

New structures will welcome public to the University of Idaho

Red-brick structures announcing the beginning of campus will be built along Moscow-Pullman Highway and elsewhere

Elizabeth Rudd/Lewiston Tribune

MOSCOW - Structures similar to the red-brick masonry on U.S. Highway 95 that signal the start of the University of Idaho campus will soon be seen along the Pullman-Moscow Highway.

UI began construction at the corners of three intersections along State Highway 8 in June to create a clear point of entry onto campus as part of its long-range campus development plan, said Architectural and Engineering Services Director Raymond Pankopf. The project's total cost is about \$775,000.

The development plan, developed in the late 1990s, discussed the need for a clear way to let people know they have entered UI's campus. Pankopf said campus entries serve as the university's first chance to make an impression on a prospective student. And while it might seem trite, he said first impressions play a big role in where someone decides to go to college.

The intersection of Sweet Avenue and U.S. Highway 95 in southern Moscow was identified as one of those points and two red-brick fountains with UI's name and seal were installed in 2000. Pankopf said the fountain portion of the structures were removed last year because the annual maintenance cost was too high and they were in need of repair.

"When you come over the hill from Highway 95, Sweet Avenue is your first opportunity to turn onto campus," Pankopf said.

UI started with Sweet Avenue because the bulk of Idaho is south of Moscow and many new or prospective students and their parents travel to town from that direction, Pankopf said. The other entries were determined as the intersections of Stadium Drive, Perimeter Drive and Line Street off of State Highway 8, as well as the intersection of Sixth Street and Deakin Avenue. There is no funding plan or timeline yet for the Deakin Avenue and Sixth Street intersection.

Pankopf said the current project is working to address the gateway points across the frontage of State Highway 8, which is the path people coming from Washington will travel. That path could also include students who have flown to the Palouse and are driving from Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport.

The gateway points along State Highway 8 will have similar red-brick masonry with UI's name and seal prominently displayed, Pankopf said, like the former fountains on Sweet Avenue. The structures will not be identical, but there will also be landscaping.

Pankopf said the project is expected to be completed by Sept. 30, which will allow for the landscaping to be done in the fall planting window.

"So it's a good practical, pragmatic time to do that for the plants," Pankopf said.

The permanent signage will replace temporary black signs that have been up for about four years. Pankopf said those signs will be installed at various other entries that are considered to be more for daily UI commuters rather than newcomers.

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