 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	December 21, 2015
	Agenda Item No.	7
	Roll Call No.	<u>15-2105</u>
	Communication No.	<u>15-661</u>
	Submitted by:	Pamela S. Cooksey, P.E., City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving request to remove sidewalk along Walnut Hill Avenue in front of 434 56th Street.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approving removal of sidewalk along Walnut Hill Avenue adjacent to 434 86th Street. Staff received an application for consideration of removal of 190 feet of an existing sidewalk within the City right-of-way from the property owner of 434 56th Street. The “Policy to Evaluate Removal of Existing Sidewalks within City Right of Way” outlines the requirements to request a sidewalk removal. A map showing the existing sidewalk is below.

Per the policy, the property owner must circulate a petition to those property owners within 200 feet of the removal area and receive a minimum of 60% in support of the request. The proposed sidewalk removal location must also be reviewed by Traffic and Transportation staff to determine any impacts to school routes, pedestrian generators such as parks, libraries, and community centers, and proximity to other existing or planned sidewalks. Traffic and Transportation staff found there to be no impacts to these existing or proposed pedestrian generators. A petition received showed 67% of the affected property owners in support of the sidewalk removal.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

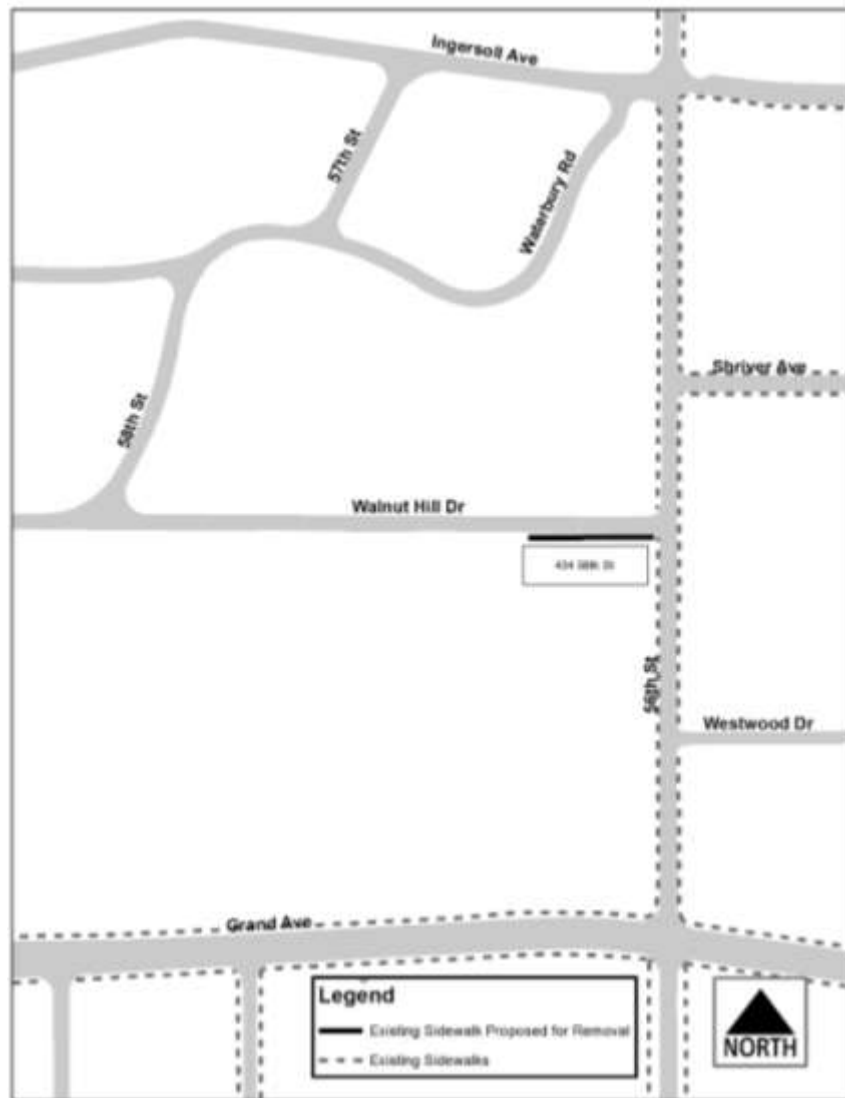
In addition to review by Traffic and Transportation staff, policy requires that a review of the proposed sidewalk removal be conducted by the Community Development Department to determine if the removal is in conflict with an established Neighborhood Plan or other planning documents. The removal of sidewalks would not be consistent with PlanDSM policy objectives. One (1) of the major goals of the City’s new comprehensive plan, which is currently under development, is improving pedestrian connectivity. Community Development has identified existing right-of-way along the south side of Walnut Hill Avenue that could accommodate a sidewalk extension in the future, and that this route would be the only east/west pedestrian route between Grand Avenue to the south and Ingersoll Avenue to the north.

Traffic and Transportation Staff recommends that the sidewalk removal be approved based on:

- The sidewalk is not located on a dedicated school route.
- The sidewalk does not provide existing or planned connectivity to any pedestrian generators (parks, libraries, etc.).
- Extension of the sidewalk to the west would cause significant impacts to the adjacent property owners due to the existing topography.
- The existing sidewalk currently encourages pedestrians to make a mid-block crossing east of the crest of the vertical curve in Walnut Hill Avenue resulting in potential visibility issues between pedestrians and motorists.
- The west end of the existing sidewalk does not provide an accessible transition to Walnut Hill Avenue.

Approval of the removal of this section of sidewalk does not prohibit the reconstruction of this sidewalk in the future should proximity to pedestrian generators change or should the City prioritize this area for sidewalk installation. At such time, it will be the responsibility of the current property owner to bear the cost of installing a new sidewalk.

Currently, the sidewalk has been removed west of the 56th Street curb ramps to allow for retaining wall repair. If Council approves the resident's request, the sidewalk will not be put back unless the condition above is met. If Council denies the resident's request for removal, the resident will be required to reinstall the sidewalk that was removed during the retaining wall repair.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: January 9, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-0064](#)

Action: [Approving](#) a policy to evaluate the removal of existing sidewalks within City Right-of-Way. ([Council Communication No. 12-003](#)) Moved by Moore to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Traffic Safety Committee

Date: October 13, 2015

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: A motion was made by Carl McPherson to approve staff recommendation to remove 190 feet of existing sidewalk within the City right-of-way along Walnut Hill Drive in front of 434 56th Street and also remove sidewalk west of the recently reconstructed curb ramps completed by the City to maintain the accessible crossing north/south on the west side of the 56th Street and Walnut Hill Drive intersection; seconded by George Robinson. Motion failed 3:3.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of the removal of this section of sidewalk does not prohibit the reconstruction of this sidewalk in the future should proximity to pedestrian generators change or should the City prioritize this area for sidewalk installation. At such time, it will be the responsibility of the current property owner to bear the cost of installing a new sidewalk.

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