

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
DES MOINES, IOWA**

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-406  
SEPTEMBER 23, 1996 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	JAMES M. GRANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SYNOPSIS —**

This resolution will approve a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Work Program for Neighborhood Sidewalk Improvements. This program is intended to provide approximately 50,000 square feet of non-assessed sidewalk improvements for low/moderate residential areas within approved Designated Neighborhood Action Plan Project Area Boundaries, an equivalent to about 50 neighborhood blocks (one side of the street). This proposal would also shift responsibility from the Public Works Department (the entity which requested the funds and received the CDBG allocation) to the Engineering Department for administration of the program.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

1996 CDBG funds in the amount of \$225,000 will be used to fund non-assessed sidewalk replacement and non-assessed new sidewalk improvements. A one-time shift of funds in the amount of \$150,000 from the CDBG Supplemental Special Assessment Subsidy Program will be made. Staff does not anticipate this proposed amount to be transferred to have an impact on any completed or scheduled projects eligible for use of the Supplemental Special Assessment Subsidy.

Based on the success of this program, there may be requests in subsequent years for CDBG funds to complete more sidewalk improvements as a continuation of the program for Designated Neighborhood Project Areas.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

Approval.

**BACKGROUND —**

The City Council approved an allocation of \$75,000 to provide sidewalk replacement, wheelchair ramps, and drive approaches in low/moderate income neighborhood areas as part of the 1996 Consolidated Plan by Roll Call No. 95-4403, dated November 20, 1995.

In response to a deficit in sidewalk construction and replacement needs identified in the Project Areas of the Designated Neighborhood Action Plans, staff of the Community Development, Engineering, and Public Works Departments have investigated alternative methods for accomplishing sidewalk improvements. Staff determined that the requirements involved with assessing sidewalk improvements have made their implementation in the Designated Neighborhood Project Areas difficult and untimely. Limited staff resources have also precluded the wholesale replacement of sidewalks in Designated Neighborhood Project Areas due to the need to maintain the City's ongoing program of sidewalk inspection and assessment citywide. This group also discovered that the Supplemental Special Assessment Subsidy Program was being underutilized and that some funds could be

transferred and combined with the existing CDBG allocation without impacting future need for subsidizing assessed projects.

Contracting the improvements would be more productive because of limited availability of existing Public Works crews. Public Works staff determined that hiring additional staff would not be prudent because the funding of this program should be handled by the Engineering Department with the assistance of Public Works in providing sidewalk inspection to determine replacement needs. Community Development staff would assist in determining priorities for the location of the improvements based on the Designated Neighborhood Action Plans and the stage of each neighborhood in the implementation of its Action Plan. It is likely that neighborhoods which have been designated longer would have priority if they still have a deficit in their sidewalk improvement needs.

The following Designated Neighborhood Project Areas would be determined eligible for this program under low/moderate income requirements and are listed in chronological order of their Action Plan adoption:

1. Capitol East
2. Woodland Heights
3. River Bend
4. ACCENT
5. Carpenter/Drake Park
6. Capitol Park
7. Highland Park

Note: The Union Park Project Area does not meet low/moderate income requirements.

The Des Moines Action Board met on July 30, 1996 and took action approving a recommendation to use the original allocated 1996 CDBG funds and transfer \$150,000 in Supplemental Special Assessment Subsidy for a total of \$225,000 for the Neighborhood Sidewalk Improvement Program.