



City of Fairfax

10455 Armstrong Street
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Residential New Concrete Sidewalk Policy

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline 1) the procedure for residents to request a new residential concrete sidewalk and 2) the evaluation criteria the City will use to select projects. The City's goals for walkability, expressed in the Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan¹, include increasing the miles of sidewalks on City roadways, providing sidewalks on at least one side of residential streets in neighborhoods that desire them, and improving pedestrian safety and access to schools, transit, and community destinations.

Notwithstanding the recommendations in this policy, new or redeveloped properties must construct sidewalks as required by the City's zoning code². Otherwise, funding for new residential sidewalks will be provided by the City of Fairfax and will be programmed as part of the annual budget process.

II. ELIGIBILITY

The City will accept requests for new sidewalks on residential streets classified by the Virginia Department of Transportation³ as "local". Sidewalk projects on non-residential streets will not be evaluated according to this policy. Project requests may be made by citizens, staff, or elected or appointed Board members.

III. APPLICATION PROCESS

Citizens who wish to apply for a sidewalk on their street must complete the residential sidewalk petition form and collect signatures from as many residences as possible on the block (both sides of the street) where a sidewalk is being requested. Project requests must be made in writing and petitions must contain original signatures.

Petition forms are due to the Transportation Division no later than **September 1** to be evaluated and considered for the Capital Improvement Program in the upcoming budget year. Petitions received after September 1 will be evaluated in the subsequent budget year.

¹ <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/community-development-planning/planning>

² <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/city-clerk/city-code>

³ http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/fxn_class/maps.asp

IV. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Residential sidewalk project requests with valid petitions received by the deadline for each year will be evaluated on the criteria described below. During the evaluation process, staff may coordinate with the designated neighborhood point of contact to obtain more information if needed.

Criteria to be evaluated include the following:

1) Neighborhood Connectivity:

- a) Improves access to transit (within ¼ mile walk)
- b) Improves access to trails (within ½ mile walk)
- c) Completes a missing link on the block (i.e. completes a partial sidewalk on the block)
- d) Completes a missing link in the neighborhood (i.e. adds sidewalk on block where none exists and connects to sidewalks on adjacent blocks)

2) Access to Destinations:

- a) Improves access to activity centers or commercial areas (within ½ mile walk)
- b) Improves access to schools or school bus stops (within ½ to 1 mile walk)
- c) Improves access to parks (within ½ mile walk)
- d) Improves access to other community destinations (within ½ mile walk) (e.g. community center, community pool)

3) Safety Considerations:

- a) Average daily volume of traffic on the road
- b) 85th percentile speed of traffic on the road
- c) Paved roadway width
- d) Topographic, geometric, or other conditions that may constrain pedestrian safety

4) Resident Support: At least 66% of residents on the block (both sides of the street) support the project

5) Cost and Constructability:

- a) Sufficient existing public right of way to construct sidewalk
- b) Opportunities to coordinate with other improvements
- c) Overall cost to construct (including curb and gutter, vegetation removal, utility locations, grading, and other construction factors)

Based on the evaluation of the above criteria as well as any relevant case-specific information, staff will make a programming recommendation to City Council as part of the annual Capital Improvement Program.



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V. PROJECT SELECTION

- 1) If a project is included in the proposed Capital Improvement Program, all affected property owners, civic associations and citizens that requested projects, if different than abutting residents, shall be notified prior to the date of the first Planning Commission public hearing on the Capital Improvement Program. Affected property owners are defined as those whose properties abut the proposed sidewalk.
- 2) The City Council has the authority to make the decision as to whether a project is included in the adopted Capital Improvement Program.
- 3) The final action to provide project funding is conducted when the City Council adopts the annual budget.
- 4) Upon Council approval of funding for a project, the staff will proceed with the design of the project in sufficient detail to present a preliminary design concept to affected residents at a citizen meeting.
- 5) Following preliminary design and the citizen meeting, if there are no substantial differences from the original project, staff will proceed with final design.