



City of Topeka
Special Committee – Public Infrastructure
Holiday Building – First Floor Conference Room
620 SE Madison
Topeka, KS 66607
January 25, 2021

Item #8: Sidewalks – General Discussion and Update

There are currently a number of different ways sidewalks are installed:

- 1) Sidewalks are required to be installed with new construction (residential and business).
- 2) Individuals and businesses can install sidewalks on their own.
- 3) Sidewalks may be included with street reconstruction projects (not citywide funding).
- 4) Sidewalks may be included in targeted SORT neighborhoods if identified as a need/priority by the residents.
- 5) The Infill Sidewalk Program fills in gaps in existing sidewalks and can be used to replace deteriorated sections of sidewalk. Locations based on the Pedestrian Master Plan.
- 6) The Sidewalk Replacement (50/50) Program.
- 7) Grant programs such as Safe Routes to School.

Challenges:

- Streets with open ditches.
 - Make wider shoulders for pedestrians to use and push ditches further away from the roadway. ROW and driveway impacts.
 - Install sidewalks on the back side of the ditches – ROW and access issues.
 - Reconstruct street to include curb, enclosed storm, sidewalks – significant cost to upgrade.
 - Funding – citywide sales tax not an option for new sidewalks (only replacement).

Existing sidewalks within Topeka:

- There is currently 684 miles of sidewalk in Topeka
- Currently, shared use paths from 8' to 10' in width are included as 'sidewalks'.
- Maintenance responsibilities for sidewalks belongs to the abutting property owner. Sidewalk widths typically vary from 3' to 6'. There is a question regarding whose responsibility it is to maintain shared use paths along road frontage. Shared use paths vary in width from 8' to 10'. In recent years the city has been installing shared use paths on one side of our collector and arterial road network. At some point repairs will be needed. It has not been determined who is responsible for these repairs.