



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-5035

Growth Management Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Brad Solon, Building Official

DATE: July 10, 2008

SUBJECT: Structural Integrity of Billboard Signs

Currently a structural integrity inspection for an off-premise sign is not required by the Rapid City Municipal Code. An ordinance amendment would be necessary to require a structural integrity inspection. If City Council decides to amend the Rapid City Municipal Code to require a structural integrity inspection the off-premise sign owner should be required to obtain an inspection by a third party structural engineer.

Every year off-premise sign owners must renew their off-premise sign licenses. The required inspection information could be required when the license application renewal applications are made.

Staff contacted several jurisdictions and asked if structural integrity inspections were performed for off-premise signs. Denver, Westminster, Fort Collins, Broomfield, CO, Billings, MT, Saint Paul MN, and Huron, Yankton, Pierre, Fort Pierre, Sioux Falls and Aberdeen, SD were contacted. None of these jurisdictions perform any type of structural inspections of off-premise signs. Also, none of the jurisdictions were aware of any other jurisdictions that require such an inspection.

Rapid City Municipal Code 15.28 (Sign Code) currently contains provisions regulating the removal of signs. Staff could require the removal of any sign that is damaged, declared unlawful, improperly positioned or structurally deficient.

Staff did find that the City of Box Elder, SD has passed the first reading of an ordinance amendment that will require a structural inspection for every off-premise sign in the City of Box Elder. The second reading has been continued to December 2008. The City of Box Elder is seeking public comment on the proposed ordinance amendment. See the attached link to the view the Box Elder Amendment.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends not taking any action to require structural integrity inspections for off-premise signs in Rapid City.

