

From: [Melissa Allen](#)
To: [Casey Schaufler](#)
Subject: Comment for Planning Commission hearing 8/18/23
Date: Sunday, September 17, 2023 2:38:36 PM

September 17, 2023

To: Olympia Planning Commission

From: Melissa Allen
1702 Prospect Ave NE
Olympia WA 98506

Re: Comment for the Planning Commission Hearing on 9/18/23
Sidewalk Projects in the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP)

First, thank your work last year that brought attention to the need for better policy decisions around sidewalk maintenance and improvement. This has long been an issue in the city's neighborhoods, particularly in the older neighborhoods such as mine (Bigelow Highlands) where many of the streets have no sidewalks and others have very old sidewalks that are in disrepair. Our neighborhood of modest homes (625+ households) cannot afford to do their own repairs per required city building standards so the sidewalks just keep getting worse.

The last Comprehensive Plan linked pedestrian and bicycle safety to strong neighborhoods. In the past, City planners have said that sidewalk funding is limited so the priority will always be streets with high traffic and commercial activity (e.g. downtown). By this standard, neighborhoods such as mine will never get sidewalk improvements.

We are ready to assist in any way possible to move sidewalk improvements forward. For example, in the past we have identified sidewalks needing repair, counted auto traffic on streets with no sidewalks, and listened to people with mobility issues about why they can't live in our neighborhood.

I understand the first step is a \$100,000 sidewalk condition survey to be completed by the end of 2023. This is a big task to be done in a short amount of time. We will help in any way possible.

Sent from my iPhone