MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 16, 2020

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Doris Newman, Main Street Manager/HPO

VIA: Mercy Rushing, City Manager

SUBJECT: Meredith request for Landmark Commission & Iron Horse Square

Landmark Commission & Iron Horse Square 2020 Request for Meredith Foundation:

The Landmark Commission members approved in their regular October and November meetings requesting funds of \$67,000 for work on further phases of Iron Horse Square. The requests are:

A ½ mile walking trail (8' wide) \$34,012

20 historical signs (several to be interactive) \$13,900

3-4 covered areas with seating \$9,600

3-4 photo opportunity sites \$4,800

Pump car & hand car \$4,600

The walking trail would provide a historic, educational, recreational activity at Iron Horse Square for everyone at any time. The historical signs will tell more of our community's story as the public makes their way along the historical walking trail. The covered areas with seating would make the trail more enjoyable for a variety of folks of different ages and physical conditions. Strategically-placed photo "opps" are an excellent way of providing another fun and free photograph of time in Mineola while the pictures taken here would advertise our offerings to anyone who sees them. The pump car & hand car would also provide a rare hands-on learning experience and insight into an activity of a bygone day.

Landmark Commission & Iron Horse Square request - \$67,000 for historical walking trail creation and material, signage, covered seating, photo opps signs, and pump car.

Proposed Request for Meredith Foundation from Landmark Commission 2021

½ mile asphalt walking trail (8' wide)	\$34,012
20 historical signs – (8 to 10 will be interactive)-	13,900
3 to 4 covered areas with seating -	9,600
3 to 4 photo ops -	4,800
Pump car & hand car -	4,600

TOTAL REQUEST FOR 2021 -

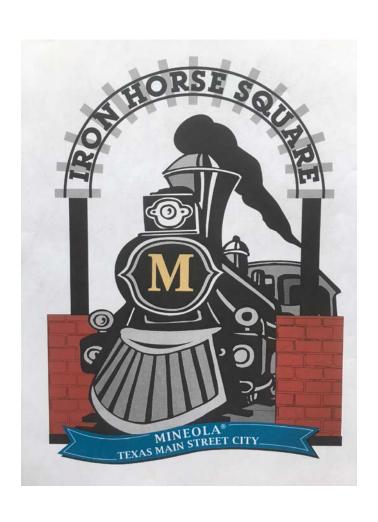
\$67,000

Items broken down: Signs – 4 at \$1200, 10 at \$500, 6 at \$200

Covered areas with benches - \$2400 each Photo ops - \$1200 each

Pump car - \$2800, Child's hand car - \$1800

Mineola Historical Landmark Commission Iron Horse Square



A Historical Railroad Park in Downtown Mineola



Mineola Landmark Commission P.O. Box 179 Mineola, TX 75773

Meredith Foundation P.O. Box 117 Mineola, Texas 75773 October 30, 2020

Dear Meredith Foundation Member,

As you know, the Mineola Landmark Commission has undertaken the ambitious creation of a railroad heritage plaza west of our Mineola Union Depot. We are proud to announce the work on the project is progressing at an ever-increasing pace. (see attachments) We have received donations, have applied for grants, and are currently conducting fundraisers for our project. During the coming year we could definitely use your help!

Currently we are on phase VIII of XII of our Iron Horse Square Project. We are requesting funding for our historical walking trail with interactive signage & intermittent shade coverings. Also we would like to be able to place a suitable surface coating on our designated parking areas and prepare the areas for proper drainage. We would like to purchase or build replicas of old time railroad pump cars for use when our train isn't running. Extension of our existing railroad track is also needed to begin the next phase of Iron Horse Square (track and crossties are already on hand).

We have outlined each aspect of our proposed request in the pages to follow so you can have a better understanding of the items for which we are asking and what we are trying to accomplish.

Iron Horse Square is shaping up to be a "one of a kind" attraction for the East Texas area! Our primary goal will always be the education of the public about the heritage the railroads have afforded us locally and nationally.

We appreciate everything the Meredith Foundation has done for the City of Mineola and look forward to working with you now and in the future on this very exciting project!

Sincerely,

Mineola Historical Landmark Commission

James R. Phillips – Chairman
Joyce (Alexander) Williams – Vice Chairman
Martha (Dear) Holmes – Secretary
Greg Hollen - Member
Crystal (Walton) Hudson - Member
Sue (Frank) Jones – Member
Mike Love - Member
Cleottice (Greer) Walton – Member
Cheryl (Hill) Wood - Member
Doris (Pfister) Newman – Director, Historic Preservation Officer

Funds Requested from Meredith Foundation for 2021

Projected Construction for Upcoming Year 2021.

Phase VIII - Historical Walking Trail (one-half mile in distance) Timeline 2020-'21.

A ½ mile long foot path providing wheelchair accessibility will be constructed through Iron Horse Square. Along the foot path will be historical signage depicting the story of Mineola's railroad heritage. The path will begin near the covered common's area, track west to Stone Street, with parts of it on the actual abandoned railbed of the M&KT (Katy) Railroad, and back to the entrance.



Historical Signage (interactive signage)

Historical signs will be posted alongside the entire walking path telling the story of Mineola's railroad heritage. The story will include the International and Great Northern Railroad, the Missouri Kansas and Texas Railroad, and the Texas and Pacific, Missouri Pacific, Union Pacific, & Amtrak Railroad companies. These signs will explain the history and impact of the railroad in Mineola & East Texas and how the Union Pacific Railroad Company is helping to ensure our railroading heritage will live on for many years to come.











Photo Op Areas

These will provide park goers areas to take pictures



<u>Pump Cars –</u> Child size and adult pump cars will be built or purchased for use when the mini train is not scheduled to run or eventually as a separate attraction to the mini train. An additional track is planned. (Note: Track, cross ties and supplies are already on hand to build track – no additional funds are needed at this time)







City of Mineola Landmark Commission

Iron Horse Square

About the Park

Iron Horse Square will be a five acre area in downtown Mineola that celebrates the railroad heritage of our city.

Situated between Front and Commerce Streets and alongside the Union Pacific Railroad tracks the plaza is a joint effort between the Landmark Commission, the Parks & Open Spaces Board, Mineola Main Street and the City of Mineola.

Iron Horse Square will provide a historically rich venue for local recreation, family activities, concerts, and cultural events.

Mission Statement

Iron Horse Square's mission is to celebrate the railroad heritage of the city of Mineola by stimulating cultural, economic and social activity within and around the park.

Overall Goals

- Construct a 15" gauge railroad track with a 36 passenger train.
- Construct a 14'x70' replica of the Mineola Engine House for storage & maintenance of mini train.
- Erect a 4' fence to provide a barrier between the Union Pacific tracks and Iron Horse Square park.
- Place a model train layout of 1930's Mineola & her railroads in the conference room of the depot for use during educational tours of the depot museum and park.
- Collect photographs of trains in Mineola & Mineola trainmen & interview Mineola area railroad men &/or families for a documentary named "Mineola Glory Days of the Railroad."
- Erect a train themed playground near the existing pavilion.
- Construct a mini train depot/waiting area with ticket booth and restrooms.

- Construct a ½ mile walking path with historical railroad signage along the path
- Erect replica of M&KT Interlocking Tower to be used for souvenirs, concessions & observation area for railfans.
- Purchase or built a replica of a Railroad Business or Lounge Car to place in the park to be used for a museum/venue. The car will also be open for public viewing and small group meetings.
- Connect the park with the downtown area via a pedestrian bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad
- Host music, arts, and historical venues throughout the year

Goals: Short Term

- Raise funds to complete the 4' fence between Iron Horse Square & Union Pacific Railroad by selling fence sections with plaques. (COMPLETED)
- Collect photographs of old Mineola, Mineola trains, and train-related artifacts for documentary & wall display.(COMPLETED)
- Create a donor board in the depot with nameplates of donors to Iron Horse Square (COMPLETED)
- Establish fundraisers to help purchase miscellaneous items for Iron Horse Square. (COMPLETED)
- Develop a website for Iron Horse Square (COMPLETED)
- Develop a Facebook Page for Iron Horse Square (COMPLETED)

Goals: Mid -Term

- Placement of a model train layout in the conference room of the depot for display & use during educational tours of the Depot Museum and Park. (COMPLETED)
- Construct a 15" gauge railroad and train (1 engine & 3 passenger cars) inside of the walking path (COMPLETED)
- Construct a ¼ mile of railroad track using volunteer labor (COMPLETED)
- Construct a 14'x70' storage barn for our 36 passenger train. This will be a replica of the T&P roundhouse at the west Mineola yard. (COMPLETED)
- Erect a small train themed playground for children 2-12 years old. (COMPLETED)
- Interview area railroad men & women &/or their families for a documentary to be shown in the depot on our television. (First 10 interviews COMPLETED)
- Place benches, trash receptacles & water fountains in park. (COMPLETED)
- Place a large entrance sign for Iron Horse Square. (COMPLETED)
- Construct a waiting area/depot for our mini train passengers.
- Purchase a Railroad Business Car to remodel as an additional railroad museum/venue. Location to be near the old basketball court.
- Construct a ½ mile walking path with historical signage
- Erect interactive & educational signage for Historical Walking Trail
- Construct rail-themed photo op areas.
- Purchase hand cars & pump cars for use when mini train is not running.
- Construct a replica of the Commerce Street Park which was between the Union Depot & the Beckham Hotel. This will be in Beverly's Garden area.

- Erect replica of the MKT Interlocking Tower to be used for concessions/souvenirs & railfan viewing area.
- Connect the park with the downtown area via a pedestrian bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad

Goals: Lifetime of Park

- Host music, arts, and historical venues throughout the year
- Educate visitors to the unique place the railroads have in the history of our country.
- Provide a safe and fun place for families to enjoy history, nature & cultural activities.

Accomplishments:

- Laid out an overall concept plan complete with interactive concept map. (on display in the lobby of the Mineola City Hall)
- Received approval for Iron Horse Square from the Mineola City Council & the Parks & Open Spaces Board
- Met with Union Pacific representatives about feasibility of our plan.
- Received a \$120,000 original grant from the Meredith Foundation to purchase a 15" gauge train & rail.
- 36 passenger train purchased, construction completed & delivered to Mineola.
- Established the Harry Meredith Special Mini Train rides on the 2nd & 3rd Saturdays of each month, with runs from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Special Event Rides held on days of Mineola Festivals & Special Group Rides were held upon request.
- Received \$35,000 from Meredith Foundation to construct a display of 1930s Mineola & its railroads, to purchase a TV system to show a documentary of Mineola & its railroads & to remodel the depot conference room to hold the train display & photos.
- Completed construction of a small scale layout of the city of Mineola during the 1930's and its railroads and placed in the depot conference room, used for display and educational tours.
- Collected photographs and obtained maps of 1930's Mineola to be used by Red River Models to recreate a replica of downtown Mineola & her train tracks
- Toured over ½ dozen railroad museums & miniature railroads and received advice from their curators & operators.
- Collected photographs from local descendants of Mineola trainmen & placed on wall in depot model train room & used in a railroad documentary showing in Depot Museum.
- Contracted with TDC in Winnsboro for trustees to clear old Katy Railbed for future use by Iron Horse Square.
- Met with structural and civil engineer who took basic measurements for pedestrian bridge
- Received a \$5000 grant from Wood County Industrial Commission. 2016
- Additional \$1000 from Wood County Industrial Commission in 2017, \$4000 in 2018, \$3000 in 2019, \$3000 in 2020.

- Established a Landmark Commission "Movies in the Park" night as a fundraiser, using business & individual sponsor donations to provide free family entertainment for Mineola area families.
- Established a "Purchase a Fence Section & Plaque" with a \$500 donation to Iron Horse Square to raise money to complete the 4' fence between Iron Horse Square and the Union Pacific Railroad. An additional 558" of fence was added to the original 336' of fence.
- Contracted with WPC Services in Longview to engrave the fence plaques (design of each plaque is a railroad car)
- Contracted with Les Mitchell, a Mineola area potter, to create Mineola stoneware for the Landmark Commission to sell as a fundraiser. Many pieces of stoneware have been made & sold and funds earmarked for use.
- Created an Iron Horse Square sub-committee from Landmark Commission members and 1 member from each Mineola city board. This committee will function to involve all Mineola boards, Chamber of Commerce, etc. with Iron Horse Square activities.
- Received a gift from Bryan Steck of ETAS in Mineola to construct a replica of the Mineola Engine House in West Mineola to house our train and supplies.
- Contracted with GRH Creative Services to laser cut replicas of Mineola's Union Pacific Depot, caboose & the T&P water tower to sell as a fundraiser.
- Established a Hobo Stew Fundraiser to be held yearly on the Friday before the Iron Horse Festival.
- Helped establish The East Texas Railway Association. A newly formed group
 of cities in the East Texas area who have as their goal promoting railroad
 history and tourism.
- Established the East Texas Railroad Club based in Mineola a group of model railroad enthusiasts who will maintain our model railroad display and encourage & educate our community & especially our young people about the hobby and history of model railroading.
- Developed a logo design for Iron Horse Square. We have had design printed on tee shirts and sell as a fundraiser.
- Developed an educational scavenger hunt for Mineola model train display in depot.
- Developed a website for Iron Horse Square https://ironhorsesquare.org
- Developed a plan for ordering & selling train themed souvenirs during each train run.
- Ordered train themed donation structures to accept donations for Iron Horse Square.
- Established an annual "Christmas Train Rides at Iron Horse Square" complete with Christmas lights throughout the plaza with runs from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. each Sat. in Dec. before Christmas.
- Established an annual "Halloween Train Rides at Iron Horse Square" complete with Halloween and Fall decorations throughout the plaza with 2 Sat. before Halloween rides and a Halloween evening ride. All rides were from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m.
- Established a very popular Easter Train Run complete with purchase of Easter Bunny outfit and photo opportunity for children. A St. Patrick's Day run with Leprechauns was also very successful.
- Restructured the 2018 proposed depot/waiting area to include shaded area for train, engineer & patrons. Area will have public restrooms with air conditioning, a ticket booth, water fountain, fans, benches & a dividing fence between passengers and train.

- Erected a Texas & Pacific train themed playground with, artificial turf & 4 swings
- Erected a large entrance sign into Iron Horse Square.
- Contracted with a local engineer to lay out a conceptual drawing of depot/waiting area (his services were donated)
- Outfitted inside the railroad track area with underground electrical services for lights at Christmas, Halloween and similar displays.
- Several large train themed photo ops were completed and placed around the park.
- A 50' plate steel train cut out was purchased, sandblasted and powder-coated and placed on the actual railbed of the MKT (Katy) Railroad north of the basketball court area. Decals representing the Katy were printed and placed on the train cut outs. This will be decorated and lighted for Christmas & other holiday seasons.
- Created a running display of upcoming projects for Iron Horse Square (on static display at Mineola City Hall)
- Completed a vehicle crossing over the mini railroad.
- 20 tress were donated and set out by the Rotary Club of Mineola. Trees were placed along the railbed of the Katy Railroad. They will someday provide shade cover for pedestrians.
- 7 more trees were given by the Arbor Day Foundation to be placed near the playground and near the wooded walking area to provide a variety of trees. The Texas Forest Service was consulted on variety and location of trees.
- An additional tree (a Stephen F. Austin oak) was given to Iron Horse Square by the Mineola Public Library Annex. Tree was originally presented to library by the local DAR chapter.
- Completed 1920's period wooden water tower. Placed near MKT train silhouette.
- Ground was broken for historical walking trail. June 2020
- 5 additional fence plagues were purchased, bringing total purchased to 71.
- Many additional items were donated to our Depot Museum & Iron Horse Square park area including – a vintage 6' metal railroad crossing sign, a T&P builders' plate found in a pasture in West Mineola, numerous T&P, UP & Amtrak lapel pins, timetables, buttons, etc., an MKT lantern, UP silver service, Pullman silver bowl.
- A \$3000 grant was written an obtained from Wood County Economic Development Commission
- A Texas Railroad History website took notice of our efforts at Iron Horse Square & published additional researched information about Mineola's Interlocking Tower #62
- Concrete pad was poured for Mini Train Depot Waiting Area. Aug. 2020
- Display was purchased and erected displaying Mineola's Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps in the Depot Museum. Maps are from 1887-1928. Aug. 2020
- Road signs were designed and purchased directing vehicular traffic & pedestrians to Iron Horse Square. Aug. 2020
- Our sign introducing Iron Horse Square was designed and ordered. It will be the first sign to be placed alongside the historical railroad walking trail. Aug. 2020
- The Wood County teacher society, Delta Kappa Gamma donated a Little Free Library, complete with train engine library, concrete pad, children's bench & awning to Iron Horse Square (pad poured Aug. 2020)

- Gipsey & Bob Schneider donated Bob's entire train memorabilia collection to Iron Horse Square to sell for profit with all proceeds going to Iron Horse Square. (Most items were Santa Fe, B&O, etc. Items belonging to UP, MoPAC were retained by our Depot Museum)
- Funds were donated to Iron Horse Square by Joe Moore to purchase a children's coin operated engine. The ride will be placed downtown to help raise funds for Iron Horse Square. (Sept. 2020)
- Ghost Stories & Train Rides????? (Oct. 2020)
- Christmas Train Rides ???? (Dec. 2020)

Phase I - 15" gauge Union Pacific mini train & train barn (replica of Mineola's 1930s engine house) Lay $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of 15" gauge track

Phase II – Sold fence sections & plaques to raise money for additional fence between park & RR tracks

Phase III - Depot Conference Room Remodel, Construction of Model RR with Replica of 1930s downtown Mineola, put together slideshow/documentary of Mineola railroad men, photos of trains in Mineola & railroad memories (interviews) from Mineola railroaders, their spouses &/or their children.

Phase IV – T&P railroad themed playground

Phase V – Entry sign for Iron Horse Square, children's photo ops, trash receptacles, benches for Iron Horse Square

Phase VI – replica of MKT train, replica of railroad water tower, directional signage to IHS

Phase VII – depot/waiting area with ticket booth & restrooms

Phase VIII – walking trail, historical & interactive signage, & parking areas designated & graveled. Also purchase of pump cars & extension of railroad tracks.

Phase IX – Replica of Mineola Interlocking Tower #62 construction. (2nd floor observation deck, 1st floor – possibly concessions & souvenirs, recreate smaller version of Commerce St. Park in Beverly's Garden

Phase X – purchase or build a railroad car to serve as a museum annex, meeting area, and/or concession area, etc. (Put car near existing concrete pad & place cover over entire pad)

Phase XI – cover existing concrete pad where BB court used to be, add picnic tables, stage, etc.

Phase XII – pedestrian crossover



City of Mineola Landmark Commission

IRON HORSE SQUARE PROJECT

"a historical plaza downtown"

https://ironhorsesquare.org

Structures Previously in Place

Amtrak Depot

Located to the immediate west of U.S. Highway 69 and between Front & Commerce streets is the old Union Depot which serves as an Amtrak passenger station and as a small railroad history museum. The station has a passenger waiting area, an office area, restroom facilities, a railroad artifact area and a conference room. The depot was remodeled in 2005 and rededicated in 2006 with its exterior having been restored to its original 1906 design.

The multimodal depot is now known as the Mineola Transportation Plaza and won the "Best Building Restoration" award from the Texas Downtown Association in 2006; the city leases the property from the Union Pacific Railroad.



Covered Commons Area

Located approximately 50' west of the depot is a 30x60 open commons area with cement flooring and seating around the perimeter. When not in use this area will serve as an additional waiting area/gathering place for our train passengers.



Structures & Attractions Added Beginning 2018

Phase I – 15"Gauge Train and Track - 2018 (1 engine & 3 passenger cars w/seating for 36)

A 15 inch gauge replica of a Union Pacific train has been built by Swannee River Railroad Company in Lufkin, Texas. The train will run ¼ mile around the area known as Beverly's Garden (see rendering below). Railroad tracks were laid using the volunteer labor of Mineola area men, women, boys & girls.









<u>Train Storage Facility - 2018</u> (replica of old roundhouse in Mineola train yard)

Materials donated by Brian Steck - ETAS Building of Roofing Systems of Mineola.

Rendering of Iron Horse Square



Phase II - Boundary Fence & Plaques - 2018 (4' high x Total 884' long)

An additional 552' has been added to the existing 4' x 332' pipe tubing fence. Name plaques were sold for a \$500 donation to Iron Horse Square to raise money to purchase the fence. Additional fenced areas will possibly be around the playground, around the tin pump house and alongside the loading ramp for the train.





Phase III - Model Train Display – Left - 1930s Replica of Downtown Mineola and Railroads. -- 2018

&

Right - Wall Display of Photos of Trains in Mineola & Mineola Trainmen - 2018





Sign Above Model Train Display - 2019

MINEOLA ARE RAILROADS 1930s

Donor Board with name plates of donors to Iron Horse Square - 2019



Glory Days of Iron Horse Documentary -2019

Photos of trains and trainmen in Mineola, playable remotely on a large TV inside the Depot Museum. Over 100 photos have been collected to date. Some are "never before seen photos" of trains and trainmen in Mineola.

 $\label{thm:continuous} \mbox{Mineola Railroad Personnel Interviewed by professional videographer-First group of 10 men and women are presently being edited.}$





Weldon Greer (born in 1924) being interviewed by County Road Film Company.

Phase IV - Playground - 2019





Phase V - Entrance Sign to Iron Horse Square -2019





Benches, Trash Receptacles, Photo Ops - 2019

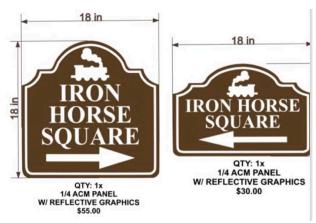




Phase VI – Replica of MKT Train 2019 & Replica of Water Tower – Feb. 2020 Roadside signage & beginning of Historical Walking Trail Signage – Aug. 2020







Roadside directional signage







1st day of work on walking trail.

sign. Sign denotes major partners & contributors in the development of Iron Horse Square.

Introductory Sign was completed with funding from Wood County Economic Development Corporation

Bladed the Path.

(Wood Co. Commissioner Jerry Gaskill donated regrind for trail &/or parking area.

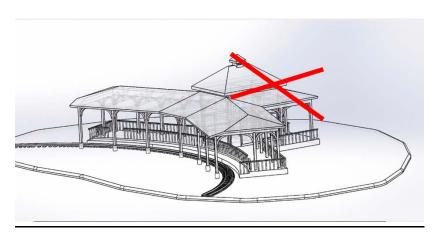
Phase VII - Depot/Waiting Area - Projected Timeline for Phase VII - 2020-21 - The depot

will be located on the eastern-most curve of the track. Under the cover of the depot will be waiting passengers, boarded passengers & driver. Fans and lights will be above our waiting guests & passengers. ADA accessibility will be on the south end of the depot.

NOTE: Due to lack of funding we had to dispense with the portion of the depot that housed the ticket booth and restrooms. We plan to add that portion when funding becomes available.



Redesigned depot/waiting area



Ticket booth & restrooms will be added when funds become available

<u>Funds Requested from Meredith Foundation for 2021</u> <u>Projected Construction for Upcoming Year 2021.</u>

Phase VIII - Historical Walking Trail (one-half mile in distance) *Timeline 2020-'21*.

A ½ mile long foot path providing wheelchair accessibility will be constructed through Iron Horse Square. Along the foot path will be historical signage depicting the story of Mineola's railroad heritage. The path will begin near the covered common's area, track west to Stone Street, with parts of it on the actual abandoned railbed of the M&KT (Katy) Railroad, and back to the entrance.



Historical Signage (interactive signage)

Historical signs will be posted alongside the entire walking path telling the story of Mineola's railroad heritage. The story will include the International and Great Northern Railroad, the Missouri Kansas and Texas Railroad, and the Texas and Pacific, Missouri Pacific, Union Pacific, & Amtrak Railroad companies. These signs will explain the history and impact of the railroad in Mineola & East Texas and how the Union Pacific Railroad Company is helping to ensure our railroading heritage will live on for many years to come.











Photo Op Areas

These will provide park goers areas to take pictures



<u>Pump Cars –</u> Child size and adult pump cars will be built or purchased for use when the mini train is not scheduled to run or eventually as a separate attraction to the mini train. An additional track is planned. (Note: Track, cross ties and supplies are already on hand to build track – no additional funds are needed at this time)





Projected Future Facility Construction

Phase IX - Replica of Interlocking Tower #62 - Timeline: 2021-2022

The tower will serve as a concession and souvenir area and as a location for railfans to watch the trains along the Union Pacific tracks.

A replica of Mineola Interlocker #62, possibly built in 1887 and authorized by the Texas Railroad Commission in 1905, and quite probably one of the first interlockers constructed in the state of Texas, will be built by a local builder.

Procurement of switch levers, switches, pipes and rollers to bring the inside of the tower to true historical replication will be a top priority.



Mineola Interlocking Tower (Date on Earl Aldredge's painting of the tower located in Mineola Memorial Library is Dec. 9, 1887) The above photo was found in the basement of the Chamber of Commerce in May 2015.

A railroad car will be purchased and remodeled to accommodate a display of railroad related items, to serve as a venue and as a meeting location for local clubs, boards, etc.



Phase XI – Cover Existing Concrete Pad Where BB Court Used to Be.

Timeline 2023-24

A roof will be constructed over the old BB court concrete pad and new railroad car. Picnic tables will be placed under the new pavilion and the railroad car will be placed west of the pad. It will be under the same roof structure as the concrete pad. Intended uses of railroad car: Railroad museum annex, meeting area (possibly to rent out to service clubs or for birthday parties), concession stand, souvenir booth.

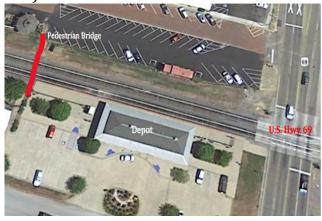


Phase XII - Pedestrian Bridge over Union Pacific Railroad (12'x75') Timeline: 2024-'26

A foot bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad connecting Commerce Street parking with the Railroad Park will be added to allow foot traffic and bicycle traffic safe access to the depot and the railroad park. This foot bridge will also benefit Amtrak passengers waiting for their train. It will allow them to safely cross over the railroad tracks to dine and/or shop in Mineola and to return to the depot in time to board their train. Access to the bridge will be switch-back ramps leading to the main bridge. The foot bridge will be a truss design. The only means at present for foot traffic to cross from Union Depot and Iron Horse Square is to walk over the Hwy 69 crossing (a major U.S. highway with heavy traffic).







Our truss design will be similar to this.

Pedestrian crossing (gazebo to depot)