
Proposed Sidewalk Network Ordinance Amendments



PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Proposed Sidewalk Project Prioritization Factors

June 17, 2022

According to City of Houston Code of Ordinances Sec 40-582, the Chief Transportation Planner will identify priority sidewalk projects in each Sidewalk Service Area based on the following factors.

Safety

The safety priority of a sidewalk project will be evaluated based on:

- Adjacent street classification based on the [City of Houston Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan](#). Streets with more traffic movement (including vehicular, transit, cyclist, and pedestrian traffic) have higher safety priority;
- Number of incidents involving pedestrians and motorized vehicles based on the [City of Houston Vision Zero Plan](#). Streets with more incidents have higher safety priority.

Existing Transportation Facilities

A sidewalk project will have a higher priority if walkability is limited by lack of pedestrian facilities or barriers within the pedestrian network. This factor will be based on the following local conditions:

- On Major Thoroughfares and Major Collectors presence of sidewalks on both sides of the street;
- On Local Streets presence of a sidewalk on one side of the street;
- Presence of accessibility barrier which the sidewalk would correct;
- Presence of high comfort bike facility.

Presence of Major Trip Generators

A sidewalk project will have higher priority if the project is proximate to one or more of the following facilities which will generate significant amount of trips to the area and increase the demand of sidewalks. This factor will be based on the current City of Houston land use map.

- Federal, state, or local government offices;
- METRO transit stations, Park and Ride stations, or METRO bus stops;
- Public or private schools, including colleges and universities;
- Religious institutions;
- Public facilities including parks, hospitals, convention centers, health centers, libraries, museums, post offices, community centers, recreation centers, etc.

Demographics and Equity

A sidewalk project will have higher priority if the project is located in an area which has one or more of the following demographic characteristics:

- High population density;
- Low car ownership;
- Median household income less than the nationwide median household income;
- High percentage of the population are either below 16 years old or above 65 years old.

Available Funding

A sidewalk project will have higher priority if the project is fully funded by one or more of the following fundings:

- Sidewalk Fund in the Sidewalk Service Area where the sidewalk project is located;
- Other sources of funding to complement the Sidewalk Fund to support the sidewalk project