



MEMORANDUM

TO: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Sophie Stimson, Senior Planner
Public Works Transportation

DATE: July 18, 2013

SUBJECT: Sidewalk Program Review

This memorandum is to inform the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) that staff is scoping an update to the *2003 Sidewalk Program*. This planned update is in response to some comments received by members of the public and from the BPAC about wanting to reevaluate priorities in this program.

Before the scope of this review is defined, staff will first gather feedback from the BPAC and members of the public about their impressions of the program to date.

The extent of the review can vary widely. The process can range from simply updating the scoring system, because certain conditions have changed, to creating a new set of criteria for scoping the projects.

The original sidewalk program was created in 2003 with the close involvement of the BPAC. BPAC inventoried missing sidewalks on major streets, and created a ranking system to prioritize the needed sidewalk segments. The ranking system criteria focused on street conditions and proximity to destinations.

The *2003 Sidewalk Program* focuses on adding sidewalks to one side of major streets. Major streets include arterials, major collectors and neighborhood collectors. Major streets compose about half of the City's street system. Of the total of 156 miles of major streets, in 2003, 84 miles lacked sidewalks and 72 miles had sidewalks. The 2003 inventory was the first time the need for sidewalks could be articulated.

Major funding for sidewalks became available through a voter-approved increase to the private utility tax. The Parks and Recreational Facilities Funding Measure was passed by voters in 2004. This measure generates approximately \$2 million for parks acquisition and development, and \$1 million for sidewalks. With the passage of this funding measure, funding for sidewalks went from \$175,000 to over \$1 million annually. In the current recession, general fund revenues are minimal and capital construction has been cut back.

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The “Parks and Pathways” sidewalk program is one of the few steady construction programs underway.

The sidewalks projects constructed through this program are recreational in nature. These sidewalks help people walk to parks, schools and trails. A list of priority sidewalks with recreational value were shared with voters in the voter information brochure mailed to each household. This is the list of sidewalks we have been working to complete since 2004.

Staff will work closely with BPAC to define a scope for this update of the sidewalk program, in late 2013 and early 2014. Depending on the scope of this update, the work could take 3 months to a year. It is anticipated this work will take place in 2014.

This memorandum is an informational update that may be relevant as the BPAC drafts their letter to the Council on the preliminary draft of the 2014 - 2019 *Capital Facilities Plan*.

Please refer to the [2003 Sidewalk Program](#) and the [Sidewalk Program Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (360) 753-8497 or via email at sstimson@ci.olympia.wa.us.

SS:ci

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