



City of Topeka  
Special Committee – Public Infrastructure  
Holiday Building – First Floor Conference Room  
620 SE Madison  
Topeka, KS 66607  
December 21, 2020

**Item 6: 50/50 Sidewalk Program – Update**

The city currently funds a Sidewalk Repair Program that repairs existing deteriorated sidewalks at various locations throughout the city. The program provides matching funds to allow residential property owners to repair sidewalks that are out of compliance with current codes. This is commonly referred to as the 50/50 program. Current funding is \$100,000/year.

Staff is looking at ways to bid sidewalk replacement to help ensure competitive pricing but also require the individual property owner to work with the contractor instead of city staff. This gets staff out of the middle and puts ownership back to the responsible party, namely the property owner.

**Proposed Process:**

Engineering will bid sidewalk panel replacement at the beginning of FY 2021. The bidding documents will state that all bids will be accepted and that these bids may be used by both the COT and by individual residential property owners that are participating in 2021 Sidewalk Replacement Program (Project 241062.00).

City responds to complaints as before and notifies the property owner of the issues and the need to repair within 30 days (time extensions available due to weather and contractor availability). The city would mark the area for replacement and state the maximum amount the city would cover based on the low bid received. If the property owner is interested in participating in the Sidewalk Repair Program (50/50), the City would provide a list of contractors and their respective bid prices for sidewalk work. Property owner hires their own contractor and city inspects the work within the right-of-way. Once the work is successfully completed, the contractor will invoice the city for their portion of the approved work. It will be up to the contractor to obtain payment from the property owner for their portion.