

4.8 INNOVATION

Innovative Technologies

Mansfield and the Mansfield Rising Team have worked to embrace innovative technology along the Main Street corridor and within the downtown area. Our experience began with a group of individuals attending a SXSW Conference (SXSW2018) specifically purposed to immerse ourselves in innovation to learn ways to bring the latest technologies to our downtown. Much of our innovative techniques have been focused on ways to support the underserved community in Mansfield. This project will build on that momentum.

Expanding Free Public WIFI – In 2021, the City of Mansfield launched its first-ever free public wifi network within a portion of the downtown area. This project will extend the wifi network along the Main Street Corridor, from First Street to Fifth Street. The pandemic revealed how many students did not have access to the internet from their home. The goal of this technology is to continue to create safe spaces for students to access the internet. It will also serve people who do not have a providers data plan.

Digital Kiosk – In an effort to enhance the tourism experience downtown and help bolster economic activity, this project proposes to install an interactive tourism/visitor digital kiosk at the southeast corner of Main Street and Fourth Street. The kiosk will be ADA/DDA compliant and equipped with an interactive tourism feature where residents and visitors can make reservations, schedule events and book the laundry facility at the nearby outreach center.

Historic Education – Mansfield has a very rich history along Main Street with many buildings dating back to the early 1800's. This project will afford residents and visitors the opportunity to learn about Main Streets nationally recognized history, recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior. As part of the project, static posts will be installed along the corridor labeled with the theme "Main Street Through Postcards". Historic pictures will be placed on the posts accompanied with a QR Code, leading to a GIS StoryMap Website. Near-Field Communication (NFC) chips embedded in the signs are also being considered to achieve the same goal.

As an example, please scan the below QR Code:



Micromobility – Main Street is not exempt from the rolling topography found throughout the downtown. The vertical alignment can be a challenge for people to walk from Fifth Street and First Street up to Central Park. This project proposes to install an electric scooter rental station. The scooters will be charged and docked at the City Municipal Lot adjacent to Main Street. This installation will also serve as another mode of transportation other than a vehicle, serving the larger goal of reducing fossil fuel emissions.

RRFB Crossings – All mid-block crossings within the project will have solar paneled Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) to improve pedestrian safety.

