



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: November 14, 2022

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Agenda Item: 2023 Sidewalk Replacement Program Funding Share

Explanation: City Code allows for 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.

Discussion at the September Committee of the Whole meeting included possible interest in increasing the City’s share of any sidewalk program projects to 70%. Should that be the consensus of the Council as a pilot program for 2023, staff seeks feedback on the geographic scope of the City’s share. At least three possibilities could be utilized:

1. A 70/30 program would be instituted for every replacement project regardless of its location;
2. A 70/30 program would be targeted for a particular area of the city with eligible sidewalks outside of that area able to qualify for the traditional 50/50 program; and
3. A 70/30 program would apply when multiple properties or a block of sidewalk are to be replaced in order to incentivize more substantial replacements.

Fiscal Impact: The FY 22-23 budget includes \$16,000 for the sidewalk replacement program. Depending on the Council direction on the deployment of a 2023 program, increasing that amount may be recommended.

Action Requested: Staff seeks feedback on how or if to change the 50/50 program for 2023. Should there be interest in a pilot program, formal approval would likely be sought at an upcoming Council meeting.