

City Council Sidewalk Incentive Policy

The City of Upper Arlington Master Plan encourages improvements to the City's walkability and pedestrian transportation networks. As we heard from the Insight 2050 report, there is a need for more walkability within our communities. The City Council has supported this goal by adopting a Complete Streets policy on July 14, 2014; applying for and implementing Safe Routes to School grants for sidewalk installation; installing sidewalks during collector and arterial street reconstructions; accepting and, in some cases, contributing funding toward property-owner petitioned sidewalk installations; and implementing a sidewalk installation requirement for new commercial and residential buildings in the City.

Although these efforts have brought some progress toward making Upper Arlington a walkable community, there is more to be done. City Council created a Sidewalk Committee to explore options to improve the City's approach to sidewalk installation and walkability as well as a review of the current sidewalk installation requirements.

After thoughtful and thorough discussion, the Sidewalk Committee recommends the following policy for Council to help Upper Arlington take the next step on the path to walkability:

- The City will identify blocks that have sidewalks installed on one side of the street along at least sixty percent of frontage between intersecting streets. Existing City Code §901.04 states:

If during the course of the sidewalk inspection program, the city manager or designee finds a location in which sidewalks have been installed on one (1) side of a street along sixty percent (60%) or more of the frontage between intersecting streets, it shall be the duty of the city manager to report this location to council. It is hereby declared to be the intention and policy of council that sidewalks be installed the entire distance between intersecting streets when sixty percent (60%) or more of the frontage between said streets has been provided with sidewalks. Additional sidewalks needed to complete a continuous block between intersecting streets shall be installed by the abutting property owner, or at his/her expense unless otherwise directed by the city council.

When implementing this Code section, the City will give priority to locations within Sidewalks Priority Areas, shown on the map attached as Exhibit A. These Sidewalk Priority Areas have been determined based upon a ¼ mile radius from community centers including schools, parks, and commercial areas. The ¼ mile radius will be extended so as to not end in the middle of a block.

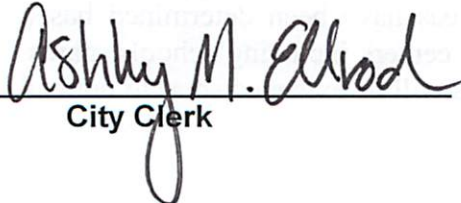
- In the first year of this Policy, Council will appropriate \$100,000.00 to incentivize sidewalk installation, with a goal of continuing this level of funding in future years.

- Funds that have been set aside in a year, to be used as matching funds for Safe Routes to School grants, will be devoted to sidewalk installation if the City is unsuccessful in receiving a Safe Routes to School grant for that year.
- The City will provide incentives for property-owner sidewalk installation, subject to availability of funds, in the following situations:
 - Property-owner petitions for sidewalk installation located in the Sidewalk Priority Areas;
 - Property-owners subject to City Code §901.04 installation orders;
 - Property-owner petitions for sidewalk installation on a block where a sidewalk has been installed due to the requirement for new construction;
 - Subject to the availability of funds, and on a first come, first served basis, property-owner petitions with super-majority support, to be incentivized on a sliding scale:
 - A petition with 65% support shall receive a City contribution of 15% toward the total cost (up to an identified dollar amount); a petition with 75% support shall receive a City contribution of 20% toward the total cost (up to an identified dollar amount). 80% support shall receive 25%. For each 5 % increase an additional 5 % support shall be added.

PASSED: June 8, 2015



President of Council

ATTEST: 

City Clerk

Vote Slip

Sponsor: Mrs. Johnson
Date Introduced: June 8, 2015

Council Policy 6-8-15

**Legal Ad:
Newspaper:**

Reading Date(s): June 8, 2015

Voting Aye: Unanimous

Voting Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

Date of Passage: June 8, 2015

City Council Conference Session/Other Review: June 1, 2015

Other: Effective Upon Passage;