

FACTSHEET

MUNICIPAL SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Sidewalks are a public good. Whether we have one in front of our house or not, sidewalks make walking in the city safer and more enjoyable. Enhancing accessibility is a benefit to residents, property owners and businesses throughout the City and will help improve health and safety, the local economy, and quality of life.

Under the newly-approved Municipal Sidewalk Maintenance Program, the City takes responsibility for sidewalks in the second half of 2021. The complaint-based maintenance system which puts the financial responsibility on property owners will be replaced with a data-based planned maintenance program. In the first year of the program, there will be no cost to property owners. Fees will be introduced on a phased-in basis over the following five years.

Previous Sidewalk Policy

- Property owners were responsible for maintenance and replacement of sidewalks, including removal of snow and ice.
- Sidewalks were condemned if identified as unsafe; citations were primarily complaint-driven.
- Property owners were required to pay for the construction of new sidewalks.

Challenges

- Hazardous sidewalk conditions reduced accessibility.
- The process was complaint-driven instead of being based on data and equitable sidewalk conditions.
- Condemning sidewalks created unexpected significant repair costs to property owners.

New Municipal Sidewalks

The City is responsible for the repair and replacement of existing sidewalks. The program is focused on:

- The annual expansion of existing sidewalk networks.
- Making a permanent and phase-in expansion of the Supplemental Sidewalk Snow Removal Program. Property owners maintain responsibility for snow and ice removal from sidewalks.

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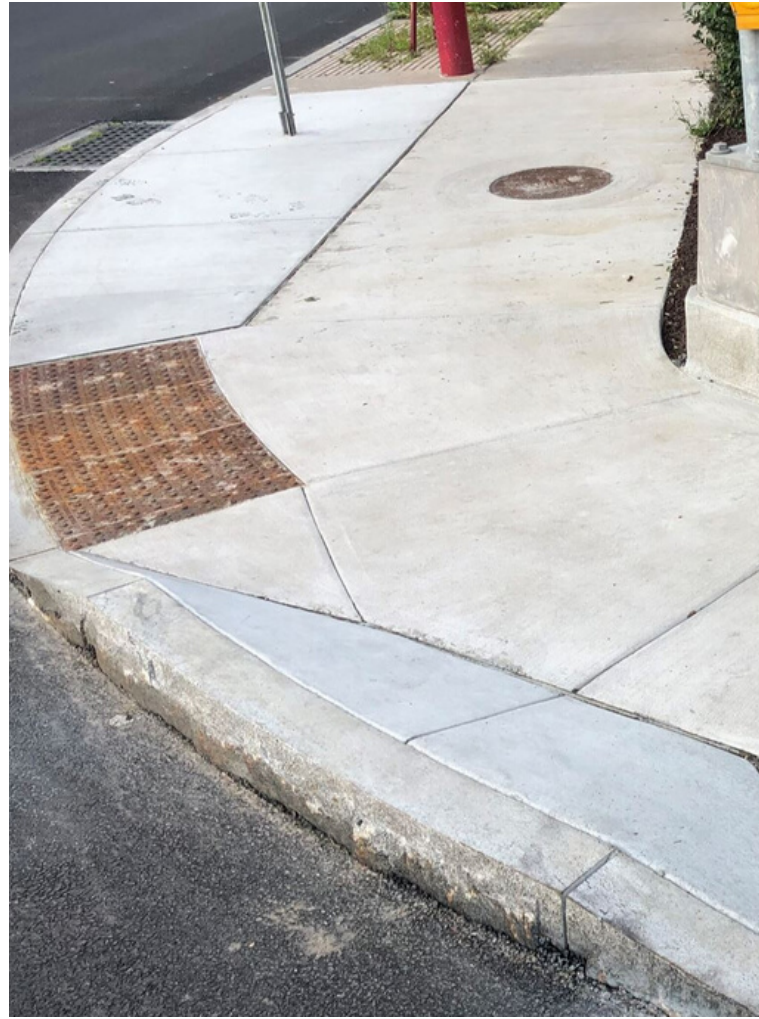
New Municipal Sidewalks

The program establishes four districts within the City in line with the current Department of Public Works quadrant boundaries. The funding collected within each district will be used in that same district. A portion of funds from each district will be dedicated to newly-constructed sidewalks in that area.

DPW is working with Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTTC), the regional transportation planning agency, to prioritize: safety of pedestrians; access to schools, grocery stores and other neighborhood destinations; and coordination with other infrastructure projects.

Hazardous sidewalk conditions should be reported to CityLine at (315)448-CITY (2489) or online at cityline.syr.gov.net.

Enhancing accessibility is a benefit to residents, property owners and businesses throughout the City.



Cost to Property Owners

In year one of the program, financing will be bonded for or, if applicable, funded through Federal Aid. The fee charged to property owners will be implemented in year two of the program and shall be \$20 for residential properties and \$60 for commercial properties.

Each year thereafter the fees will increase by \$20 and \$60, respectively, until year six when the annual fees will reach the set annual rate of \$100 for residential properties and \$300 for commercial properties.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Residential	\$0	\$20	\$40	\$60	\$80	\$100
Commercial	\$0	\$60	\$120	\$180	\$240	\$300

All properties will be subject to the fee, including those exempt from property taxes. There will be a fee exemption for property owners who completed permitted sidewalk work within ten years from permit issuance. The annual cost and fees for the program are estimated at \$4.5 million.

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