

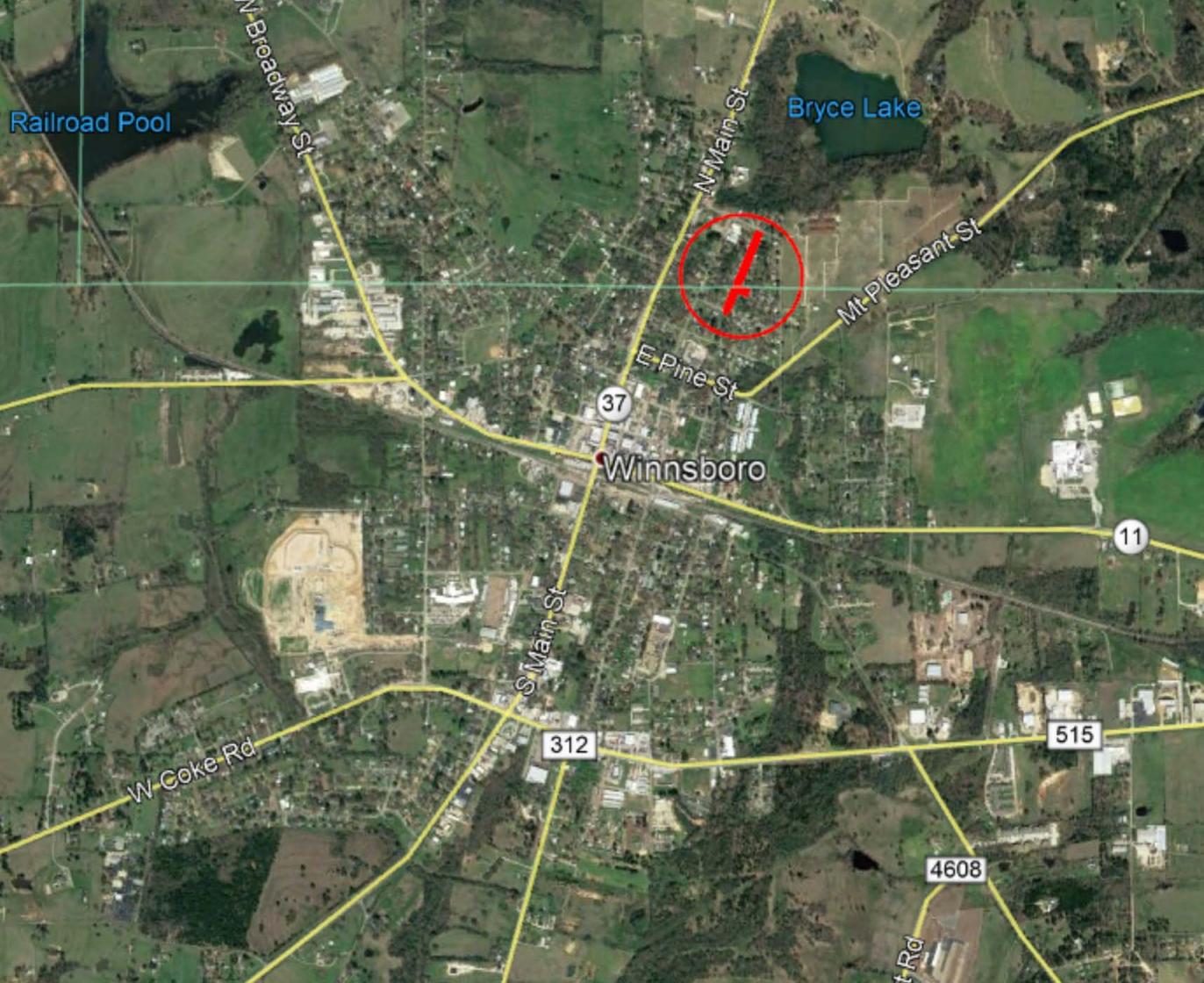
The Thing About Street Repairs

There has been a public outcry for quite some time about the conditions of Winnsboro's city streets. While it may not feel like it, the cry has not gone unnoticed or unanswered. We are also not alone with this aggravation. Street repair & maintenance are daunting tasks for all cities, no matter their size. The costs of repair, real repair and not simple 'bandaging' are staggering. So staggering that they cannot be compared to any other type of expense that cities face. Add to that frustration the fact that there is less funding to be sought for these costs.

What we hope for the citizens of Winnsboro to know is we DO hear you and we ARE taking action. The actions are just painfully slow. A 40-minute presentation was given at the February City Council meeting, which offered a plan to assess all city streets and formulate the best ways to go about repair and maintenance. A budget is currently being built for the City to purchase equipment that would make our staff capable of doing more than just filling potholes. Sherrill Street repairs were finished in late 2020. This particular improvement is a perfect reference for just how costly real street repair is. The project was prioritized to address major flooding. It was funded by a Texas Community Development Block Grant, a program which allocated tens of millions for the state of Texas in 2019. Winnsboro saw a mere \$200,000 of that and the Sherrill Street improvements required more than half of the awarded funds to complete. If you look at this map and the small dent that \$110,000 made, then consider how many streets need addressed in our city, you will see why I use the word staggering when it comes to costs! A highly trafficked street like South Post Oak would cost more than 1 million dollars to repair correctly. So, why does the City just keep filling potholes? That is all we can afford to do.

It seems logical to wonder why the City is then spending valuable money on projects to attract visitors. Why should that be a priority? The answer is rather simple and helps address the issue at hand: the more visitors we attract and money they spend in the city, the more tax dollars we have to use on street repairs and other infrastructure needs. A good example of this idea is the new Winnsboro Farmers Market project that is underway. It is being funded by EDC dollars, which CANNOT be spent on road repairs, because they are designated for use to create business in the city. However, when the market and other events held in the new pavilions help steer people to Winnsboro, the tax dollars they spend here ARE able to be used for street improvements.

This is not a new problem. It is one that has been handed down for years, through multiple City Councils and decision-makers of our city. It is one that does not have an easy answer. The damages did not happen overnight, and the repairs cannot either. However, solutions are being pursued and the City is listening to your concerns.



N Broadway St

Railroad Pool

Bryce Lake

N Main St

Mt Pleasant St

E Pine St

37

Winnsboro

S Main St

11

W Coke Rd

312

515

4608

t Rd