

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****June 7, 2022**

Page 1 of 1

SUBJECT: SIDEWALKS – GAP FILLING AND MAINTENANCE

The City of Fort Worth has extensive sidewalk needs that include installing sidewalks where no sidewalks have previously existed, filling in missing segments (sidewalk gaps) and repairing sidewalks that are in deteriorated condition. Sidewalk gaps are typically funded as part of street reconstruction or new construction bond projects, by annual Pay as You Go capital funds, and in some cases, by private development. Sidewalk maintenance is not specifically funded by the City.

Sidewalk Gaps: In April 2019, City Council adopted the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) to guide the priority implementation of citywide sidewalk gap projects. The plan prioritized filling 3,395 miles of sidewalk gaps with an estimated implementation cost of approximately \$3.3B. The current cost for installing one mile of sidewalk is estimated at \$792K. In FY20, TPW budgeted \$629K in funding for sidewalk gap installation. The sidewalk funding allocation increased to \$1.5M in FY21 and to \$2.6M in FY22, which includes funding designated for sidewalks to transit projects. In FYs 20 and 21, TPW installed a combined 5.43 miles of sidewalks and anticipates installing 5.45 miles of new sidewalk for FY22. Chapter 30, Article I of the City Code requires property owners to install sidewalks when redeveloping or performing a major remodel where sidewalk gaps front the property. Developers are required to install sidewalks under the Subdivision Ordinance.

Sidewalk Maintenance: The City does not currently have a separately funded sidewalk maintenance program for repair of deteriorated sidewalks. Chapter 30, Article I of the City Code establishes that sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of the owner or tenant of property abutting a street. The City, however, has not historically enforced this provision as failure to comply would require the City to issue a misdemeanor citation for a nuisance and would have inequitable impacts.

TPW intends to perform a sidewalk condition assessment to update the citywide sidewalk maintenance needs as part of the pavement condition index assessment currently underway. It is estimated that 103 miles of poor condition sidewalks exist in the City.

In certain situations, TPW reallocates funding from street maintenance to address urgent sidewalk maintenance needs related to safety and/or ADA compliance. Costs for maintenance can exceed costs for new installations depending upon the size of the projects, contractor pricing for smaller jobs with lower economies of scale, and mobilization fees. In FY21, TPW received 336 requests for sidewalk maintenance and addressed 71 due to their extremely poor condition.

If you have any questions, please contact William Johnson, Transportation and Public Works Director, at (817) 392-7801.

David Cooke
City Manager