


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	20-513	Meeting:	November 23, 2020
	Agenda Item:	39	Roll Call:	20-1893
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Rescinding prior action and approval of the Sidewalk Assessment Policy and the Evaluate Removal of Existing Sidewalks Policy within City right of way.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend rescinding prior action and approval of the Sidewalk Assessment Policy and the Evaluate Removal of Existing Sidewalks Policy within City right of way as directed by City Council at the January 30, 2019 City Council quarterly planning session. These policies are no longer needed with the City's initiative to fill sidewalk gaps Citywide.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: 2020-21 CIP, Page Street - 40, Sidewalks – School and Priority Routes, SW081.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- At the January 30, 2019 City Council Quarterly Planning Session, Engineering staff presented a 3-year plan to fill sidewalk gaps within the City of Des Moines. As part of that presentation, two (2) existing policies were identified as no longer needed with the implementation of the sidewalk gap program, MoveDSM, and PlanDSM. These policies are the Sidewalk Assessment Policy and the Evaluate Removal of Existing Sidewalks Within City Right of Way Policy. Council directed staff to rescind these policies.
- The Sidewalk Assessment Policy provided exemptions in certain instances when the cost of new sidewalk construction was being assessed to the abutting property owners. With the City's initiative to fund construction of new sidewalks to fill sidewalk gaps, the cost of new sidewalk is no longer being assessed and this policy is no longer necessary.
- On January 9, 2012, City Council approved a policy to evaluate removal of existing sidewalks within City right-of-way. One (1) of the requirements for removal was that the sidewalk not be located "in an area where future sidewalk is planned." With the City's goal to provide sidewalks on all streets over the next 20 years, all locations are considered areas where a future sidewalk is planned. As a result, no locations would meet the criteria of the policy. The policy does not coincide with the City's goals.

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.

Date: September 26, 2011

Roll Call Number: [11-1676](#)

Action: [Approving](#) an additional Category of non-assessed sidewalk in the Policy for New Sidewalk Assessment. ([Council Communication No. 11-607](#)) Moved by Meyer to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: August 29, 2011

Roll Call Number: [11-1532](#)

Action: [Approving](#) revised assessment policy for new sidewalk construction. ([Council Communication No. 11-552](#)) Moved by Meyer to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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