



Houston Public Works **Sidewalk Program** constructs new sidewalks and ramps along streets leading to schools, major thoroughfares and improves accessibility for people with disabilities\*.

\*The Pedestrian Accessibility Review process is managed through the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities

**CODE**

The Sidewalk Program is governed by [Code of Ordinances Article III, Sections 40-83 & 84](#)

**PROGRAMS**

The Sidewalk Program has three types of requests.

PROGRAM REQUEST	SIDEWALK UP TO	ELIGIBILITY
Pedestrian Accessibility Review	1,500 feet	Person with disability has no safe path to travel to: - bank - home - bus stop - medical facility - educational facility - METROLift - employment - pharmacy - grocery store - vehicle - place of worship
School Sidewalk	4 blocks	Used by students to walk to school Not around school perimeter Not on dead-end street
Major Thoroughfare	4 blocks	Along designated thoroughfare No existing sidewalk Evidence of pedestrian traffic no future reconstruction or improvements planned within the next 5 years

**Pedestrian Accessibility Review**

The highest priority projects come from the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities Pedestrian Accessibility Review process. The request provides up to 1,500 feet of improved sidewalk accessibility for people with disabilities to safely travel to the bank, bus stop, educational facility, employment, grocery store, home, medical facility, METROLift, pharmacy, vehicle or place of worship.

Upon approval from the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities, sidewalk requests are sent to Houston Public Works for site inspection, design and construction.

**School Sidewalk Program**

The School Sidewalk Program constructs sidewalks up to four blocks leading to an existing school, not including sidewalks around the perimeter of the school. Sidewalks around the perimeter of the school are the responsibility of the school.

The area must meet the following eligibility:

- used by students to walk to school
- not on dead-end street



### **Major Thoroughfare Program**

The Major Thoroughfare Program provides up to four blocks of new sidewalks along major roadways, as approved by the Houston Planning Commission, for people to safely access shopping centers, bus stops and other frequently traveled routes.

The area must meet the following eligibility:

- along designated major thoroughfares
- no existing sidewalk
- evidence of pedestrian traffic
- no future reconstruction or improvements are planned within the next 5 years by the City, METRO, County or State.

On two-way thoroughfares, sidewalks will be constructed on both sides of the street unless sidewalks already exist on one side. On one-way thoroughfares, sidewalks will be constructed on the bus loading side of the street only. In situations where conditions are not suitable for construction on both sides of a thoroughfare, sidewalks will be constructed on only one side.

### **Accessibility**

Sidewalks are designed in compliance with the Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All sidewalk areas must have acceptable existing right-of-way with no ditches, slopes, large tree roots, fences, walls or obstructions. Wheelchair ramps will be constructed as required.

### **REQUEST PROCESS**

1. Applications will be reviewed to make sure they meet all eligibility requirements.
2. A letter will be sent to the applicant within 6-8 weeks to confirm approval or explain denial.
3. If the location qualifies under the program guidelines, the request is approved for design. During design, the site is evaluated to make sure it can be constructed.
4. Approved constructible requests are scheduled for construction by a first in, first out basis.

Requests can be made by anyone.

The length of time between a request and new sidewalk construction depends on the type of request, available program funding and number of requests received.

To check the status of a new sidewalk request, visit:

<http://services.publicworks.houstontx.gov/safe-sidewalk-tracking-status.htm>