



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: December 12, 2022

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Agenda Item: 2023 Sidewalk Replacement Pilot Program Priorities

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 and November Committee of the Whole meetings included possible interest in increasing the City’s share of sidewalk replacement projects to up to 70% as part of a 2023 pilot program. Staff was directed to offer a recommendation on what such a program could include. Given that, staff would recommend the following:

- Target this program to the east side of the city that have dilapidated sidewalks and could benefit from a block-by-block replacement. These would be streets that are not planned for reconstruction projects within the next five years that could potentially include more widespread infrastructure improvements (sidewalks, water, and/or sewer). Eligible streets would be each of those east of Main Street and would qualify for a 70% City share.
- Dilapidated sidewalks outside of the targeted area would continue to be eligible for the traditional 50% City share.
- Allow for the property owner to either pay its share in whole within 60 days of completion or to enter into a Special Service Area (SSA) agreement to allow for equalized annual payments for up to ten years. The cost to the property owner(s) would be placed on the property tax bill in a similar manner to the SSA’s established for recent infrastructure improvements on N. Lawndale and W. Holland.

Fiscal Impact: The FY 22-23 budget includes \$16,000 for the sidewalk replacement program. Staff recommends increasing that amount to \$40,000 depending on the Council direction on the deployment of a 2023 program. At an approximate cost of \$10 per square foot, the City could potentially assist with the replacement of about 5,700 square feet of sidewalk within the targeted area if all of the recommended budget funds were utilized. That likely would not happen but the budget should reflect the possibility of much of that occurring plus other replacement projects outside of the targeted area. As such, staff recommends that be budgeted in FY 23-24 for the City’s share on all sidewalk replacement program projects. These funds would be utilized on a first-come, first-served basis. A wait list would be created should there be more interest than the budget allows and would assist with identifying any program or budgetary changes for 2024.

Action Requested: Staff seeks feedback on the recommendation for a 2023 pilot program at the December 12 Committee of the Whole meeting. Should there be interest in a pilot program, formal approval would likely be sought at an upcoming Council meeting.