

Date:	June 21, 2022
Prepared By:	Gina Pate, Management Analyst - Public Works
Subject:	Sidewalk Improvement Program

Introduction

The current Sidewalk Improvement Program is managed by the Development Department and Public Works Streets Division. The program allows for a property owner to have the sidewalks on their property inspected and rated to determine the need for replacement. Code Enforcement advertises this program as an opportunity for residents with a sidewalk violation to fix their sidewalk, most of the applicants for the program are referred. If determined that the sidewalk needs to be replaced, the property owner pays for all the materials and supplies necessary to complete the sidewalk construction prior to being placed on the work list. The Street Division will provide the labor and construct the sidewalk based upon priority. Once the applications have reached capacity of the street division for repair, applications will not be accepted.

Currently, there are five pending applications that have not been paid for, so they are not accounted for on the work list. In total, there are fifteen outstanding applications on the work lists, which will be completed this summer or early fall. Seven applications have been on the work list for over one year.

When evaluating the Sidewalk Improvement Program, staff discovered that the outstanding applications are primarily due to the locations being in different areas in the City. Additionally, due to the concrete materials, it is an inefficient use of resources to only do one sidewalk in a specific area. Based on this evaluation of the current program, staff recommends revising the program.

Recommendation

To provide a more adequate response time, staff recommends using a contractor to perform the labor and materials for this program. The program would focus on one specific area each year. The program would have a 50/50 cost-share between the City and property owners. The cost share was derived from the current program, which is a 50/50 cost share. Staff would look at the various residential areas in Smithville and determine the area with the most need during the specific construction year. Property owners would be notified of the project if their property is affected and would be required to enroll in the program. Neighborhoods would also be able to use this program as a cost-share to improve gaps in sidewalk access. This change would allow

the cost to be more accurate and prevent delays in construction since all the improvements would be in a similar area.

At the Board Retreat on May 21, the Board identified sidewalks on collector streets as a priority, especially on safe routes to school and to City amenities. Staff has applied for multiple grants to construct sidewalks in areas around the City along collector streets and safe routes to school. The addition of sidewalk improvement outside of residential areas would be an expansion of the current sidewalk program and would need additional funding. This potential expansion would reflect the priority identified in the Transportation Master Plan for improving the sidewalk conditions and connectivity in the community.

Other Sidewalk Project Summary:

In addition to the current sidewalk program, the City has completed several pedestrian facility improvements. Staff has also identified sidewalk improvements in the Capital Improvement Plan, which are outlined below.

- Streetscape Phase I *(Completed)*
- Main Street Trail *(Completed)*
- Streetscape Phase II *(Completed)*
- Streetscape Phase III *(Currently in Engineering, Construction 2023)*
- Quincy Blvd *(Construction in 2023)*
- Commercial Street Sidewalks *(Engineering in 2023, Construction in 2024)*
- Second Creek Bridge to Hwy 169 Sidewalks *(Applied for MARC Grant)*
- Diamond Crest Multi-Use Trail *(Applied for DNR Grant)*

Staff is looking for feedback in the following areas:

Priority Areas

Staff would identify sidewalks with hazardous conditions, like the PCI process, to help identify the area with the greatest need each year. The hazardous sidewalks will be identified on GIS to help visualize the area with the greatest need of improvements.

At the Board Retreat, the Board prioritized connecting the sidewalk gaps, especially on safe routes to school and to City amenities. Staff plans to address large sidewalk gaps in future overlay projects and grant opportunities. Additional sidewalk improvement priorities could be for public destinations and services like the grocery store, City Hall, parks, library, etc.

Budget

Currently, the budget includes \$25,000 annually for the program. The proposed program changes would have a 50/50 cost share with the property owner. The property owner would have the option to enroll in the program. If there is a gap in the sidewalk,

the City would pay the full cost for the sidewalk improvements and the property owner would be responsible for future maintenance.

Enforcement Changes

The City will no longer require property owners to fix hazardous sidewalks, since the City will have a master list of sidewalks in need of improvements.



Sidewalk Improvement Program



SMITHVILLE
missouri

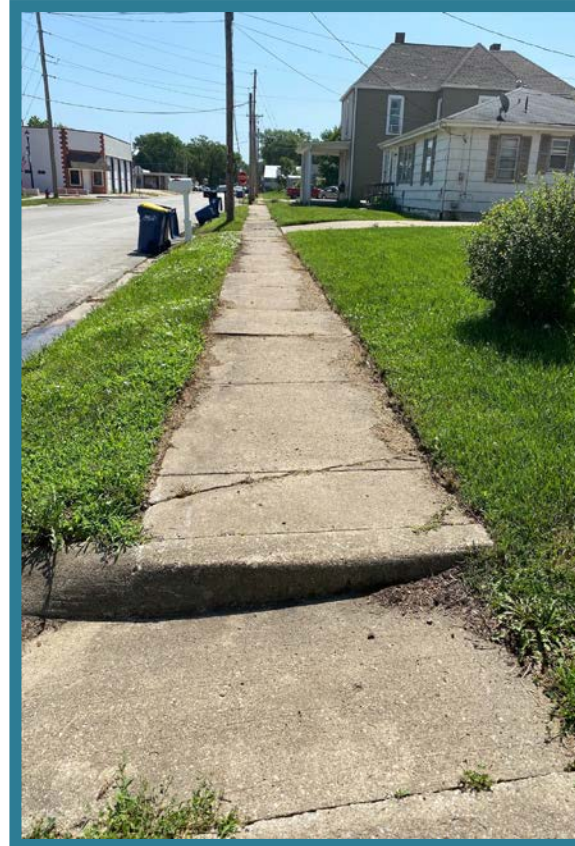
Current Program

- Managed by the Development Department and Public Works Streets Division
- Program Overview:
 - Budget of \$25,000
 - Property owners can have their sidewalk inspected to determine the need of replacement
 - Property owners pays for the materials and supplies
 - City provides the labor
- Since 2014, 72 property owners enrolled in the program (submitted payment)
 - In 2021, the City received 5 payments (these have not been completed yet)
 - In 2022, the City has not received any program enrollments



Evaluation of Current Program

- Why are there outstanding applications?
 - Staff capacity
 - Sidewalk repair needs not being in the same area
 - Only one sidewalk repair in a specific area
- So how can the City improve this program?
 - Use a contractor to perform labor and provide materials
 - Continue the cost share with property owners
 - Inspect areas throughout the City to determine the areas with the most hazardous conditions, or greatest need of sidewalk improvements
 - Connect small gaps in sidewalks



Examples of sidewalk conditions Downtown

Planned Sidewalk Projects

- Staff has also planned sidewalk projects outside of the scope of this program to help improve connectivity and gaps throughout the City.
- Grant Applications identified in the Capital Improvement Plan:
 - Second Creek Bridge to Hwy 169 Sidewalks (Applied for MARC Grant)
 - Diamond Crest Multi-Use Trail (Applied for DNR Grant)
- Planned Projects in the Capital Improvement Plan:
 - Streetscape Phase III (*Currently in Engineering Phase, Construction in 2023*)
 - Quincy Blvd (*Construction in 2023*)
 - Commercial Street Sidewalks (*Engineering in 2023, Construction in 2024*)



Discussion

- Staff is looking for feedback in the following areas:
 - Priority areas for the program
 - Public destinations/ services
 - Safe Routes to School
 - City amenities
 - Budget
 - Changes in program

Map 4. Existing Roadways and Functional Class

