



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS Public Works Committee Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** April 4, 2022

**Prepared By:** Dennis Carr – City Engineer

**Agenda Item:** City Sidewalk Program

**Background:** The City currently has a sidewalk/curb program that is tied to Chapter 152.022 (subdivision code). This section describes new sidewalk requirements for subdivisions but also the replacement of broken sidewalk in areas around the city. The replacement is broken into two forms, either City-mandated replacement or property owner requested replacement. Neither of these two items seem to fit in the subdivision code and should likely be moved out of Chapter 152 and into Chapter 98.

City-mandated replacement is to be reconstructed by the City or the City-awarded commodity contractor and the property owner is either responsible for paying 50% at the time of construction or 50% + 6% interest over five years. This has not been practiced during my tenure with the City.

The City's sidewalk/curb program is separate from the City-mandated replacement program. Property owners can request the replacement of their sidewalk and/or curb in front of their house. The program allows for either the City or the City-awarded contractor to do the replacement and the homeowner reimburses 50% of the cost (commodity cost for concrete flatwork) or the homeowner replaces the sidewalk/curb and the City reimburses for the cost of materials (commodity for concrete materials).

**Discussion:** The past reimbursements were a straight \$2.50 per square foot of sidewalk or \$25 per linear foot of curb. The City reimbursed at that level and the homeowner reimbursed at that level. This does not follow the ordinance.

Calculating reimbursements for this year and following the ordinance, the City would reimburse \$136 per cubic yard of concrete, which equates to \$1.70 per square foot of sidewalk and \$6.80 per linear foot of curb. One cubic yard of concrete will cover 20 linear feet of curb or 20 linear feet of 4-foot-wide by 4-inch-thick sidewalk. On the other hand, the property owner would need to reimburse the City \$5.50 per square foot of sidewalk and \$37.50 per linear foot of curb.

The City's program in the past has largely been a request for the City to do the work and we typically do not cover our costs. However, the ordinance offers discretion for this to be the City *or* the City-awarded contractor. As a result, the annual commodity prices and commodity contractor should be used to keep City staff working on public projects and not necessarily on sidewalks in front of residences.

**Action Requested:** Staff is looking for discussion on the ordinance to see if reimbursements should be made to the property owner at material cost or at 50% of the commodity pricing. Reimbursing based on material cost will decrease the incentive to use this program. Staff also would recommend adjusting the program to cap any individual project cost at \$1,999 to avoid issues regarding the application of prevailing wage.