

St. Louis County
Department of Highways and Traffic

Sidewalk Policy

Sidewalk Policy - Capital Construction Program/Sidewalk Program

The purpose of the County's sidewalk policy is to ensure sidewalks are installed in selected locations in order to improve pedestrian safety especially for children attending school. The sidewalk policy focuses on sidewalk additions along the St. Louis County Arterial Road System (ARS) and major collectors (since these roadways carry high traffic volumes on daily basis), and not along subdivision streets at this time.*

In order to obtain a clear understanding of the magnitude of the sidewalk needs within the Arterial Road System and along major collectors, a comprehensive survey of sidewalk conditions by Department staff was completed in late 1993 and updated in 2008.

Three emphasis areas were determined and prioritized. They are:

- 1) Sidewalks within ½ mile of a school, ½ mile of neighborhood retail, and those areas showing a "worn path";
- 2) Sidewalks within ½ mile of a regional commercial area;
- 3) Sidewalks within ½ mile of a Civic Center or Church

These three prioritized emphasis areas were further divided into categories, which reflected the scope of work required and right-of-way constraints. They are:

- 1a) Short gaps (utilizing maintenance forces);
- 1b) Short gaps (utilizing contractor forces);
- 2a) Longer gaps (utilizing either contractor or maintenance forces)

The number of locations and amount of sidewalk addressed per year will be dependent on funding and field constraints. The County currently has limited funding to address a majority of the sidewalk needs. As funding allows, long segments along the Arterial Road System will be addressed through the Capital Construction Program. Also, those jobs that are gaps, which are complicated by the need for grading, retaining walls, utility relocation and drainage modifications, will be addressed through the Capital Construction Program. Those gaps along major collectors that are short and easy to construct will be a part of our Sidewalk Program (utilizing Federal Funds for construction).

* At this time, the County does not install new sidewalk within subdivisions. At the time of a repair work on subdivision streets, we address sidewalk repair as well. At such time as we have installed new sidewalk at all priority locations and have repaired all sections of existing deteriorated sidewalk along arterials and major collectors, the County will consider addressing the installation of new sidewalk within subdivision gaps.

The following table summarizes this information:

| <u>Sidewalk Installation through the CCP</u> | <u>Sidewalk Installation through the Sidewalk Program</u> |
|---|--|
| Funding allowance based on available funds for program year | \$1,000,000/year (approximation only) \$500,000 County match and \$500,000 STP-Enhancement Funds |
| Along Arterial Road Systems | Along Major Collectors |
| Long segments, gaps | Short segments, gaps |
| Complicated Construction | Simple Construction |

Sources of information for determining sidewalk locations will depend upon Department Staff, public input, School District input and the input of private education institutions.

Sidewalk Requirements for Site Development

Sidewalk construction will be required in connection with all site development. Note that on sites that fall under the Subdivision Ordinance, the sidewalks will be required unless waived through the Department of Planning.

Only if the Department of Highways and Traffic determines that the required sidewalk cannot be built, will the developer be allowed to provide a Special Escrow to enable the construction of the sidewalk in the future. Examples where the Department would determine that the sidewalk cannot be built include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) Adjacent to an existing bridge;
- 2) Where an off-site easement is required and the adjacent property owner will not grant said easement;
- 3) Along the frontage of a programmed or funded capital project.

The Special Escrow shall include, but not be limited to, the following cost items:

- 1) Concrete for a 4-foot or 5-foot wide walk or full sidewalk construction;
- 2) Sod installation;
- 3) Grading (cut and/or fill); (\pm 2 feet);
- 4) Handicap ramp to meet ADA requirements;
- 5) Adjustment costs to driveways impacted by future walk construction;
- 6) Perpendicular extensions of storm water drainage facility construction/adjustments.

Any additions or deletions of items from this list will be as the Department of Highway and Traffic directs. The Department of Planning escrow cost items shall be used when applicable when determining the total Special Escrow.

NEW DEVELOPMENT

- SCHOOL.....Sidewalk must be required
- CHURCH.....Sidewalk may be required dependent upon area circumstances

EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

- SCHOOLSidewalk may be required dependent upon area circumstances *
- CHURCH.....Sidewalk may be required dependent upon area circumstances *

* Circumstances to be considered:

- 1) Roadway improvements pending with planned CIP;
- 2) Existing sidewalk or sidewalk escrows in the area of the church/school;
- 3) Previous requests/complaints about the need for sidewalk;
- 4) Increase in pedestrians as a result of the new/revised site development;
- 5) Frontage adjacent to an existing bridge;
- 6) Off-site easement cannot be acquired from adjacent property owner.

SPECIAL ESCROW FOR SIDEWALK

A) If a special escrow is required in lieu of the sidewalk construction, the escrow is limited to covering only three factors:

- 1) The current construction cost per linear foot of sidewalk.
- 2) ADA Compliance with ramps.
- 3) Current cost for grading (cut or fill) for the sidewalk (May adjust sidewalk to back of curb if cost is extremely high).

B) The Special Escrow will not include any other cost factors e.g. utility relocation, sewer adjustments, plant and/or tree removal, etc.