

Why can't our neighbourhood simply request sidewalks when there is a proven demand for them?

Sidewalk funding competes with many other needs in the city. There is no guarantee that your street will be prioritized or funded over the many other requests made to City Council.

Residents can petition for sidewalks under the Local Improvement aspect of the Municipal Act and must share the cost unless the sidewalk is on an approach to a school.

How can I reach the City and discuss my concerns?

For general City of Windsor information, telephone 311. You can also reach the City of Windsor's Engineering & Corporate Projects Department at 255-6257 or e-mail pubwork@city.windsor.on.ca.

We would be happy to address any questions or concerns you might have.

For general City of Windsor information, telephone 311

For specific inquiries:
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The City of Windsor*
Engineering and Corporate Projects Department
350 City Hall Square West
City Hall 3rd floor
Windsor, ON
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This pamphlet is intended to provide preliminary information only.

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Sidewalks

Building & Development Department
Engineering & Corporate Projects
Department

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The Corporation of
The City of Windsor



Sidewalks

Sidewalks form the backbone of the pedestrian transportation network within the City of Windsor. Our policies respect the importance of sidewalks as part of a balanced, multi-modal approach to transportation planning. As a result, Windsor's Official Plan contains policies to ensure safe and convenient pedestrian movement.

Some of our residents cannot drive because of disability, age or income level. Others might wish to avoid the many risks of driving an automobile. There is wide demand for a pedestrian route network within our city. This necessitates the construction of sidewalks with every new roadway, without exception.

Sidewalks are used extensively by young children, students, seniors, disabled persons and recreational users. Sidewalks connect pedestrians to parks, schools, community centres, arenas, community mailboxes, residences, places of employment and commercial areas. Their absence compromises safety and encourages people to walk on lawns and private property, or on busy streets. Even if the current use of any particular sidewalk is low, this is rarely an indication of future needs.

Can a sidewalk be constructed against a curb?

Yes, a sidewalk can be constructed against a curb but this practice is not preferred for local residential streets. A boulevard between the curb and the sidewalk benefits people with visual disabilities. It also provides an area in which to pile snow when the street is ploughed and allows pedestrians to avoid splash from passing vehicles in wet weather.

How many sidewalks can I expect on my street, if any?

Current City of Windsor policy requires sidewalks on both sides of the roadway for streets designated as Collector or Arterial roads. These generate the most vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Local streets must have at least one sidewalk to provide access to the pedestrian network. No new roadway in the city is exempt from the sidewalk policy. This policy is communicated to builders and developers during the approval process.

How can I oppose the construction of sidewalks on my street?

The City of Windsor will work with homeowners to minimize the impact of sidewalks. Under City Council's direction, City representatives do not recommend exemptions from the requirement for sidewalks by roadways because of the overwhelming benefits that sidewalks provide to our community.

Any dismantling of the pedestrian network would compromise the safety of your neighbourhood and is not favoured by your municipal administration.

A request to oppose a sidewalk will require an Official Plan Amendment application at the applicant's cost. City Administration will not be in support of the request.

Will I have enough room to park my vehicle if sidewalks are installed?

Development plans are closely verified by City officials and by developers. They strive to ensure that the placement of sidewalks preserves driveway access and parking. Sidewalks are 1.21 metres (4 ft) wide and are placed approximately 0.6 metres (2 feet) to 1.0 metre (3 feet) from the curb. It is generally recommended that sidewalks for local streets be placed on the opposite side of the street from the streetlights to minimize conflicts.

Why should I pay for sidewalks when I don't want them or use them?

In new subdivisions, the developer is obligated to construct sidewalks and other standard municipal fixtures such as roads, sewers and street lighting. In addition to the benefits already described, sidewalks also benefit homeowners in other ways:

Accessibility - Sidewalks provide increased mobility for everyone, and especially for people with disabilities.

Health - Sidewalks promote an active lifestyle and decrease the use of automobiles. With fewer toxic automobile emissions in the air, the potential for sickness from pollution is reduced.

Traffic Congestion - More pedestrians mean fewer cars on the roadway. Fewer cars mean less traffic congestion, saving time and increasing safety for motorists.

Reduced Car Operating Costs - As gasoline and insurance prices increase, automobile use will become progressively more expensive. Sidewalk use does not have an ongoing gasoline or insurance cost.

Environment - Use of sidewalks promotes a cleaner, colourful sky because of the reduction of automotive exhaust particles circulating in the air.

Equality - All taxpayers contribute to the roads, regardless of whether they drive. Similarly, all taxpayers contribute to sidewalks.

When will our street trees be planted?

Council Resolution CR672/2003 states that trees cannot be planted until after sidewalk construction has been completed.