustrating grandfathering prior to 1972.
- Enforcing removal of signs that may be grandfathered due to permit issuance prior to 1972 could create City liability for the cost of removal.





# Decertification

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- 2010 – 60 certified cities
- Today – 30 certified cities
- Out of the 12 largest cities in Texas, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso, Laredo, Lubbock and Garland are not on the Certified Cities list.
- Certification allows sign contractors to obtain a single permit from the city for installation.
- If decertified, a permit would have to be obtained from both the city and TxDOT.



# Decertification

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- TxDOT may decertify a city, or a city may request decertification. Corpus Christi may voluntarily relinquish Certified City Status and return full regulatory responsibility to the Texas Department of Transportation concerning all commercial signs located on highways
- Advantages to decertify.
  - TxDOT has better enforcement through district court versus the city's municipal court, and this would help bring the city back into compliance.
  - TxDOT staff has experience working with sign companies which would facilitate enforcement efforts.



# Staff Recommendation

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## **Approval of Resolution**

- Decertifying the City of Corpus Christi under the Texas Highway Beautification Act
- Reestablishing the annual permit renewal fee for billboard signs