

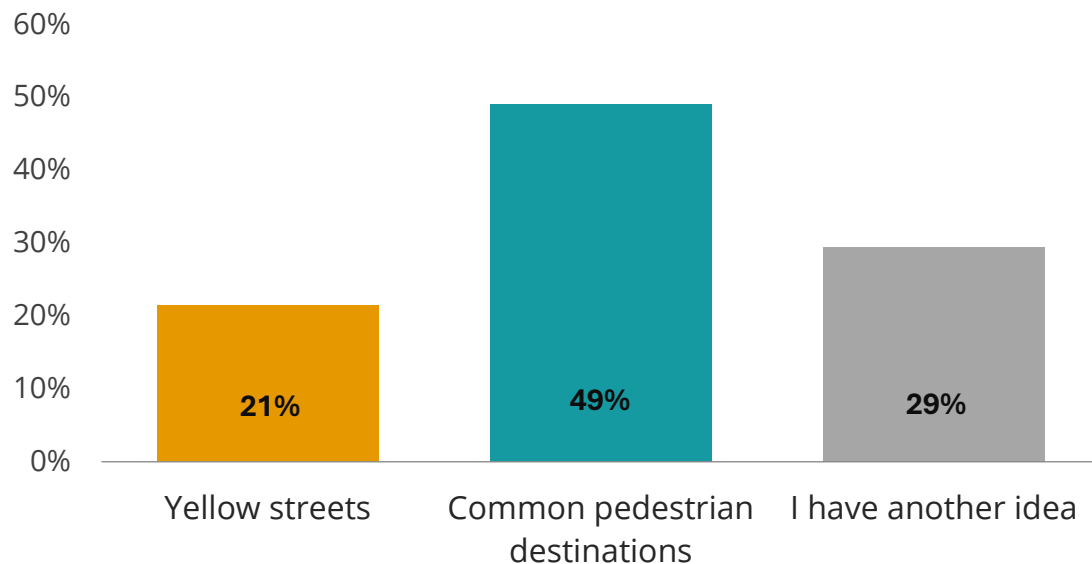
Sidewalk repair survey: summary of responses

Thanks to everyone who took the recent survey in the City's sidewalk repair story map, which was open from March 2, 2026 to March 20, 2026.

Here's a summary of the responses.

Question 1

Where should the City fix sidewalks?



"I have another idea" respondents had the maximum number of characters Survey Monkey would allow: 2000. All comments can be viewed on [Engage Olympia](#).

Summary of the "I have another idea" responses

Many comments suggested focusing on different material types besides concrete, suggesting asphalt or pervious materials could reduce conflicts with trees or be less expensive. Others suggested routing around mature trees with roots that buckle sidewalks. Several people noted the relationship between sidewalk damage and

street trees, some remarking that the trees were planted by the City and expressing frustration that the City hasn't fixed a problem it caused.

Many people had thoughts on the destinations we proposed, some suggesting we take a hybrid approach, fixing some sidewalks near the destinations and some sidewalks in other places, such as in neighborhoods. A few suggested splitting the funding along various percentages between the two, noting that many people walk in neighborhoods.

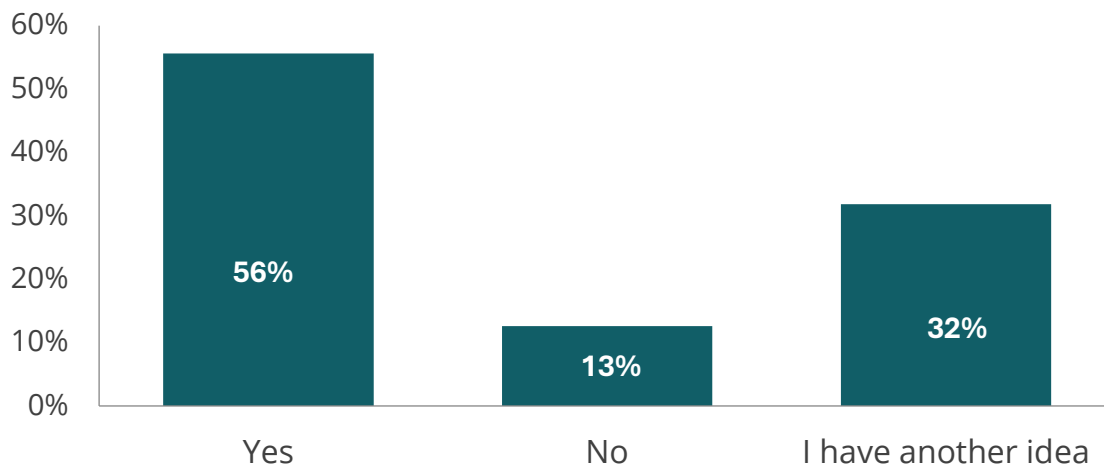
Others talked about trying to take a more equitable approach and fixing sidewalks near locations where people who use walking aids need them to be fixed. Several people expressed concern for disabled residents who rely on sidewalks to get around. One person commented that by focusing on infrastructure for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users the City is "ableist" and "contemptuous" of people who depend on vehicles to get around.

Several people suggested taking a "worst first" approach with repairs rather than considering destinations, while others suggested prioritizing the most-used sidewalks for repair. Several people also talked about the importance of filling in gaps in the sidewalk network, which are mostly found in older neighborhoods. A few people talked about prioritizing places that offer the best connectivity improvements for pedestrians, and a few talked about prioritizing places based on which would improve safety the most for pedestrians.

Of the remaining comments that didn't fit in these categories, comments ranged from remarks about wanting the City to build new sidewalks, artistic sidewalks, do no repairs but remake the streets to be woonerfs or extremely traffic calmed, fixing all the locations, complaints about recent safety projects downtown, suggestions that neighborhood groups could do sidewalk repair if the City would teach them how, focusing on repairing streets first, and specific project requests.

Question 2

If the City continues to require property owners to fix their sidewalks, should this be limited to large property owners, such as schools, parks, shopping centers, and apartment complexes?



Summary of the “I have another idea” responses

The full responses to “I have another idea” can be viewed on [Engage Olympia](#).

Many of those who responded said that the City should be responsible for all sidewalk repair. Some people objected to schools and parks fixing sidewalks, saying they’d rather those funding sources not be spent on sidewalk repair.

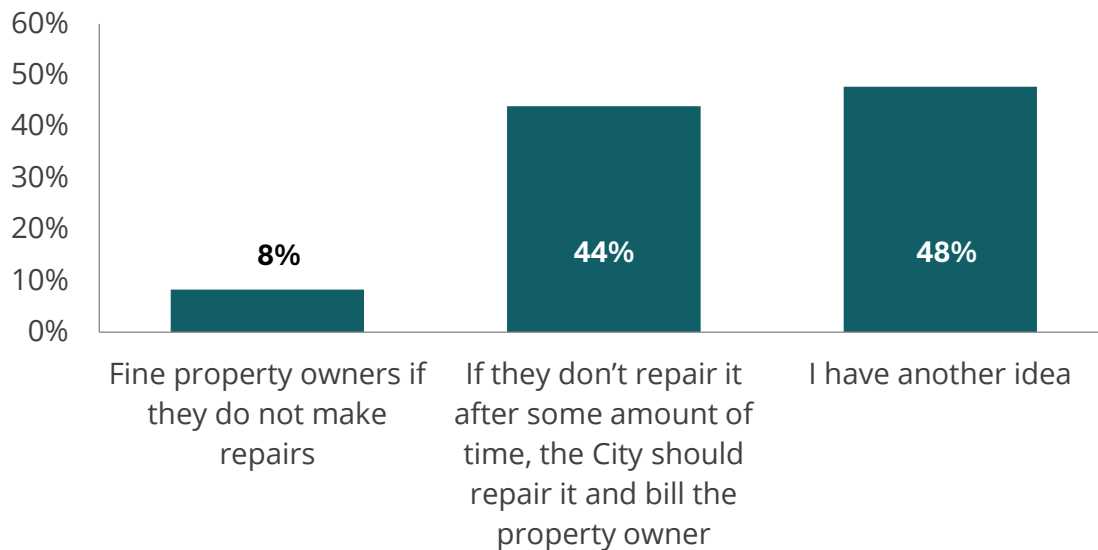
Several people said they wanted a program to offer technical or financial assistance for sidewalk repair. They said finding or hiring contractors was burdensome and sidewalk repair was expensive. They wanted the City to help find contractors or offset costs.

Many people expressed concern that some homeowners, such as seniors or people with limited incomes, could be disproportionately impacted by requirements that residents fix sidewalks and proposed several ideas to offset that.

There were continued comments noting conflict between street trees and sidewalks, and a few people remarked about the value of street trees.

Question 3

If it is the property owner's responsibility to fix the sidewalk, there would be a municipal code that the City enforces. What is the best way to get property owners to repair sidewalks?



Full responses to “I have another idea” can be viewed on [Engage Olympia](#).

The majority of the comments on this question stated they believed the City should be responsible for repairing sidewalks. Many people suggested a cost-sharing approach or technical assistance to individual property owners or neighborhood groups. There were continued comments about the difficulty of hiring contractors and concerns about the quality of the repairs.

Some people commented on the punitive nature of fines and enforcement and requested that the City take a more positive approach to encourage rather than require compliance.

As with the previous question, people expressed concern about the disproportionate impact that requiring homeowners to fix sidewalks could have on people with low or fixed incomes.

People continued to note the relationship between sidewalk damage and tree roots, many commenting on how the City either required or encouraged that the trees be planted in previous decades.

Question 4

We'd like your thoughts on one more idea: when a property changes ownership the City could require that the sidewalk be repaired at that time.

