



Pilot Program for Sidewalk Replace & Repair



report to
Joint Committee, TTI & HSGD
per Council Motion 13-433
October 8, 2013



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Goals

- Increase availability of Houston sidewalks
- Make it easier for property owners/citizens to make repairs/complete gaps
- Reduce backlog in Safe Sidewalk Program
- Reduce obstructions within the public pedestrian way
- Clarify City's role in sidewalk construction and maintenance



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It shall be the duty of every owner of real estate in the city, abutting on any public street in the city, ...along which street the city council may order the construction, reconstruction or repair, or bringing to grade of sidewalks, to cause the same to berepaired, as the case may be, in accordance with the terms of such order, the specifications set out in this article and on the line and grade as established by the city engineer for the particular block, street or community in which the real estate may be situated.

Sec . 40- 83, Houston Code of Ordinances
(Code 1968, § 41-83; Ord. No. 90-635, § 110, 5-23-90)



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Safe Sidewalk Program (SSP)-- current

- Construct **new/replace** sidewalks under Pedestrian Accessibility Review (PAR) program
- Construct **new** sidewalks vicinity schools
- Construct **new** sidewalks along thoroughfares

....beyond SSP, City currently also

.... + builds/rebuilds sidewalks with street reconstruction/construction (CIP)

.... + repairs sidewalks when impacted by other infrastructure maintenance (O&M)



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Infrastructure Data--Sidewalks

- Sidewalks in Houston 4,390 miles
- COH streets without sidewalks 3,180 miles
- Annual sidewalk new/reconstruction 50 miles
- TIRZ sidewalk new/reconstruction 5-10 miles
- FY-14-18 CIP Safe Sidewalk Program \$25.2m

Current Workload/Backlogs

	(active/new)		(replace)
	#REQUESTS	TIME	#REQUESTS
– PAR	45	1 year	n/a
– Safe School	53	2 years	32
– Thoroughfare	4	3 years	8



PWE Asset Management Strategy: Sidewalks

Level	Scope/Program Component	PWE Organization
REPAIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restore for utility cuts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility or Stormwater Maint.
REHABILITATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • w/PAR • for crossing ped ways w/ Overlay Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engr & Constr • Street Maint; Engr & Constr
RECONSTRUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With street reconstruction, local & thoroughfare • through SSP for thoroughfares and vicinity schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engr & Constr • Engr & Constr





...other than sidewalks,
Facilities in the ROW,
 outside of the curbs

System	Surface	Above	Under
Water	X		X
Sewer			X
Drainage	X		X
Power	X	X	X
Gas			X
Telecomm/Data	X	X	X
Traffic	X	X	X
Transit	X	X	X
Trees	X	X	X
Parking	X		
Amenities	X		

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Pilot Program Enhancements

- I. PWE will remove dangerous sidewalk pieces and backfill (limited scope repair)
- II. PWE to initiate contract program for new/reconstruction of sidewalks fronting developed properties at property owner expense
- III. City to establish no-cost General Permit (requirement only to notify) for repair at homeowner expense



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Pilot Program Component: II. Sidewalk Improvements through City Contract

SCOPE OF PROGRAM

- Similar to scope of current safe sidewalk program; will include both replacement and new sidewalk
- Will require letter of request and payment from abutting property owners or property association
- Single property minimum, up to full block (preferred)
- Excludes new home construction

PROCESS:

- (Citizen) Requests thru PWE Website
- (PWE) Assesses Site
 - 1) Design
 - 2) Constructability review; draft order based on unit prices to establish cost,
 - 3) Contractor confirmation and convert to lump sum
- {PWE} Reports to Requestor (~1 month)--cost and duration for job
- (Citizen) Submits payment
- (PWE) Releases order to Contractor; construction priority on first-in-first-out basis by request with commitment
- (PWE) Oversees contractor delivery, performs quality assurance checks



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Pilot Program Component: II. Sidewalk Improvements through City Contract (continued) Program Management & Administration

CAPABILITIES REQUIRED:

- Design and Design Management
- Construction Management
- Accessibility Review and Inspection
- Material Testing
- Fund designation, accounting
- Construction by contract
 - Contract fixed pricing with proposed multiplier; pricing based on current work order contracts for Pedestrian Accessibility Request (PAR) improvements
 - Costs to requestor to include overhead (for Coordination, Design, Construction Management)
 - Will Include availability of specialty work, e.g., curb ramps, metal plate over tree roots



INFORMATION

- Website: Program Information, Process, and Request Form
- CitizensNet Notification
- Outreach in coordination with Department of Neighborhoods
- Email/phone with Identified PM/Inspector(s) for JOC orders



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Pilot Program Component: General Permit--Residential Sidewalk Self-Repair

Conditions

- For existing sidewalks
- Residential property only
- Repair by replacement of panel(s)
- Area of repair/replacement is for any portion of sidewalk between property lines; excludes sidewalks through driveways, curb ramps

Requirements

- Notice of sidewalk repair made to Office of City Engineer 2 business days prior to repair (Form letter in packet that can be emailed)
- Sidewalk must be repaired to City standards
- Submit Notice of Completion upon finishing the repair (Form letter in packet that can be emailed)
- Match existing sidewalk width, elevation
- No digging

Information

- Permit User requirements and notifications to be available on-line
- On-line document package available for download
- ILMS to be set up to record Permit User notification and completion



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Key Milestones

- Advertise for contract proposals Nov 2013
- Council action on Ord./general permit Dec 2013
- General permit to be effective Jan 2014
- Award contract(s) Feb 2014
- Open for requests Mar 2014

Pilot Program: re-evaluate/revise in 18 mos. (FY16)

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