

## **Escanaba/Gladstone/Wells Township/Escanaba Township**

U.S. Highway 2 Visual Enhancement  
Planning Team Meeting  
Monday, April 14, 2003

### Vision 2020

- A corridor with no billboards
- uniform signage throughout the corridor to include directional signage
- Screening/landscaping around businesses that is well maintained
- Tasteful, appealing well maintained signs
- Shining, freshly painted overpasses
- A sense of welcome to our communities
- Clean, well maintained communities
- Small town feel
- A sea of green space
- Our communities are so inviting that people want to stay
- A sense of pride
- Interesting flowers and trees
- People walking around
- Lots of activity
- Lively places
- Power lines have been cleaned up and where feasible, placed underground
- Grand entrances into the communities with vegetation and landscaping
- Inspiring monuments
- Access is safe and convenient
- There is a safe feel to our communities

### Current Conditions

#### Debris

- Left over from the winter on the roads and in the parking lots
- Builds up over the winter on easements and ends up as a clump of dirt
- Bark flies off logging trucks and ends up all over
- Trash thrown from vehicles causes blight

#### Landscaping

- Tall weeds and grass
- Not maintained
- Landscaping is expensive and whatever we plant has to be accommodated by our short growing season

#### Unsightly businesses

- Run down and inappropriate fencing
- Untidy appearance
- No screening
- Zoning issues

#### Signage

- Dated

- Some don't serve any function
- Confusing
- No uniformity
- Poor directional signage
- Things are hard to find
- Lincoln/Washington – “unless you're from here, you don't know it's there” – end up getting lost

#### Signage continued

- Too big
- Too high
- Not consolidated
- Our ordinances don't address these issues

#### Rail overpasses

- Rusty
- The banks near the overpasses are not maintained and are full of weeds

#### Congestion

- Not safe
- Not inviting
- Too many curb cuts
- Traffic is moving too fast

#### Location of welcome center – visitor information

- Not visible

#### Locations to be addressed....

- Rail yards in Gladstone
- The corridor in Wells Township from Main Street to the river
- Viaduct – bridge in Escanaba
- Car dealership – used cars – rv area in Escanaba Township

#### Some suggested solutions...

- Reconfigure the 4 lanes to two lanes with service roads/turn lanes with more greenery and traffic calming/over pass near schools
- More frequent road right-of-way maintenance
- Beautify with natural species
- Encourage formation of 'adopt a highway' groups
- Secure easements on private property to clean up power lines – locate lines back further from the road right-of-way
- Serious, well thought out, comprehensive master plan
- Knowing where development is going to occur
- Pursue some type of uniform signage or coordinated system/possibly forming a joint authority
- Develop a property inventory and present design plan to property owner for improvement
- Develop a beautification strategy
- Designate bike paths and explore funding options
- Improve landscaping throughout the corridor

- Improve directional signage

