

Safe Sidewalk Program (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. Why is there a sidewalk program separate from the street improvement program?
Ans: To address increased pedestrian needs in the most needed situations where prior development has not provided for this purpose and street reconstruction is not scheduled in the upcoming program.
2. What is the COH policy on maintenance of sidewalk, curbs and ramps?
Ans: Once constructed they become the responsibility of the abutting home owner.
3. What are the COH criteria on approving school sidewalk requests under SSP?
Ans: The location must be within three blocks from an existing school.
4. What are the COH criteria on approving sidewalk request under Thoroughfares?
Ans: Requested sidewalk must be along one of the COH designated Thoroughfares.
5. Is it possible to furnish a comprehensive history of a sidewalk request?
Ans: Yes. COH maintains a database that stores historic data from request to construction.
6. How long does it typically take from request to construction?
Ans: Typically, initial evaluation is 30 days, field evaluation is 90 days, design is 180 days, advertisement and approvals are 60 days, and construction is 180 to 365 days.
7. Does ADA require public agencies to provide pedestrian facilities?
Ans: No; however, when a public agency provides pedestrian facilities it must be accessible to persons with disabilities to the extent technically feasible.
8. Where should curb ramps be provided on a pedestrian crossing?
Ans: Whenever a sidewalk or other pedestrian walkway crosses a curb.
- 8.5 What can be done to prevent tree roots from damaging sidewalks?
Ans: Tree planting around sidewalks should be restricted to certain species with vertically growing roots, rather than horizontally. Root barriers should be installed while planting trees.
9. What is the typical width of sidewalk in the COH?
Ans: 4-feet.
10. What is the required width of sidewalk if it is adjoined to the curb?
Ans: Minimum of 5-feet.