

# Sidewalks Infill Accelerated Implementation Program – January 2023 Update

## ISSUE

This report provides an updated map of the known missing sidewalk locations in Saskatoon and an update on the sidewalk infill program.

## BACKGROUND

The Active Transportation Implementation Plan (2019) provided a plan for sidewalk infrastructure expansion to address the gaps where sidewalks are missing.

At its Regular Business Meeting held on January 27, 2020, City Council received the Sidewalk Infill Prioritization Criteria [report](#), which outlines the criteria for prioritizing locations for sidewalk infill. The criteria methodology uses a combination of land use and street context to determine which missing sidewalk locations will have the most impact on the safety and walkability of the pedestrian network. The criteria prioritizes:

- streets with higher traffic volumes and travel speeds;
- streets with higher potential for pedestrian demand;
- pedestrian access to parks, schools, and major destinations;
- destinations that serve vulnerable users such as older adults and children; and
- the criteria is comprised of two categories: 1) Pedestrian Potential and 2) Risk Reduction Potential. Each category contains a set of ranking criteria.

At its Regular Business Meeting held on July 27, 2020, City Council approved the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program – Reallocation Prioritization List [report](#), which included a list of locations of sidewalks to be constructed through reallocation pool funding. Active Transportation – Sidewalk Expansion received \$3.0M of approved reallocation funds.

The Standing Policy Committee on Transportation, at its meeting held on September 8, 2020, considered a [report](#) outlining a prioritized list of missing sidewalks totalling \$20,000,000, and resolved:

1. That the Administration report back with the full list of known missing sidewalks; and
2. That the Administration indicate that the infill sidewalk priority ranking is subject to change.”

The Standing Policy Committee on Transportation, at its meeting held on March 1, 2021, received a [report](#) that included a map indicating known missing sidewalks in Saskatoon, and their priority ranking. At that time, due to limitations within the available Geographic Information System (GIS) data model, streets that did not have curbs were not prioritized. These limitations have been addressed and the map has been updated.

As of March 1, 2021, the lengths of all known missing sidewalks were:

Priority 1	1 km
Priority 2	13 km
Priority 3	103 km
Priority 4	217 km
Priority 5	3 km
No Curb	51 km
<b>Total</b>	<b>388 km</b>

At its Regular Business Meeting held on May 31, 2021, City Council received the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Budget Adjustment [report](#) and resolved, in part:

- “1. That Capital Project 2468 Active Transportation Plan Implementation be increased by \$3,666,500 funded from ICIP funding;

The \$3,666,500 of ICIP funding covers 73.3% of the total \$5,260,000 sidewalk infill project cost, with the remaining 26.7%, or \$1,593,000, City contribution to be funded from the previously approved \$3.0M of reallocation funding.

The report included the locations of sidewalks to be constructed through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), and an update for the locations of sidewalks to be constructed through reallocation pool funding. ICIP is a fund sponsored by the Government of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan

## **CURRENT STATUS**

With the registry updated to include locations without curbs, there are currently approximately 440 kilometres of known missing sidewalks. The database of known missing sidewalks is a living registry and will be kept current by reviewing and updating locations and the prioritization scores as required.

Approximately eight kilometres of sidewalks will be installed through the ICIP Sidewalk Infill program at 20 locations throughout the City by 2025.

## **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

### Sidewalk Infill Prioritization

Appendix 1 is a map showing the known missing sidewalk locations in Saskatoon. The missing sidewalks have been given a priority from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest priority and 5 being lowest priority. The lengths of all known missing sidewalks by priority are captured below.

Priority 1	0.5 km
Priority 2	8.5 km
Priority 3	97 km
Priority 4	307 km
Priority 5	57 km
<b>Total</b>	<b>440 km</b>

The priority ranking criteria will be applied to the database of missing sidewalks annually to capture any potential changes in the land use or street characteristics that may occur. The priority ranking scores are subject to change.

It is important to note that not all missing sidewalk locations may be feasible for construction. Several factors including available right-of-way, utilities, presence of landscaping and trees, and impacts on property/business owners must be reviewed to determine if sidewalk construction is feasible.

Priority 1 and many of the Priority 2 locations have been reviewed and functional plans prepared. Reviewing the feasibility of construction is still underway for some locations.

In 2021, 190 metres of ICIP funded sidewalk was constructed on Cumberland Avenue from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to the lane south of Main Street. The detailed design and construction for the remaining ICIP funded sidewalk infill locations has been split between three tender packages and will be completed over the next two years. The proposed design and construction schedule is shown below:

Tender Package	Detailed Design	Construction Procurement	Construction
#1	Complete	Complete	Summer 2023
#2	Complete	Winter 2023	Summer 2023
#3	Fall 2023	Winter 2024	Summer 2024

Appendix 2 shows the list of ICIP funded sidewalk infill locations to be designed and constructed in 2023 and 2024.

Locations funded by the reallocation pool will be addressed after construction of the ICIP funded locations are complete. These locations are also listed in Appendix 2.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Affected residents, businesses, and property owners are notified in advance of the work and the project manager works with them to prepare for any landscaping, fencing or driveway impacts.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The funding is as follows:

1. The total sidewalk infill project cost approved for the ICIP funding program is \$5,260,000.
2. The ICIP funding will cover 73.3% of the total project costs, or \$3,665,500.
3. The City of Saskatoon will fund the remaining 26.7% of the total project costs, or \$1,593,000. The \$1,593,000 was funded by reallocation funding.
4. Reallocation funding of \$3,000,000 was provided, after funding the ICIP locations, \$1,406,500 remains.
5. These remaining funds will be used to construct additional sidewalk infill locations (noted as reallocation projects in Appendix 2)

The Administration maintains the map and list of prioritized sidewalk infill projects and will continue to present sidewalk infill projects in future business plans and budget deliberations and as future funding opportunities arise.

**OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The privacy, legal, social and environmental implications have not been assessed at this time. These implications will be assessed during the individual pre-project planning process.

**NEXT STEPS**

In the winter of 2023, Administration will be proceeding with procuring Tender Package #2 for delivery in the 2023 construction season.

The Administration will continue to update the database of missing sidewalks to capture any potential changes in the land use, street characteristics, or pedestrian desire lines.

To leverage funding opportunities, the Administration will continue to prioritize missing sidewalk locations for implementation, analyze feasibility, prepare designs for construction, and develop cost estimates for consideration in future multi-year business planning and budget deliberations.

**APPENDICES**

1. 2022 Sidewalk Infill Program – Map of Prioritized Missing Sidewalks
2. Sidewalk Infill Locations

Report Approval

Written by: Carly Grassing, Transportation Engineer, Transportation

Reviewed by: David LeBoutillier, Engineering Manager, Transportation  
Jay Magus, Director of Transportation

Approved by: Terry Schmidt, General Manager, Transportation and Construction