

Neighborhood Sidewalk Program

The most immediate and significant mobility and safety concerns are addressed in the sidewalk master plan as part of the City's CTP. The planned network does not, however, address all desires for sidewalks within local neighborhood streets. Many of these sidewalks serve more recreational needs and act as neighborhood amenities.

The Neighborhood Sidewalk Program addressed the community desire for these pedestrian facilities by allowing them a way to participate in requesting and funding projects for their neighborhood. The program is funded separately from the CIP, with neighborhoods sharing the in cost and showing further community support in the form of a petition process.

Neighborhood Sidewalk Request Process

1. A Homeowners' Association, neighborhood group, or individual may request to have sidewalks installed in their neighborhood
2. The neighborhood must show support for proposed solution by submitting a petition to the Public Works for verification
3. Once the petition is verified, Public Works staff will submit the request and petition to the City Manager for direction
4. Public Works will make a field review of the area, document findings, and develop a conceptual cost estimate for the request
5. A score will be developed for the request and the Public Works staff will develop a recommendation for the City Manager
6. The sidewalk is included on the list of neighborhood sidewalk projects and placed in order based upon the site score
7. If directed by the City Manager, Public Works staff will develop a final project design and cost which will be presented to the neighborhood in a neighborhood information meeting
8. Once the neighborhood can provide the matching funding, the final design and cost will be presented to the Mayor and City Council for consideration of approval and funding
9. Upon City Council approval, the sidewalk project will be implemented at the direction of the City Manager

Neighborhood Petitions

The City of Sandy Springs requires that there be wide support from the community for implementing sidewalks in its neighborhoods. All of the impacted property owners on the street where the sidewalk is being requested should be contacted and given an opportunity to sign this petition, indicating their opinion concerning the installation of the sidewalk. Any abstention or indication other than a "yes" will be considered a "no."

A spouse's signature will not be acceptable if he/she is not the legal owner. If both husband and wife are joint legal owners, both signatures are required. A "Mr. and Mrs." signature is not acceptable. All owners must sign individually, including owners of undeveloped lots. Renting tenants are not an acceptable substitute for the legal homeowner. The percentages will be calculated, based on individual lots where the owners sign affirmatively, divided by the total number of lots in the neighborhood. Each lot counts as only one lot regardless of the number of owners signing. At least 65% of the homeowners in the impacted area must vote in favor of installing the sidewalk, before the petition will be accepted. Where a neighborhood has a homeowners' association or other legal mechanism allowing a group less than the previously stated required percentages to represent their position on matters such as these, this mechanism may replace the petition process as approved by the City Manager after consultation with the City Attorney.

The completed petition must be returned to Public Works where it will be verified against tax records and land lot maps to ensure that it meets all requirements. The petition will be presented to the City Manager for action. Public Works and the City Manager reserve the right to set a reasonable expiration date on petition signatures.

Neighborhood Cost Share

All installation costs for the neighborhood sidewalk project will be shared between the City and the neighborhood, with the City providing 75% and the neighborhood providing 25%. Installation costs include but are not limited to: establishment of a level shoulder, reconstruction of driveways, construction of the sidewalk, sign and pavement marking modifications, and landscaping. Mail box relocation, if required by the final design, will be a homeowner responsibility. For sidewalk projects, the neighborhood will assist the City in obtaining the necessary easements or right-of-ways to facilitate the construction project.

Neighborhood Sidewalk Request Scoring

Sidewalk requests will be scored on the following criteria. These criteria will be used to score sidewalks to determine a priority for implementation of the neighborhood requests.

Safety: Any potential or demonstrated pedestrian safety hazard, such as crash history, topography, roadway alignment, street lighting, speeds, or nearby land uses, will increase the justification for a project.

School Connectivity: Walking becomes an alternative form of transportation when located near a private or public school. Therefore, this will increase the justification for a project.

Recreation and Park Connectivity: Sidewalk projects located within ¼ mile of a COSS park, green space or neighborhood park and providing connectivity to a green space or a park will increase the justification for a project.

Transit Connectivity: Based on multi-modal studies, people will typically consider utilizing an alternate mode if within ¼ mile of a transit option; therefore the proximity of a request to a bus stop or rail station will increase the justification for a project.

Multiple Land Use Connectivity: Requests for projects that promote pedestrian connectivity between land uses, such as links between residential, commercial, and office use will increase the justification for a project; the shorter the distance between uses, the better it serves the transportation system as people are more likely to choose walking for trips under ¼ mile.

Current Pedestrian Use: Requests for locations that show defined “desire lines” will increase the justification for a project.

Adjacent Roadway Volumes: Requests on roads that have Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volumes of greater than 400 will increase the justification for a project.

Constructability: Existing shoulder and curb and gutter conditions will have an impact on the project cost and feasibility. Good condition curb and gutter and flat, unobstructed shoulder conditions will increase the justification for a project.

Age of Request: Every 12-month period that the project remains on the priority list will increase the justification for a project.