

STAFF REPORT

MTG. DATE:	August 15th, 2022
TO:	Village Board
FROM:	Brian Peterson – Deputy Director of Public Works & Utilities JJ Larson – Deputy Administrator/Director of Public Works & Utilities
RE:	Modification of sidewalk ordinance language

BACKGROUND

The Public Works, Properties & Sustainability Committee will soon be considering adoption of the Village's Bike and Pedestrian Comprehensive Plan. The Committee and our Village Board have shown support for increasing multi-modal networks in recent years through the projects approved, completed and currently under construction. These projects have been possible because they involve multi-use paths, not sidewalk additions. History shows us that ordinance §270-2 is the primary reason that completing missing links in the Village's sidewalk network face a huge political hurdle; the language requires property owners to bear the cost of 50% of installation costs. Likewise, the ordinance puts half of the responsibility for repairs and replacement of sidewalk on the adjacent owners.

The Village has had a sidewalk maintenance and repair policy in place since 2015. Property owners are often upset to learn they are responsible for 50% of the costs simply because the sidewalk is in front of their home. And there is considerable time and energy spent by staff to track all the costs, notify property owners, create, send, track and process invoices due to this ordinance language.

Property owners who are aware of the current ordinance may be less inclined to report sidewalk maintenance issues to avoid added costs. Modifying this language will encourage our citizens to reach out and notify us of issues and assist our staff in improving our overall network.

OVERVIEW

Discussion at the Committee centered around treating our sidewalks like the rest of our transportation networks (i.e. streets and paths) and fund new installation as well as repairs and replacements with the overall general fund tax base.

RECOMMENDATION

At the meeting on August 2nd, the Public Works, Properties & Sustainability Committee voted unanimously to recommend changing the language in Village ordinance 270-2 to state that all costs for sidewalk repair, replacement and installation is borne 100% by the Village.