

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 that sidewalks are installed in select locations where a heightened need for pedestrian safety exists, particularly in areas where children walk to and from school. Because of budget shortfalls our policy focuses on sidewalk additions along the Arterial Road System (high-speed roadways with high traffic volumes). Other roads will remain on our needs list and be addressed as funding and priority dictate.

To ascertain an accurate understanding of our sidewalk needs, a major study was undertaken by Department personnel in 1992. Their inspection of the Arterial Road System was completed in late 1993. In 2004 Highway Planning re-evaluated all needs previously identified. Further field inspections are being conducted to substantiate need and priority.

Three emphasis areas were determined and prioritized:

- Sidewalks within one-half mile of a school and those areas showing a "worn walking path".
- Sidewalks within one-half mile of a Civic Center, church or park.
- Sidewalks within one-half mile of a commercial area/strip mall.

Once Projects are prioritized, they are ranked based on "ease of construction":

- Short gap (2,500 feet or less) no easements needed-minor work
- Long gap (2,500 feet or more) no easements needed-minor work
- Short gap (less than 2,500 feet) easements needed-major work
- Long gap (greater than 2500 feet) easements needed-major work

Definitions

Minor work means no utility conflict, no walls needed, minimal to no grading requirements, no drainage requirements.

Major work means utility conflict, wall construction needed, significant grading required, drainage modifications or additions required and other limiting factors.

The number of locations and amount of sidewalk addressed per year is dependent on funding and field constraints. The County currently has limited funding to address a majority of the sidewalk needs. As funding allows, segments along the Arterial Road System (ARS) will be addressed through the Capital Construction Program. Also, those jobs that are gaps and which are complicated by the need for grading, retaining walls, utility relocation and drainage modifications, will be addressed through the Capital Construction Program (CCP). Federal funds, when able would be utilized for construction.

The following table summarizes this information:

<u>Sidewalk Installation through CCP</u>	<u>Sidewalk Installation Through the Sidewalk Program</u>
Funding allowance based on available funds for program year	\$1 million/year (approximate) \$500,000 County Match and \$500,000 Surface Transportation Program (STP) Enhancement Funds
Along Arterial Road System	Along Arterial Road System
Gaps	Gaps
Major Work	Minor Work

Information sources queried to help determine sidewalk locations will include Departmental staff, the public and both the public and private school system.

Presently, the County does not install new sidewalks within subdivisions. When repair work is being done on a particular subdivision street, sidewalk needs on the street are addressed at that time by replacement of deficient slabs in existing sidewalk. We will consider installing sidewalks in subdivision 'gaps' after all priority locations have been addressed and all sections of existing deteriorated sidewalks along arterials have been repaired.

Sidewalk Requirements for Site Development

Sidewalk construction is required in connection with all site development. On those sites that fall under the Subdivision Ordinance, sidewalks will be required unless waived by the Department of Planning.

In those instances where the Department of Highways and Traffic determines that the required sidewalk cannot be built, the developer will deposit funds in a Special Escrow that would finance the walkway in the future. Examples for which the Department would determine that a sidewalk could not be built would include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Adjacent to an existing bridge
- Where an off-site easement is required and the adjacent property owner will not grant said easement
- Along the frontage of a programmed or funded capital project
- If sidewalk is not present in the area

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

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