

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 14TH STREET SIDEWALK INFILL REQUEST

BACKGROUND:

On September 10, 2018, a letter from a resident was received requesting the installation of infill sidewalk along the north side of 14th Street from Kellogg Ave to Duff Ave. The resident is legally blind, and this area of 14th Street is on the route from his home to the nearest bus stop. This request was made regarding the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

Under the current ADA Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) and the City of Ames ADA Transition Plan, there are no requirements to infill sidewalks where not currently present. Both PROWAG and the City Transition Plan, primarily cover the construction of new pedestrian curb ramps or ADA push-buttons at traffic signals when requested or when street improvements are made.

The 2019/20 Asphalt Street Pavement Improvements Program includes improvements to 14th Street from Burnett Avenue to Duff Avenue. The design of these improvements will follow the Complete Streets Plan, which classifies 14th Street as a Neighborhood Street. Per the plan, Neighborhood Streets should have a sidewalk on both sides of the street. **At this time, staff does not anticipate the sidewalk installation to exceed the cost threshold as specified in the Complete Streets Plan, so the project is expected to include the requested sidewalk infill, as well as additional sidewalk construction.**

Design of the street improvements along 14th Street is expected to begin in summer/fall 2019 with construction anticipated in 2020. If sidewalk installation in 2019 is preferred, a standalone sidewalk project could be started to accomplish this work. **If the requested sidewalk is included with the roadway project, staff estimates a construction cost of \$16,000. However, if a standalone project is preferred, staff estimates the cost increasing to \$28,000 due to low quantities and mobilization costs.** Completing the sidewalk infill before the roadway improvements may also lead to future compliance issues because the roadway project will replace the pedestrian ramps at affected intersections.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Include the construction of the new sidewalk with the 2019/20 Asphalt Street Pavement Improvements project.
2. Begin a standalone project for the installation of the sidewalk utilizing Accessibility Enhancement funds.
3. Begin a standalone property owner assessment project for the installation of the sidewalk.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Including the construction of the sidewalk with the roadway project will lead to better construction prices and reduced conflicts during construction. **Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.**