



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: September 12, 2022

Prepared By: Dennis Carr – City Engineer

Agenda Item: Sidewalk Replacement Programs Discussion

Explanation: As recently as last month, residents have identified sidewalks in the city that are crumbling and in need of replacement. They have come to council meetings or called City Hall to complain about sidewalk near neighboring properties.

The older sections of the city have aging pedestrian infrastructure or sometimes no pedestrian infrastructure at all. The City has two 50/50 sidewalk programs that can be used.

The first is what is commonly called the “50/50 sidewalk program.” Residents who want to replace their degrading sidewalk can apply for this 50/50 match program and either hire a contractor or have the City or our contractor replace it. The City then reimburses at a rate equivalent to 50% of our commodities bids.

The second program is a City Mandated Replacement Program for sidewalk and/or curb. Our ordinance states that subject to budgetary considerations, the City Council can select locations for City-mandated sidewalk and/or curb replacement. Once the selection and direction is given, staff will notify the property owners of their required financial participation. The property owner can either pay 50% at the time of replacement or 50% plus 6% interest, compounded annually, over a period not to exceed five years.

Fiscal Impact: City staff budgets for concrete assistance each year. Staff can begin budgeting for a mandatory sidewalk replacement program to be directed by the City Council. To the best of staff’s knowledge, there has never been a City sidewalk replacement program imposed on any residents.

Recommendation Summary: Staff recommends discussion on the City’s mandated replacement program for sidewalk and/or curb.