

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	August 25, 2014
	Agenda Item No.	6
	Roll Call No.	<u>14-1281</u>
	Communication No.	<u>14-413</u>
	Submitted by:	Pamela S. Cooksey, P.E., Interim City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorization to proceed with an assessed sidewalk project on S.E. 14th Street from Indianola Avenue to Army Post Road.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the authorization to proceed with an assessed sidewalk project on S.E. 14th Street from Indianola Avenue to Army Post Road, where sidewalk does not currently exist. The City Council has initiated a request for the construction of sidewalks at this location.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$5,000 (preliminary work only)

Funding Source: 2014-2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page Street-26, Sidewalks – School and Priority Routes, SW081, G.O. Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

On July 28, 2014, by Roll Call No. 14-1154, the City Council received, filed, and referred to the City Manager a request from Council Member Gatto to install sidewalks on the east side of S.E. 14th Street from Indianola Avenue to Army Post Road, where sidewalk does not currently exist. On August 21, 2006, by Roll Call No. 06-1711, the City Council approved a revised policy for assessment of new sidewalk construction. Under this City Council Sidewalk Assessment Policy, construction of new sidewalks, on one (1) side or both sides of the street, is assessed to the abutting property owners on a front footage basis. The abutting property is assessed only for the actual sidewalk (4-inches and 6-inches at driveways) fronting the property. Sidewalks at intersections that do not abut private property are constructed at City cost. The property owner is assessed for only 50% of the actual sidewalk construction costs plus engineering costs, limited to a maximum of 10% of construction costs. The City of Des Moines pays for the cost of grading, wall construction, and reconstruction of driveway approaches where necessary, right-of-way and easement costs, and engineering costs over 10% of the construction costs. A subsidy program is available for residential property owners meeting income guidelines, which will pay 100% of the sidewalk assessment for qualifying property owners. Council authorization to proceed with preliminary planning and design for installation of sidewalks on this street is requested at this time.

It is recommended the following procedure be used to establish the S.E. 14th Street Sidewalk from Indianola Avenue to Army Post Road as follows:

1. Council authorization to proceed with preliminary work.
2. Informational Mailing. Upon Council approval of the tentative program, each assessed property owner will be sent a mailing from the City Engineer. The mailing will contain general information about the sidewalk project and each owner's estimated assessment.
3. Informal Council Hearings. Notice will be given to all affected property owners so that they may have the opportunity to express their views before the expense of right-of-way acquisition and the preparation of final plans is incurred.
4. Decision to Proceed with Preparation of Design Plans and Specifications. At the Informal Council Hearing, the City Council should decide whether the sidewalk should be deleted from the program or should direct the City Engineer to prepare final plans on the sidewalk.
5. Adoption of Resolution of Necessity. The Resolution of Necessity will be presented to Council shortly after Informal Hearings are held.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: July 28, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-1154](#)

Action: [From](#) Council Member Joe Gatto to discuss a Council-initiated sidewalk assessment project on the east side of S.E. 14th Street from Indianola Avenue to Army Post Road. Moved by Gatto to refer to the City Manager for review and recommendation regarding this project. Also refer to the City Manager to report on locations in Des Moines without sidewalks and estimated cost to construct sidewalks on at least one side of each street, and to consider meeting with Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) to request their investment in and maintenance of sidewalks adjacent to State Highways in Des Moines. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: August 21, 2006

Roll Call Number: [06-1711](#)

Action: [Revised](#) Assessment Policy for new sidewalk construction. ([Council Communication No. 06-530](#)) Moved by Mahaffey to adopt. Motion Carried 5-1.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Normal Council actions on special assessments and construction contracts.

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