

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT:** 2019/20 ASPHALT STREET PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS  
(14<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET)

### **BACKGROUND:**

This is the annual program for reconstruction or rehabilitation of asphalt streets that are typically located within residential neighborhoods. Rehabilitation of existing asphalt streets is possible where the base asphalt layer is solid, but the surface course has failed. Full-depth replacement of these streets is necessary in cases of structural pavement failure. This program was created in accordance with City Council's goal of strengthening our neighborhoods. This project is in the area of 14th St (Duff Ave. to Burnett Ave.) and 15<sup>th</sup> St. (Duff Ave. to Clark Ave.).

During the design phase, the plans were prepared following the Complete Streets Plan. The initial estimate for the total project including the Complete Street features (in this case, infilling the sidewalk) totaled 37.5% of the overall project cost. This percentage is higher than the recommended threshold of 22% stated in the Complete Streets Plan. This is partially due to this project being a mill and overlay rehabilitation and not a full reconstruction.

During the public outreach sessions, numerous concerns were raised by residents regarding the removal of mature trees, storm water runoff from the sidewalks, devaluation of their properties, decline in the quality of life and safety due to close proximity of the proposed sidewalks to the houses, etc. as well as a desired alternative to allow walking in the street because of the low traffic volumes. **Because the 22% Complete Streets threshold was exceeded, many mature street trees would have to be destroyed, and overwhelming opposition by the adjacent property owners was received, staff recommended that the sidewalk infill be limited to locations where the impact on trees were minimal. This recommendation lead to a design with areas where sidewalks would not be constructed.** (See Attachment 1)

**During the February 25, 2020 meeting, City Council directed staff to complete a project addendum to achieve connectivity on at least one side of 14th and one side of 15th Streets within the project area.** (See Attachment 2 & 3). On March 24, 2020, City Council received the report of bids regarding the revived project and delayed the public hearing for award/reject of contract until May 12, 2020, to allow for additional public input.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

As the project design was being developed during the Fall of 2019, the initial interaction with residents began while staff surveyed and assessed infrastructure in the project area. Residents would come outside to talk with staff about what they were doing. From that point on, the formal public outreach has included:

- On January 15, 2020 a letter was sent out to households who would be impacted by the rehabilitation of 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets, inviting residents to attend the project information meeting.
- Six households out of 154 households invited, actually attended the meeting held on

January 30<sup>th</sup> where the discussion centered around sidewalk and construction scheduling.

- The design displayed at the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting was updated based on feedback received to include in the City Council packet for the February 25, 2020 meeting.
- On February 25<sup>th</sup> staff learned that City Council planned to remove the project from the consent agenda, so they attempted to contact residents who attended the January 30<sup>th</sup> project information meeting.
- During the City Council meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, City Council directed staff to achieve connectivity on at least one side of the street for both 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- Staff immediately attempted door to door contact with residents to inform them of the additional sidewalk infill.
- A second door to door attempt was made by staff along with the City Forester. Where no contact was made, a business card was left with staff contact information. Several residents used these cards to contact staff and give input on the addition of sidewalk.
- Staff also attempted to contact impacted households over the phone using phone numbers listed as active utility customer service database.
- At the March 24<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, award of the project was postponed until May 12<sup>th</sup> to allow for more time for public outreach and input. During this time, staff received several emails from concerned residents specifically about the sidewalk infill. Some residents also provided potential alternatives to the proposed sidewalk for staff to consider.
- On April 27<sup>th</sup> a letter notifying them of the May 12<sup>th</sup> public hearing was sent out to households on 14<sup>th</sup> St and 15<sup>th</sup> St. Staff received emails and phone call responses to the letter where residents provided feedback on the project.
- All feedback received by staff since February has been provided to City Council for the May 12<sup>th</sup> public hearing.

### **SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK:**

- 17 of 37 impacted households within the project limits provided feedback with the following: 11 were against sidewalk infill, 3 supported sidewalk infill, and 3 were neither for nor against sidewalk infill.

Of those 37 households within the project area, 13 will have sidewalks installed adjacent to their property. Of the 13 who will be impacted by new sidewalks, 3 have not responded to staff's outreach.

- Some residents felt caught off guard with addition of sidewalk in the project because staff's recommendation was to only do minor sidewalk infill. Since the City Council pulled the item from the Consent Agenda without any advanced warning and added the additional sidewalk infill for connectivity at the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, residents had little time to respond to this revised project.
- Most residents were concerned about having to clear snow from the new sidewalk.
- Residents are concerned that the loss of mature trees and the installation of sidewalks in the current green space would negatively impact the appearance of their property and result in reduced property values.
- Some residents are concerned about their health and safety as the result of

sidewalks allowing other people too close to their homes.

- Some households said because there is such a low volume of traffic, pedestrians/bicyclists can use the street. (Note: with on-street parking, which at least one household desires to keep and roadway cross-section slopes, the street area would not be ADA compliant for pedestrians.)
- Some residents expressed concern with the storm water runoff from the construction of sidewalk.

On March 18, 2020, a bid for the project was received as follows:

<b><u>Bidder</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Manatt's Inc	\$774,662.19
<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	\$782,456.55

Revenue and expenses associated with this program are estimated as follows:

<b>Available Revenue</b>		<b>Estimated Expenses</b>
G.O. Bonds	\$1,000,000	
Construction		\$774,662.19
Engineering/Administration (Est.)		\$117,368.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$892,030.67</b>

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. a. Approve final plans and specifications for this project  
b. Award the 2019/20 Asphalt Street Pavement Improvements (14<sup>th</sup> Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Street) project to Manatts Inc. of Ames, Iowa, in the amount of \$774,662
2. a. Approve final plans and specification for this project  
b. Award the 2019/20 Asphalt Street Pavement Improvements (14<sup>th</sup> Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Street) project to Manatts Inc. of Ames, Iowa, in the amount of \$774,662  
c. Direct staff to issue a change order to remove all new sidewalk infill as shown on Attachments 2 and 3), which is currently estimated to be \$92,119
3. Reject bid

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

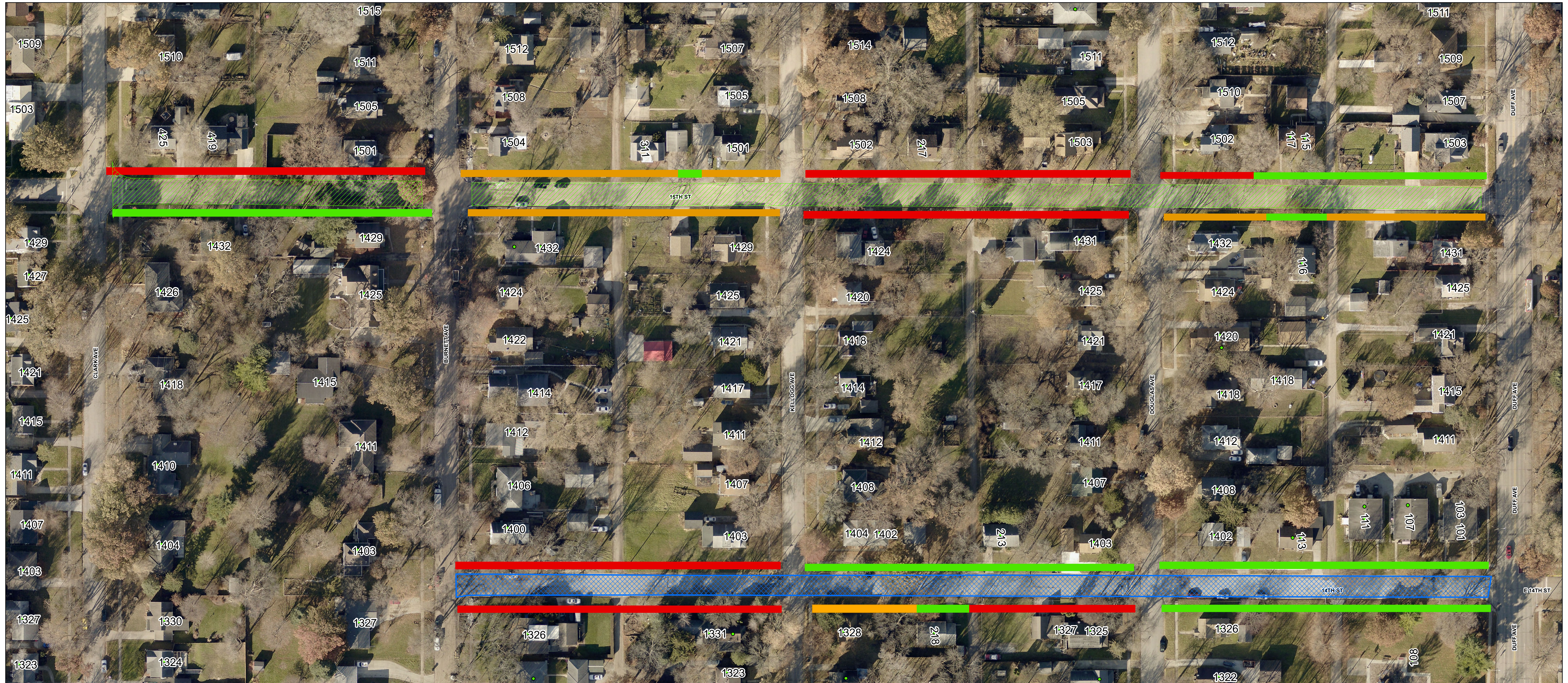
This project will result in lower street maintenance costs, improve area drainage, and provide a better neighborhood aesthetic. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council proceed with the street improvements as planned for this project. If the City Council desires to move ahead in accordance with its February 25<sup>th</sup> directive to install

sidewalks along at least one side of both 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets in addition to the street improvements, then Alternative #1 should be approved. If the City Council prefers to move ahead with the street improvements, but remove the sidewalk infill from the project, then Alternative #2 should be approved.





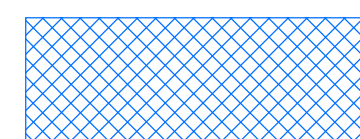
# 2019/20 Asphalt Pavement Improvements 14th St. (Duff - Burnett) 15th St. (Duff - Clark)

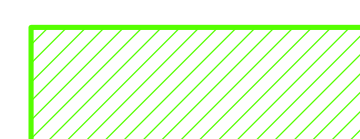


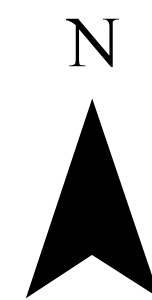
 **Current Sidewalk**

 **New Sidewalk Infill**

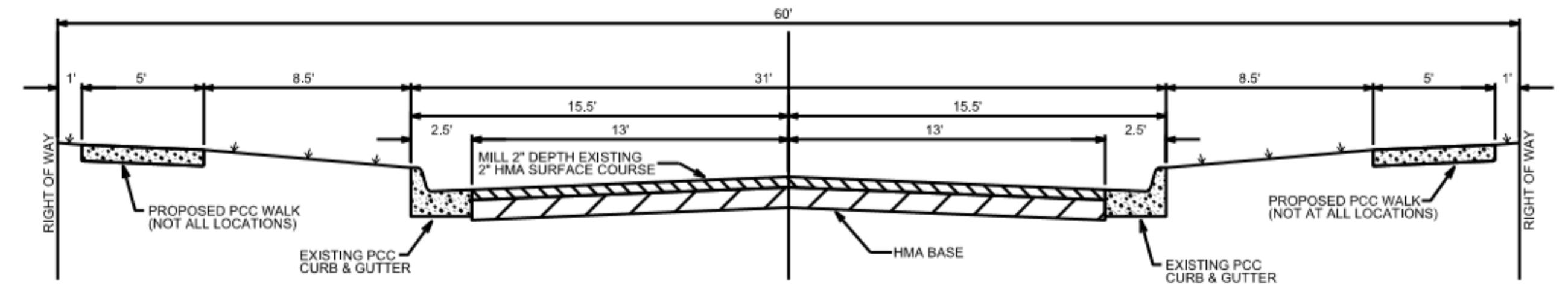
 **No New Sidewalk Infill**

 **Phase I**

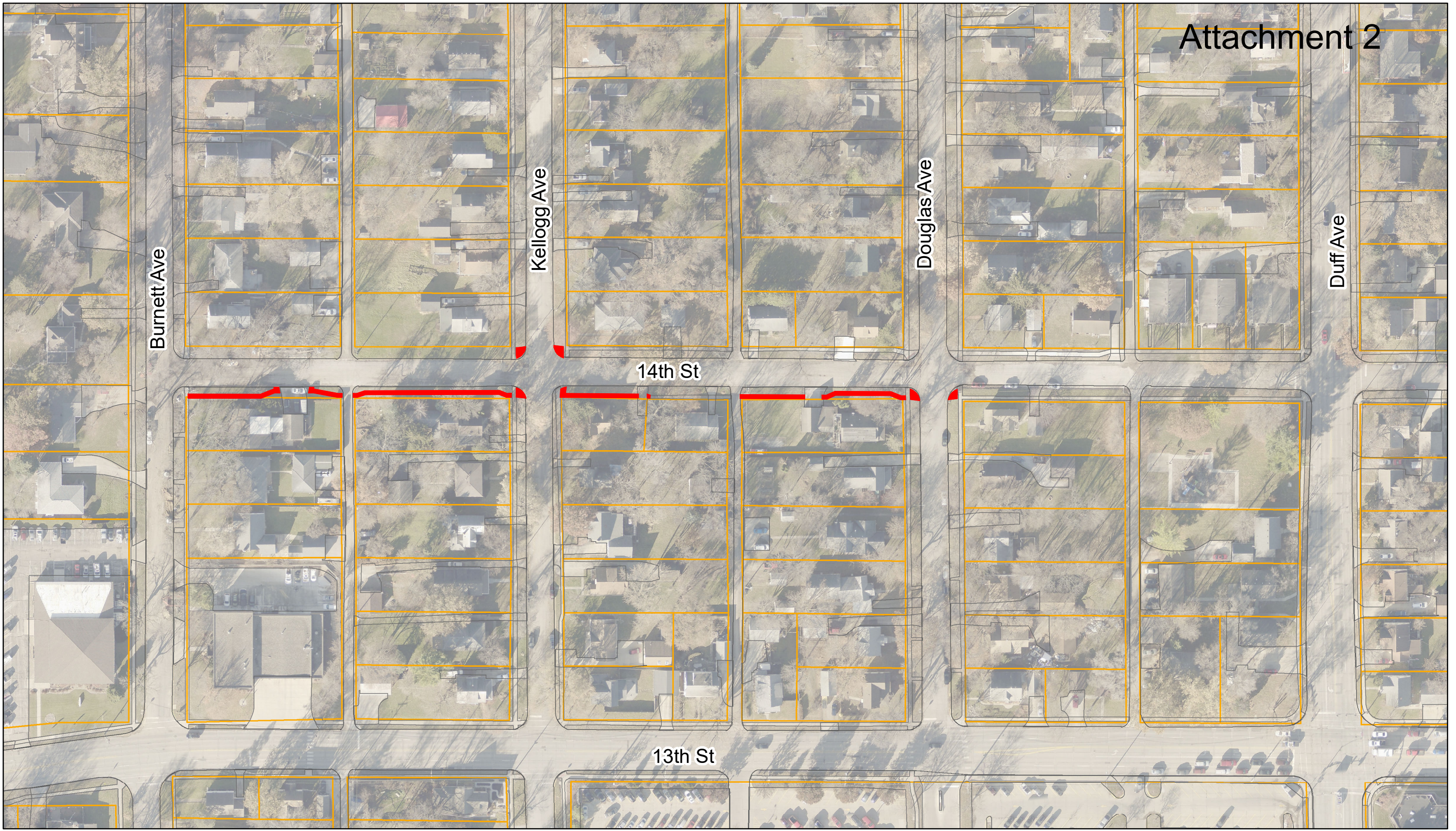
 **Phase II**



1 inch = 60 feet







Burnett Ave

Kellogg Ave


Douglas Ave

Duff Ave

14th St

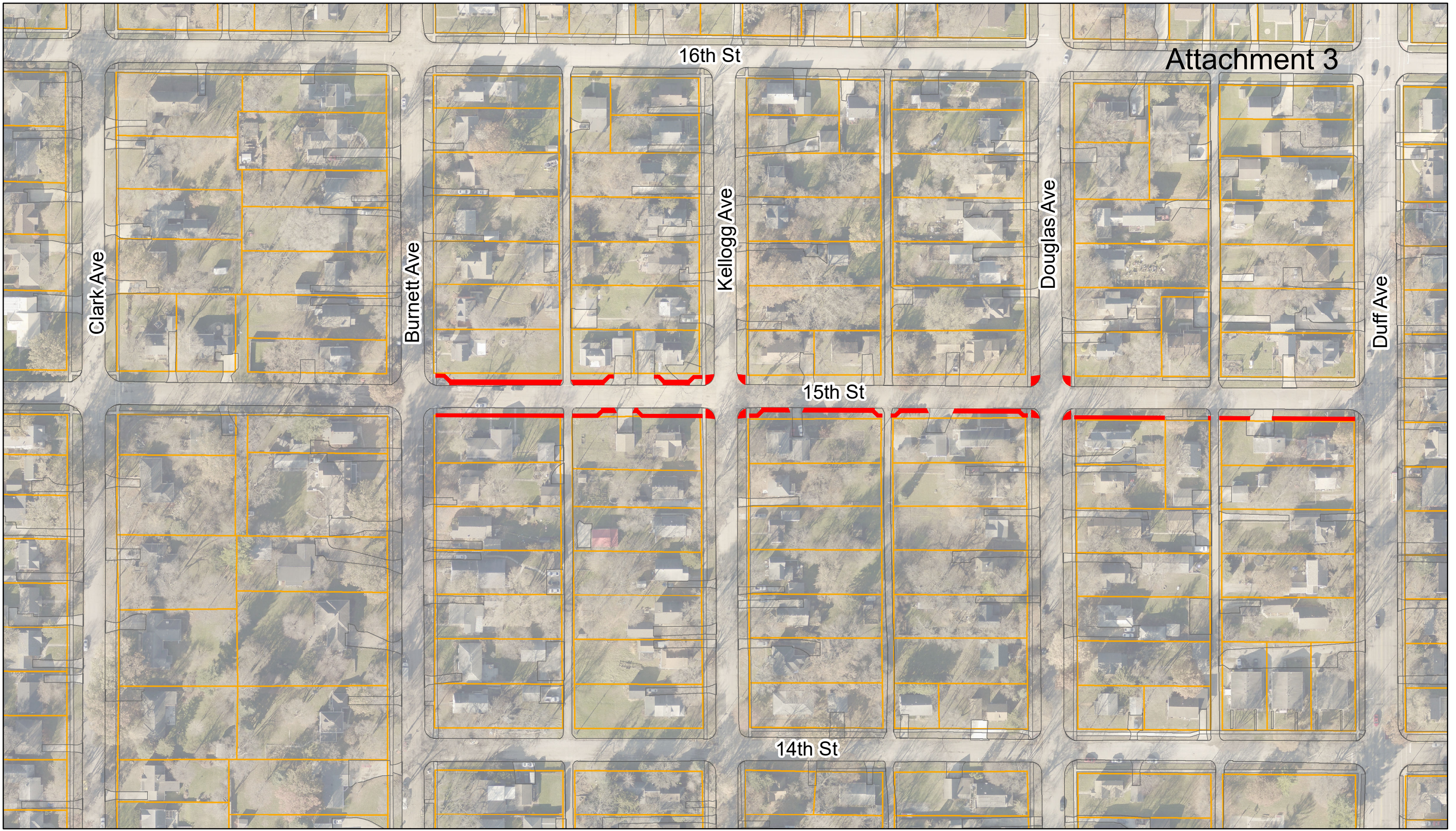
13th St

2019-20 Asphalt Pavement Improvement Program  
14th St Proposed Sidewalk Layout


 Proposed Sidewalk

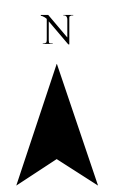






2019-20 Asphalt Pavement Improvement Program  
15th St Proposed Sidewalk Layout

 Proposed Sidewalk





Dean Sayre  
Civil Engineer II  
City of Ames

### Additional Resident Feedback Through Person to Person or Phone

#### **Joseph Gregorick, 1504 Burnett Ave**

I talked to Mr. Gregorick while doing door to door outreach in February. Mr. Gregorick is new to the neighborhood having recently purchased the property. He did have some concerns with snow removal if sidewalk was installed on the South side of the property. He also mentioned that he has seen several people walk through the grass along his property so a sidewalk would be nice to keep people off the grass. Mr. Gregorick was considered neither for nor against the addition of sidewalk. This is the only section where we have addition of sidewalk on the North side of 15<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> St. This is due to a neighbor, Jon Vanderheiden being in favor of the addition of sidewalk adjacent to his property.

#### **Jon Vanderheiden, 1501 Kellogg Ave.**

A card was left at Mr. Vanderheiden's residence during door to door outreach. Mr. Vanderheiden later called me back where he informed me that he would like to see the addition of sidewalk on his block. A mature tree is located in the path of the side walk that would have to be removed. Mr. Vanderheiden said he was ok with the removal of this tree. I later called back to update Mr. Vanderheiden on the project and the feedback I was receiving from other residents. He was still in favor of the addition of sidewalk and the removal of the tree.

#### **Linda Aaron, 217<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> St.**

Ms. Aaron called me after receiving the letter that was mailed out on April 27<sup>th</sup>. She was very concerned with the addition of new sidewalk infill. She informed me that she was a single parent and already had enough trouble just trying to clear her driveway of snow during the winter. While clearing her driveway this winter, she fell 3 times. Ms. Aaron was very adamant that she did not want additional sidewalk adjacent to her property.

**James Zeman 1331 Kellogg Ave.**

A card was left at Mr. Zeman's house. He does not live on the property but rents the home out to its current residents. Mr. Zeman was not for or against sidewalk adjacent to the property. He said to do what we needed too. He gave his approval if this included the removal of three small trees on the property. There was a walkway coming from the house that intersects the sidewalk. He said he has plans to update this walkway. I called back at a later time to update him on the delay of awarding the project and resident feedback. He was still of the same option. I counted Mr. Zeman as neither for nor against the addition of sidewalk infill.

**Kristy and Owen Reese 116 15<sup>th</sup> St.**

Mr. and Mrs. Reese attended the project open house on Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. When asked about the sidewalk they said they already have short existing sidewalk section in front of their house that they maintain. It would not make a difference to them if sidewalk infill was added to either side. They have had no further comment from email or response to April 27<sup>th</sup> letter. I counted Mr. and Mrs. Reese as neither for nor against the addition of sidewalk infill.

**Doris Nash 1328 Kellogg Ave**

Doris returned my call after I left a voice mail. She had received the April 27<sup>th</sup> letter and was updated on the project. She believed the addition of sidewalk infill would be great for the neighborhood. The current design includes sidewalk adjacent to her property.

## Dean Sayre

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**From:** Dean Sayre  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 11:22 AM  
**To:** Merlin Pfannkuch  
**Cc:** Tracy Warner  
**Subject:** RE: What is cost for moving light poles, electric utility poles?

Hi Merlin,

I was able to get your email. Considering the sidewalk locations on the current plan that went out for bid, there are 6 poles to be relocated. 4 of these are being relocated due to ADA sidewalk ramp construction. I contacted the electrical department and they gave me a rough estimate of \$1500 per pole.

Thanks,

Dean

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**From:** Merlin Pfannkuch <me2magic@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 10:52 AM  
**To:** Dean Sayre <dean.sayre@cityofames.org>  
**Subject:** Re: What is cost for moving light poles, electric utility poles?

Thanks Dean,

My computer is acting strange, so I don't know what you might get.

There are both light poles and electric poles involved. I don't know how many would need to be moved. It looks like electric lines (and poles) run down the allies in this area . . . there is a pole at the end of our alley. So there are what I think are three light poles and one electric pole on our street, and at least one light pole and an electric pole on the block to the west of us. I haven't yet gone down to 14th to see if the poles there are also on the south side of the street.

Besides the cost, certainly a consideration this year will be the number of men needed to work in close proximity to our yard and garden and for how long . . . at least until the COVID-19 situation is clearer.

I have 11 electronic doctor appt. so must get off computer. It seems to be working better now. At first it wanted to jump all over the place, and I couldn't start writing.

best

merlin

On Friday, May 1, 2020, 10:41:32 AM CDT, Dean Sayre <[dean.sayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dean.sayre@cityofames.org)> wrote:

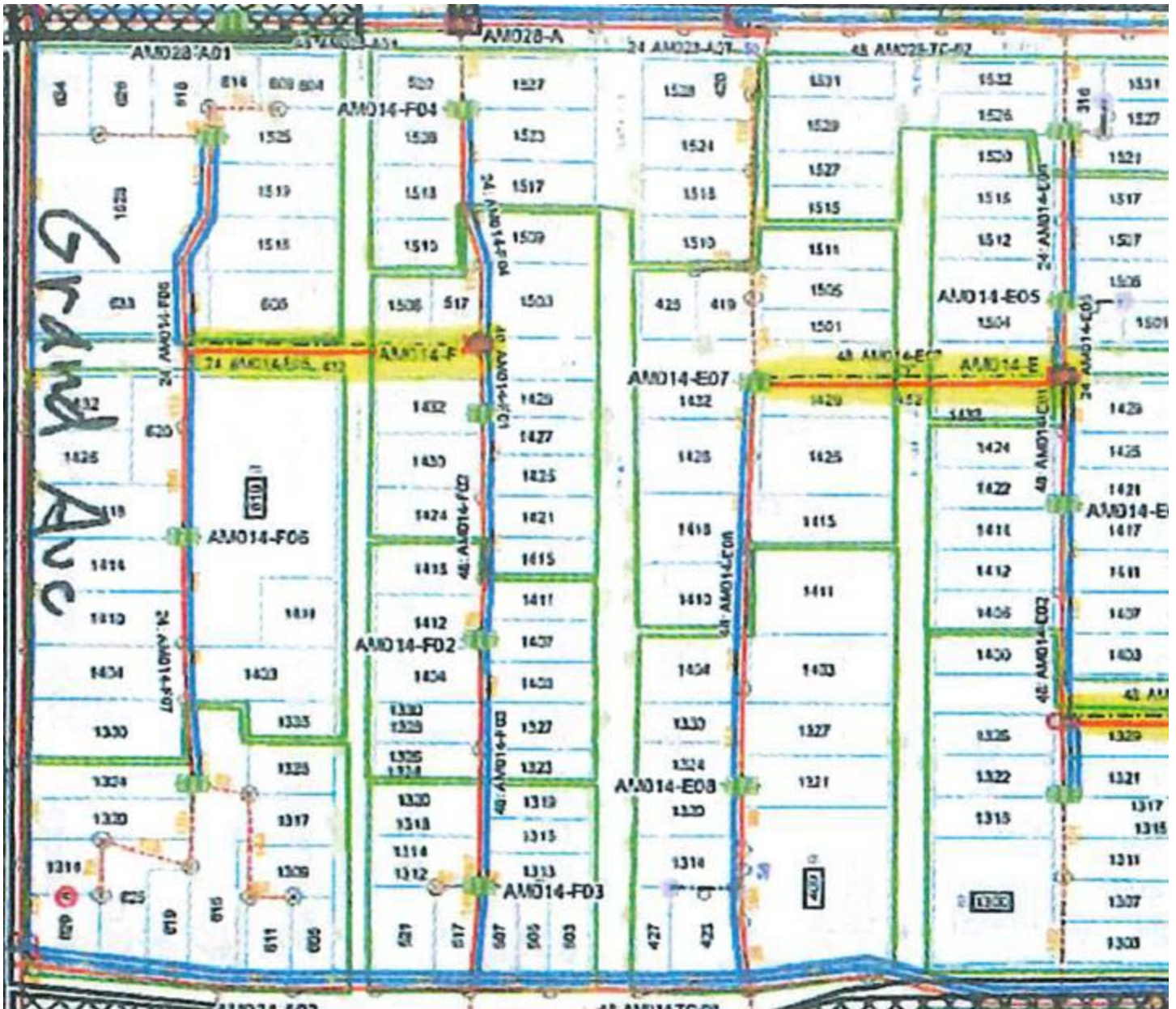
Hi Merlin,

I'm not sure on the light pole relocation cost. This is done by the city but I will have to check with the utilities department on cost.

To your previous question on the Metronet fiber location. It looks like it will be running East and West along 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> but jumping back and forth between the two. Below is a map showing the locations. The highlighted yellow I believe is where it will be bored underground and the red and blue are where it will be hung over head on existing poles. I have circled your property to help give an idea of the locations.

Thanks,

Dean



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**From:** Merlin Pfannkuch <[me2magic@yahoo.com](mailto:me2magic@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Dean Sayre <[dean.sayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dean.sayre@cityofames.org)>  
**Subject:** What is cost for moving light poles, electric utility poles?

Hi Dean,

I've come up with another question.

What will it cost the city to relocate what looks like several light and electric utility poles. On our street alone, there may be four poles that need to be moved for a sidewalk.

I'm presuming the city does this/or someone besides Manatt's?

Could you get me an estimate of what this will cost per pole? Since I don't know how many poles will need to be moved. Maybe you know how many would need to be moved under the current plan?

Thanks.

merli



## Dean Sayre

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**From:** Dean Sayre  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2020 11:37 AM  
**To:** Merlin Pfannkuch  
**Subject:** RE: Fiber optic a problem

Hi Merlin,

Things are going as well as they can here, hopefully they are for you too. We still have the majority of our staff coming in every day so still business as usual mostly.

I'm not sure where the Metronet fiber will be located in your area. I will have to check with one of the other engineers on that. A lot of the fiber they are putting in will be hung on our utility poles or buried 24" underground. This shouldn't have any impact on sidewalk infill. As far as I know the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> St. project is still a go for this year. I also haven't heard anything on the council's decision for the sidewalk so I will be waiting for the May 12<sup>th</sup> council meeting to find out more too. It would be very unlikely for Manatts to withdraw their bid on the project. With their bid they must submit a bid bond equal to 5% of the total bid that guarantees their bid prices. If they were to withdraw their bid they would lose that bid bond. Would probably cost them more money to back out of the bid than to continue on with a project.

We are staying healthy so far and trying to stay home as much as possible.

Yep, there are sidewalks on the East side of Hickory Drive from Westbrook to Woodland. The north part of that section is currently under construction but the sidewalk is still open for use.

Thanks,

Dean

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**From:** Merlin Pfannkuch <me2magic@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2020 10:05 AM  
**To:** Dean Sayre <dean.sayre@cityofames.org>  
**Subject:** Fiber optic a problem

Hey Dean,

The fiber optic people have put at least one sign on 15th St. north of our house. I don't know if they are planning on running the fiber optic along 15th . . . I was guessing that they would only go down Kellogg.

Anyway, they are now doing this fiber optic stuff in our neighborhood.

Is this going to create problems for the intersection and sidewalk placements? If this project happens this year?

What have you been hearing about this? I guess I am so damn scary that no one now wants to communicate with me about this, or come out for a looksee. Only Gloria among the council members has come for a look.

I guess I'm thinking that sidewalks at least will be pulled from this project in view of COVID-19 impacts on our budget, but I have to keep pushing against sidewalks until someone with some authority tells me that will be the case.

I'm even wondering if Manatt's possibly could withdraw its bid in view of uncertain labor and material costs in view of COVID-19. I've asked city attorney Mark Lambert that, but no response. Maybe I need to ask John Joiner?

Hope you are staying healthy. I've been self-isolating since March 13 except for dog walks.

Hey, could you tell me whether there are sidewalks along Hickory Drive fro Westbrook Drive to Woodland Street? I imagine there are, but the last time I walked that street (might have been 20 years ago), I can't remember walking on a sidewalk.

best

merlin

## Dean Sayre

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**From:** Dean Sayre <dean.sayre@cityofames.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 11:11 AM  
**To:** Merlin Pfannkuch; dsayre@cityofames.org  
**Subject:** RE: Two questions about 14th and 15th Streets

Hi Merlin,

- 1) That is correct. There will be new intakes installed on the Northwest and Southwest corners of the 15<sup>th</sup> St. and Douglas Ave Intersection. The intake on the Southeast corner of this intersection is also being removed and replaced.
- 2) These numbers are based from the bid that was received from Manatts on March 24<sup>th</sup>

Sidewalk total (including ADA ramps and all driveway entrance removal/replace) \$229,590.08  
Sidewalk for original specs (including ADA ramps and all driveway entrance removal/replace) \$194,169.28  
Sidewalk for the addendum of 2.5 more blocks \$35,421.80

Thanks,

**Dean Sayre, P.E.**

*Civil Engineer II*

Office: 515.239.5277 | Fax: 515.239.5404

[dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org) | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

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**From:** Merlin Pfannkuch <me2magic@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:45 AM  
**To:** dsayre@cityofames.org  
**Subject:** Two questions about 14th and 15th Streets

Hi Dean,

- 1) Are new storm sewer intakes at the west corners of 15th and Douglas in the final plans?
- 2) Have you developed an estimate of the costs for the sidewalks?  
For sidewalks for the total project?  
For sidewalks for the original specs?  
For sidewalks for the addendum for the two more blocks?

Thanks.

merlin

## Dean Sayre

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**From:** Carol Lemon <carol.a.lemon1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 10:21 PM  
**To:** Dean Sayre  
**Subject:** Re: 14th & 15th Street Improvements

You're welcome. And thank you for talking to me this morning.

On Fri, May 1, 2020 at 2:13 PM Dean Sayre <[dean.sayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dean.sayre@cityofames.org)> wrote:

Carol,

Thank you for the email! I will forward this on to City Council to consider on May 12<sup>th</sup>

Thanks,

**Dean Sayre, PE.**

*Civil Engineer II*

Office: 515.239.5277 | Fax: 515.239.5404

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**From:** Carol Lemon <[carol.a.lemon1@gmail.com](mailto:carol.a.lemon1@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 10:32 AM  
**To:** Dean Sayre <[dean.sayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dean.sayre@cityofames.org)>  
**Subject:** 14th & 15th Street Improvements

Dear Mr. Sayre, We own the house at 1431 Duff Ave. & I want to go on record to say I am against side walks on this street. It is a very quiet street and totally unnecessary. When my granddaughter lived there, we babysat occasionally and would walk to Meeker school to meet my granddaughter. We had the little one in the stroller and I never felt it was dangerous to walk on that street. Being a corner property, there would be a lot of sidewalk to scoop. I hope they will nix the idea of a sidewalk here. Thank you, Carol Lemon, 1951 280th St., W.C., IA = 515 297-2719.

## Dean Sayre

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**From:** Gary Munkvold <gmunkvold@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 11:07 AM  
**To:** Dean Sayre  
**Cc:** Abdelhafiz Ibrahim  
**Subject:** Re: 15th street pavement improvements

Dean,

Thanks very much for your quick response. I wasn't sure what was meant by "infill," so your message has cleared that up.

I appreciate your follow-up on the Burnett sidewalk.

Regards,  
Gary M

Gary Munkvold 1429 Burnett Ave. Ames, IA 50010

On Thursday, April 30, 2020, 09:01:42 AM CDT, Dean Sayre <dean.sayre@cityofames.org> wrote:

Good Morning Gary,

The sidewalk adjacent to your property will not be removed or replaced no matter the decision made May 12<sup>th</sup>. The existing sidewalk or the green sections shown on the map represent sidewalks that have already been constructed and will remain as is. There will only be infill of new sidewalk constructed in the locations represented by the orange sections on the map. The new sidewalk infill is dependent on the decision that will be made May 12<sup>th</sup> by City Council. Your input on the infill of sidewalk between Clark and Burnett is appreciated and will be forwarded on to City Council.

We will have the sidewalk on Burnett inspected for damage from the water transfer project and will contacted you.

Thank you for your time and input,

**Dean Sayre, P.E.**

*Civil Engineer II*

Office: 515.239.5277 | Fax: 515.239.5404

[Dean.Sayre@cityofames.org](mailto:Dean.Sayre@cityofames.org) | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

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**From:** Gary Munkvold <gmunkvold@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 5:40 PM  
**To:** Dean Sayre <dean.sayre@cityofames.org>  
**Subject:** 15th street pavement improvements

Dean,

I received the notification dated April 27 about the project on 14th and 15th streets. My lot is on the SW corner of 15th and Burnett (1429 Burnett). If I read the map correctly, the plan is to replace the existing sidewalk on the south side of 15th between Clark and Burnett. This concerns me because I recently replaced the retaining wall that has existed along that sidewalk for the length of my lot, which is about 1/2 of that block. I'm attaching photos so you can see that the wall abuts the sidewalk. I invested considerable time & effort & expense to replace the crumbling cement wall with landscape timbers. I can't imagine that the sidewalk can be replaced without displacing the wall, and that concerns me. Is there anything you can tell me about how you see that working out?

Extending the sidewalk east from Burnett Ave. to Duff seems like a good idea, but in my opinion, there is no reason to replace the existing sidewalk between Clark and Burnett. It is old, but it is in good condition.

On a related note, the water main project that was done last year along Burnett caused significant damage to the sidewalk in front of my house, along Burnett. Is there any plan to repair that? I think that would be a far better use of resources than replacing the perfectly intact sidewalk on 15th.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Best regards,

Gary M

Gary Munkvold 1429 Burnett Ave. Ames, IA 50010



## Dean Sayre

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**From:** J F Sabl <jfsabl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 6:10 PM  
**To:** John Haila  
**Cc:** jhaila@cityofames.org; Dean Sayre; Merlin Pfannkuch; Pieter Maris; Kabongwe .; jnovotny949@gmail.com; cconmy@gmail.com; kstall@iastate.edu; phall.chem@gmail.com; tracywarner@cityofames.org; Joy McLain; kdiekmann@cityofames.org; dsayre@cityofames.org; rjunck@cityofames.org; beatty-hansen@cityofames.org; MARK LAMBERT; debschildroth@cityofames.org; dvoss@cityofames.org; acorrieri@cityofames.org; tgartin@cityofames.org; dmartin@cityofames.org; gbetcher@cityofames.org; Timothy K. Hinderks; STEVE SCHAINKER  
**Subject:** Re: Complete Streets Plan--Item #22--Shared use is ADA compliant on low traffic streets

Understood that coronavirus planning is far more pressing!

My most recent email differed in that there were specific figures, citations / documentation and examples, in regards to shared use of streets (without any requirement for off-grade or on grade separate lanes) being ADA compliant. That was missing from prior emails.

True shared used of streets is something that has been asserted to be not-ADA compliant by various council members. I believed it myself.

If everyone has freed themselves of this "false fact"--I have no further input.

If they are still laboring under that misapprehension, as I was, then they ought to read the email, when coronavirus allows consideration of more mundane information.

--Joy

On Thu, Mar 26, 2020 at 1:50 PM John Haila <[jhaila@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:jhaila@city.ames.ia.us)> wrote:

J,

I apologize for the tardy response. Little preoccupied with a national matter!

Council and I did receive your email. As you may be aware, all that transpired Tuesday night was to open and continue the hearing to May 12th and accept the report of bids and not take any action on them until after the hearing is conducted.

Here are the next steps. I shared this with Brett McLain in an email sent to him this earlier afternoon.

Council will take this item up again under Hearings on May 12th. Given the extent of time COVID-19 is occupying staff and council, I anticipate that this issue may not receive much attention the next 30 days.

I am thinking that by the end of April this will be revisited by council and staff in preparation for the May 12th hearing.

Should the COVID-19 situation continue to be all consuming the hearing may be continued again at the May 12th meeting to a later date.

You are welcome to reach out to council by email or phone if would like to further discuss this issue. However, I do believe that they clearly understand your position (as well as several of your neighbors),

and unless future emails offer new information or thoughts beyond what has been communicated previously, continued repeating of the same information may not be helpful. Regardless, Council welcomes constituent input, and you are welcome to proceed as you believe is appropriate.

Best,

**John A. Haila**

*Mayor*



515.239.5105 *main*

[jhaila@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:jhaila@city.ames.ia.us) | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

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-----"J F Sabl" <[jfsabl@gmail.com](mailto:jfsabl@gmail.com)> wrote: -----

To: "John A. Haila" <[jhaila@cityofames.org](mailto:jhaila@cityofames.org)>

From: "J F Sabl" <[jfsabl@gmail.com](mailto:jfsabl@gmail.com)>

Date: 03/24/2020 05:47PM

Cc: "Dean Sayre" <[dean.sayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dean.sayre@cityofames.org)>, "Merlin Pfannkuch" <[me2magic@yahoo.com](mailto:me2magic@yahoo.com)>, "Pieter Maris" <[pieter.maris@gmail.com](mailto:pieter.maris@gmail.com)>, "Kabongwe ." <[kabongwe@gmail.com](mailto:kabongwe@gmail.com)>, [jnovotny949@gmail.com](mailto:jnovotny949@gmail.com), [cconmy@gmail.com](mailto:cconmy@gmail.com), [kstall@iastate.edu](mailto:kstall@iastate.edu), [phall.chem@gmail.com](mailto:phall.chem@gmail.com), [tracywarner@cityofames.org](mailto:tracywarner@cityofames.org), "Joy McLain" <[jmclain1988@gmail.com](mailto:jmclain1988@gmail.com)>, "[kdiekmann@cityofames.org](mailto:kdiekmann@cityofames.org)" <[kdiekmann@cityofames.org](mailto:kdiekmann@cityofames.org)>, "[dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org)" <[dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org)>, "[rjunck@cityofames.org](mailto:rjunck@cityofames.org)" <[rjunck@cityofames.org](mailto:rjunck@cityofames.org)>, "[beatty-hansen@cityofames.org](mailto:beatty-hansen@cityofames.org)" <[beatty-hansen@cityofames.org](mailto:beatty-hansen@cityofames.org)>, "Mark Lambert" <[mlambert@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:mlambert@city.ames.ia.us)>, "[debschildroth@cityofames.org](mailto:debschildroth@cityofames.org)" <[debschildroth@cityofames.org](mailto:debschildroth@cityofames.org)>, "[dvoss@cityofames.org](mailto:dvoss@cityofames.org)" <[dvoss@cityofames.org](mailto:dvoss@cityofames.org)>, "[acorrieri@cityofames.org](mailto:acorrieri@cityofames.org)" <[acorrieri@cityofames.org](mailto:acorrieri@cityofames.org)>, "[tgartin@cityofames.org](mailto:tgartin@cityofames.org)" <[tgartin@cityofames.org](mailto:tgartin@cityofames.org)>, "[dmartin@cityofames.org](mailto:dmartin@cityofames.org)" <[dmartin@cityofames.org](mailto:dmartin@cityofames.org)>, "[gbetcher@cityofames.org](mailto:gbetcher@cityofames.org)" <[gbetcher@cityofames.org](mailto:gbetcher@cityofames.org)>, "Timothy K. Hinderks" <[hinderks850@gmail.com](mailto:hinderks850@gmail.com)>, "Steve Schainker" <[sschainker@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:sschainker@city.ames.ia.us)>  
Subject: Complete Streets Plan--Item #22--Shared use is ADA compliant on low traffic streets

My message, as formatted and reformatted, was twice undeliverable to all of council. I am therefore re-sending after removing all images, formatting and most links.

-----  
Dear council, staff, mayor and neighbors;

First:

For low traffic streets, on-street shared use is ADA-compliant, so long as the street is appropriately fashioned and maintained. In fact, this is a DEFAULT choice for low traffic residential local roads in urban, suburban and rural settings.

See the City of Northampton (MA) design manual from 2017 (top hit) by googling the words,

[City of Northampton (MA) design manual]

(The PDF link and the webcache both seem to prevent my message from being delivered).

From which, specifically:

"LOCAL SHARED ROADWAY

A local shared roadway (AKA, yield street) is a simple road designed to serve pedestrians, bicyclists and motor vehicle traffic within the roadway. Shared roadways are only appropriate where sidewalks are not feasible, practical or desirable or where very aggressive traffic calming measures are implemented. The facility can serve local traffic volumes and maintain aesthetic preferences, and should be considered the typical form for residential local roads in a variety of urban, suburban or rural contexts."

"Typical application:

On low volume roads, particularly near residential land uses where most traffic is familiar with prevailing road conditions ...Most appropriate on very-low volume roads with  $\leq 400$  vehicles per day. May operate on volumes up to 1,000 ADT (Average Daily Trips)."

"When operating at very-low volumes, pedestrians may be comfortable walking within the travel area of the roadway. As volumes increase, consider providing a sidewalk for increased pedestrian comfort. (AASHTO 2011)."

"Simple unlaned local roads can support pedestrian travel within the roadway. If pedestrian travel is intended, the roadway should meet accessibility requirements for surface stability, friction and, cross slope."

"Maintenance: Local shared roadways have minimal maintenance costs due to limited paved surface. Part of complying with ADA is providing adequate maintenance. The clear widths should remain free and clear of obstructions, including snow, ice, and debris. (Title 28 CFRSec . 35 .133)"

If you insist, I (Joy Sabl, 1502 Kellogg) can volunteer to do an 24 hour traffic count on 15th (in person or via a time lapse camera). But honestly, we all know that the average daily trips on the block are somewhere between 6 and 20 (not 400+). In fact, a majority of those (few) trips start or end on the block itself, and involve a car leaving or turning into a driveway, which means that the car would equally cross a sidewalk, if there were sidewalks.

Secondly: Even truly Urban streets are now adopting traffic calming measures and "shared use" streets / Yield streets / neighborhood streets. This is new, and news, as of this month:

[www.bikepgh.org/2020/03/16/city-introduces-new-neighborways-street-type-in-the-south-side/](http://www.bikepgh.org/2020/03/16/city-introduces-new-neighborways-street-type-in-the-south-side/)

[picture removed]

You can use google maps, to get a sense of density

[picture removed, link removed, as they appear to be blocking delivery, so take my word for it, or google map Sydney St, Pittsburgh and click on satellite view]

The Neighborhood Street route on the South Side of Pittsburgh is a moderately less-used street in one of the densest neighborhoods in Pittsburgh (much denser than Ames' main street) with a mix of residential, storefronts, entertainment venues, restaurants and legacy light industrial businesses, most of them multi-story multi use buildings.

You may wish to reconsider all of the money Ames is pointing at the building of new sidewalks—rather than desperately needed remediation of existing but impassable sidewalks and roadway—in this light. After all, an extremely large percentage of Ames' residential streets would be "low volume local residential streets" by Pittsburgh, Northampton, ADA, or any other standards.

Also: everything Merlin (and Tim) said.

Pieter and I were contacted, and went to a hearing, and I was called back, but the hearing was on a very different plan from what council is proposing; the phone call conflated sidewalks on Kellogg and on 15th in a problematic, handwavy way; and those de facto misrepresentations (even if not meant to mislead) mean that Pieter and I did not, in fact, get a chance to give feedback on the actual plan (but rather, on what was and is an entirely different plan). Any assent or agreement to that different plan was not, and cannot be taken as assent or agreement to the current plan.

I applaud the part of your plan that delays a decision on our few blocks; I encourage you not to merely delay, but (when COVID planning and other life and death matters allow) to actively reconsider writing in grade and surface requirements for street paving that make low traffic streets ADA compatible, and redirect some of the money saved, to repair of existing but impassible sidewalks.

Thank you for all you do in this difficult time.

--Joy Sabl and Pieter Maris

## Dean Sayre

---

**From:** Dean Sayre  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 8:27 AM  
**To:** Timothy K. Hinderks  
**Subject:** RE: Please examine Complete Streets Plan--Item #22

Hi Timothy,

Below is an email that was sent out to some of the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Street residents that we had email contact information for. Around mid-January we did send a letter for a Jan 30<sup>th</sup> public meeting notice and contact information if you had questions about the project. We did not have a further attempt of outreach to you since we have not considering sidewalk adjacent to your property due to the large amount of trees that would be impacted. On February 25<sup>th</sup> City Council directed us to have sidewalk along at least one side of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Street. With the addendum we added sidewalks to the South side of four blocks on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Since you live on the North side of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and we are still **not considering sidewalk adjacent to your property** you were not impacted by the councils directive and we did not attempt to meet with you individually. Thank you for reaching out with your thought and concerns. If you have any questions about the project or access concerns during construction please let me know!

Thank you,

**Dean Sayre, P.E.**

*Civil Engineer II*

Office: 515.239.5277 | Fax: 515.239.5404

[dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org) | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

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**From:** Dean Sayre

**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2020 8:41 AM

**To:** mclainbd@gmail.com; Merlin Pfannkuch <me2magic@yahoo.com>; Pieter Maris <pieter.maris@gmail.com>; Kabongwe . <kabongwe@gmail.com>; J. F. Sabl <jfsabl@gmail.com>; jnovotny949@gmail.com; cconmy@gmail.com; kstall@iastate.edu; phall.chem@gmail.com

**Cc:** tracywarner@cityofames.org

**Subject:** 14th and 15th Street Update

14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> St. Residents,

On March 24<sup>th</sup> the City Council will be presented the **report of bids only** for the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Street project **but will not consider award of the contract** for the project until April 28<sup>th</sup>. The awarding of the contract will be delayed as we plan to

provide more time for City Council to consider public input on the infill of new sidewalk in your neighborhoods . We will work on determining how we can provide residents with a method for further input while continuing to practice social distancing. All input will be considered by City Council before deliberation of award of contract on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Please share this information with your neighbors who are not included in this email. We would appreciate if your neighbors would share their emails with us so we can keep open communication about the project.

Thank You,

**Dean Sayre, P.E.**

*Civil Engineer II*

Office: 515.239.5277 | Fax: 515.239.5404

[dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org) | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

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**From:** Timothy K. Hinderks <hinderks850@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 10:26 PM

**To:** [jhaila@cityofames.org](mailto:jhaila@cityofames.org); [gbetcher@cityofames.org](mailto:gbetcher@cityofames.org); [beatty-hansen@cityofames.org](mailto:beatty-hansen@cityofames.org); [acorrieri@cityofames.org](mailto:acorrieri@cityofames.org); [tgartin@cityofames.org](mailto:tgartin@cityofames.org); [dmartin@cityofames.org](mailto:dmartin@cityofames.org); [rjunck@cityofames.org](mailto:rjunck@cityofames.org); [dleeson@cityofames.org](mailto:dleeson@cityofames.org); MARK LAMBERT <[mlambert@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:mlambert@city.ames.ia.us)>; [dvoss@cityofames.org](mailto:dvoss@cityofames.org); [dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org); TRACY WARNER <[twarner@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:twarner@city.ames.ia.us)>; [kdiekmann@cityofames.org](mailto:kdiekmann@cityofames.org); Brett McLain <[mclainbd@gmail.com](mailto:mclainbd@gmail.com)>; Pieter Maris <[pieter.maris@gmail.com](mailto:pieter.maris@gmail.com)>; J. F. Sabl <[jfsabl@gmail.com](mailto:jfsabl@gmail.com)>; [debschildroth@cityofames.org](mailto:debschildroth@cityofames.org); Kabongwe . <[kabongwe@gmail.com](mailto:kabongwe@gmail.com)>; STEVE SCHAINKER <[sschainker@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:sschainker@city.ames.ia.us)>; [tracywarner@cityofames.org](mailto:tracywarner@cityofames.org)

**Subject:** Please examine Complete Streets Plan--Item #22

Mayor Haila,

Please allow me to add my name and thoughts to the e-mail listed regarding the proposed/planned road reconstruction of 14th and 15th between Duff Ave. and Burnett Ave. and Duff Ave. and Clark Street, includin sidewalk infill.

I am not in favor of sidewalk in these areas. I have lived in my home for 40 years, having raised my family at this address. I have observed people navigating through our neighborhood without any problems. I have not seen any problems with pedestrian traffic along this road and use the roadway for daily access to and from my house.

I am not in favor of the loss of mature trees (likely 8), shubbery (likely 7) and landscaping that will occur on my property alone.

I believe there will be a loss in property value with the addition of sidewalk on my corner lot. Purchasing a corner lot was certainly a selling point when I first purchased my home, giving my family an excellent yard to use and play in, as has happened.

Last, I would like to point out that on the Council Action Form - dated 3/24/2020 - in the fourth paragraph where it states, "Staff completed and issued this addendum after meeting individually with all but one of the property owners and residents along 14th and 15th Streets who would be impacted by the Council's directive to add additional sidewalk

infill". I must be the one property owner who was not contacted, even though I have neighbors who tell me that they were not contacted either. A letter in my mailbox or an e-mail would have been a good way to contact me and set a time for the requested meeting.

It would appear to me that staff, as directed by the Council, did not complete the individual meetings as stated.

I believe that all property owners and residents should be allowed to have a voice in what is proposed within this project as requested by the Council.

I would like the Council to look into what the neighbors, residents and property owners actually want with regard to the sidewalk infill project. Either postpone the project for a year or pull the sidewalk infill from the project as asked by Mr. Pfannkuch.

Thank you for your time,

Timothy K. Hinderks  
1503 Douglas Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010-5313  
515.290.1932  
[hinderks850@gmail.com](mailto:hinderks850@gmail.com)

Mayor Haila, Members of the Ames City Council, City Manager Steve Schainker, City Attorney Mark Lambert and others:

Could you please review the Complete Streets Plan somewhat. (Chapter 1, Overview and Policy will give you most of it.)

I believe what I (and others in the neighborhood) are advocating is that the Complete Streets Plan actually be used to evaluate whether sidewalks should be added as part of this project. It looks like selective memory on the part of both staff and council has led us to this current predicament.

I ask that council Tuesday simply remove sidewalks from this project, or stop the project altogether.

The council action forms of both Feb. 25 and for Tuesday both say that the plans were prepared following the Complete Streets Plan. Cost estimates including the "Complete Street features (in this case, infilling the sidewalk) . . ." Please forgive me if I am wrong, but on a quick read of the Complete Streets Plan I see no reference to infilling sidewalks.

Similarly, the Complete Streets Plan calls for many items and values to be considered for each project. Connectivity is one of those items, but it is not to be considered in isolation as the overriding value.

The Complete Streets Plan, in my view, calls for a somewhat holistic approach to design and planning, including some implementation procedures that have been adopted poorly, if at all.

Let me try to summarize what has happened so far.

This street resurfacing project has been in the CIP for years.

The Complete Streets Plan was adopted in October 2018.

Sometime around Thanksgiving 2019, Dean Sayre, new engineer hire in the Public Works Department, starts contacting property owners and residents in the neighborhood about the project. He loses essentially two weeks from the holidays. (Our household's only contact during this time is a phone call or two between Dean and my wife, Nancy Blyler. Nancy says we don't see a need for a sidewalk and don't want one . . . the sidewalk would damage our young trees and perennial gardens. She also says we would very much like for storm sewer intakes to be installed on the west side of 15th and Douglas.)

On Jan. 30, there is a public information meeting to show the plans. Maybe 10 folks attend. We are assured that staff will not recommend sidewalks where residents oppose them. (The map shown, however, later turns out not to be quite what all residents believed.)

This item is pulled from the consent agenda Feb. 25 by council member Gloria Betcher. Council is given misinformation from municipal engineer Tracy Warner. The council authorizes specs to go out for bids under the map, and there is a second motion from council member to achieve connectivity on at least one side of 15th between Douglas and Kellogg.

Since Feb. 25, Gloria, Mayor Haila and Steve have come out to discuss the situation. Steve and I talked for 45 minutes in the rain Thursday. Thanks, Steve. But whoever wrote the council action form for Tuesday gave more disinformation. Did you write or review this, Steve? If not, who did?

The start of the third paragraph of the CAC has been changed from Feb. 25, now giving a false misrepresentation about when these "public outreach sessions" occurred. The Feb. 25 form said only that residents were concerned about the removal of mature trees. Now the form says concerns also included storm water runoff, devaluation of properties, lack of traffic making walking in the street possible, etc. The way this process has been handled procedurally (and my main complaint) has meant that we never had a chance to express these concerns before the motion on Feb. 25 to achieve connectivity. Dean and/or Tracy never came out to talk on location with our household about the project until March 12. The point of their visit was to determine where a sidewalk would go. And they indicated mature trees were basically the only factor in where they had earlier recommended sidewalks, according to what Nancy said.

This project has been so bungled procedurally that I must insist that sidewalks be dropped from the project, or the project simply be stopped. The neighborhood is behind the eight-ball if you proceed to a public hearing. Essentially, we now have to show that connectivity can be achieved without a sidewalk. Dean and Tracy basically say no way. I think the City should be required to show that this project as now envisioned complies with the Complete Streets Plan.

Plus, we probably would be limited to three minutes each at the public hearing, woefully insufficient for me to say what I would want to say. I suggest that such projects as this go through some sort of P&Z type process, either before that Complete Streets Advisory Committee or Subcommittee, or figure out some process where there can be extensive discussion before the P&Z Commission.

Sincerely,

Merlin L. Pfannkuch  
1424 Kellogg Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010-5447  
515-509-8148



## Dean Sayre

---

**From:** Patrick Hall <phall.chem@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2020 11:28 AM  
**To:** Dean Sayre  
**Cc:** Katie Bauer; Tracy Warner  
**Subject:** Re: 14th and 15th Street Update

Dean,  
Thank you very much for your response. We are relieved to hear this.  
Please let us know if any further input is needed.  
Best regards,  
Patrick

On Fri, Mar 20, 2020 at 11:17 AM Dean Sayre <[dean.sayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dean.sayre@cityofames.org)> wrote:

Patrick and Katie,

Thank you for your input Patrick. During the City Council meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, the City Council directed us to add an addendum to the project that would include infill of sidewalk on at least one side of 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Street. This is different than the plan that was proposed at the open house. The addendum includes sidewalk on the South side of both 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Street. The awarding of the contract is being delayed to allow further discussion on the addendum and the sidewalk infill in general. Due to your mature trees and their locations in the ROW we are still not considering side walk adjacent to your property. The project that was bid included sidewalk infill adjacent to Bob Folkman's property. If you have any other questions or input let me know!

Thanks,

**Dean Sayre, P.E.**

*Civil Engineer II*

Office: 515.239.5277 | Fax: 515.239.5404

[dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org) | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

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**From:** Patrick Hall <[phall.chem@gmail.com](mailto:phall.chem@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2020 10:43 AM

**To:** Dean Sayre <[dean.sayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dean.sayre@cityofames.org)>; [tracywarner@cityofames.org](mailto:tracywarner@cityofames.org); Katie Bauer <[bauer.kat2@alumni.uwlax.edu](mailto:bauer.kat2@alumni.uwlax.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: 14th and 15th Street Update

Dean,

Thank you for the update and for hosting the open house.

As I stated in the open house and in multiple in-person meetings and phone calls with Hafiz, my wife and I are strongly against a sidewalk by our residence (1400 Burnett).

We have mature trees and would absolutely hate to lose them. They were professionally trimmed two years ago and the arborist said they are still in good condition and provide good shade on my house in the summer.

We recently completed an addition to our house and one of the biggest reasons we decided to add on and stay in the neighborhood was the mature trees. As my neighbor Bob stated (he attended the council meeting), we also get very little vehicle and foot traffic on 14th; maybe two dog walkers and vehicles of my neighbors that have garages in the alley.

Although we were unable to attend the city council meeting due to work, we watched the recording online. We realize the proposed plan has now been revised to include sidewalks on at least one side of the street (different from the open-house plan)? My last meeting with Hafiz (dealing with lingering issues with the water main project on Burnett) also confirmed this.

However, from our understanding, your team and the city will still not propose to install a sidewalk on the north side between Burnett and Kellogg on 14th street due to our trees? Is that correct?

Thank you very much for your time and for listening to our input.

Best regards,

Patrick and Katie Hall

1400 Burnett

515-708-6850

On Fri, Mar 20, 2020 at 8:41 AM Dean Sayre <[dean.sayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dean.sayre@cityofames.org)> wrote:

14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> St. Residents,

On March 24<sup>th</sup> the City Council will be presented the **report of bids only** for the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Street project **but will not consider award of the contract** for the project until April 28<sup>th</sup>. The awarding of the contract will be delayed as we plan to provide more time for City Council to consider public input on the infill of new sidewalk in your neighborhoods . We will work on determining how we can provide residents with a method for further input while continuing to practice social distancing. All input will be considered by City Council before deliberation of award of contract on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Please share this information with your neighbors who are not included in this email. We would appreciate if your neighbors would share their emails with us so we can keep open communication about the project.

Thank You,

**Dean Sayre, P.E.**

*Civil Engineer II*

Office: 515.239.5277 | Fax: 515.239.5404

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## Dean Sayre

---

**From:** Timothy K. Hinderks <hinderks850@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 3:57 PM  
**To:** jhaila@cityofames.org; gbetcher@cityofames.org; beatty-hansen@cityofames.org; acorrieri@cityofames.org; tgartin@cityofames.org; dmartin@cityofames.org; rjunck@cityofames.org; dleeson@cityofames.org; MARK LAMBERT; dvoss@cityofames.org; dsayre@cityofames.org; TRACY WARNER; kdiekmann@cityofames.org; Brett McLain; Pieter Maris; J. F. Sabl; debschildroth@cityofames.org; Kabongwe .; STEVE SCHAINKER; tracywarner@cityofames.org  
**Subject:** Please examine Complete Streets Plan--Item #22

Mayor Haila, Ames City Council and others involved with the 14th and 15th Street project.

I have received a couple of responses to my e-mail dated 3/23/2020 - regarding the proposed street and sidewalk project.15th

I appreciate the responses, but want to reinforce that not only do I not want to see sidewalk installed along the south side on my property at 1503 Douglas Ave. (15th Street), I am not in favor of or see the need for sidewalk to be installed along either side of 15th Street between Duff Avenue and Clark Street.

Please consider the view points of the taxpayers who own property along this street. Either postpone the street project or pull the sidewalk infill portion of the project from this proposal.

Thank you for your time reviewing this matter.

Sincerely,  
Tim Hinderks  
1503 Douglas Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010-5313  
515.290.1932  
[hinderks850@gmail.com](mailto:hinderks850@gmail.com)

## Dean Sayre

---

**From:** Merlin Pfannkuch <me2magic@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 21, 2020 1:42 PM  
**To:** JOHN HAILA  
**Cc:** jhaila@cityofames.org; gbetcher@cityofames.org; beatty-hansen@cityofames.org; acorrieri@cityofames.org; tgartin@cityofames.org; dmartin@cityofames.org; rjunck@cityofames.org; dleeson@cityofames.org; MARK LAMBERT; dvoss@cityofames.org; dsayre@cityofames.org; TRACY WARNER; kdiekmann@cityofames.org; Brett McLain; Pieter Maris; J. F. Sabl; debschildroth@cityofames.org; Kabongwe .; STEVE SCHAINKER; tracywarner@cityofames.org  
**Subject:** Re: Please examine Complete Streets Plan--Item #22 on March 24, 2020 agenda.

Mayor Haila,

Thanks for your prompt response.

I am not at all certain how bid procedures are handled regarding notice, but I suspect those procedures may be similar to how a hearing on an ordinance is handled.

As such, I think this item has been placed under hearings because notice was published that there would be a hearing on these bids

March 24. If so, the hearing has to be opened Tuesday and then continued until a later date if the hearing is to be held April 28. (Otherwise, it may be that notice would have to be given again, and maybe someone could argue that the bid procedure was not followed correctly.)

I seem to recall such a procedure for an ordinance or two over the years.

I would ask you to visit with Mark Lambert if it is not clear why I would like the motion on "connectivity" for between Douglas and Kellogg on 15th made on Feb. 25 rescinded at this point. It has to do with burdens of proof. If a hearing April 28 is held with the "connectivity" motion in place, then the neighbors basically have to prove that there is a way to achieve "connectivity" without a sidewalk. Sayre and Warner say basically there is no way this can be done. However, if the connectivity motion is rescinded, then the City must demonstrate that this project complies with the Complete Streets Plan.

In this instance, who bears the burden of proof is likely determinative of the outcome.

Sincerely,

merlin

|

On Saturday, March 21, 2020, 11:45:47 AM CDT, John Haila <jhaila@city.ames.ia.us> wrote:

Merlin,

I am uncertain why 22. is under Hearings. I discussed this with staff last Tuesday when we reviewed the draft agenda, and I expressed that it was not appropriate to be under "hearings". That was because staff was still working on arrangements to ensure the public could confidently express their opinion. I had recommended to staff to place this item under a "Public Works" heading and as "accept report of bids and delay award".

Given the events of this past week, staff being overwhelmed dealing with COVID-19 decisions, it is conceivable that this was inadvertently overlooked. Or it is possible that it has to be under this heading for some legal reason. I will review with staff on Monday and then respond back to you.

I gave you my word that you and your neighbors will be allowed to offer input, and in a way that is convenient (albeit it may need to be telephonic or by video), and timely so council clearly understands what is being said. I will abide by that assurance.

In the mean time, as mentioned in my previous email, you and your neighbors are free to continue to email council as you have and present your positions in writing.

John A. Haila  
Mayor, City of Ames

On Mar 21, 2020, at 10:40 AM, Merlin Pfannkuch <me2magic@yahoo.com> wrote:

Mayor Haila, Members of the Ames City Council, City Manager Steve Schainker, City Attorney Mark Lambert and others:

Could you please review the Complete Streets Plan somewhat. (Chapter 1, Overview and Policy will give you most of it.)

I believe what I (and others in the neighborhood) are advocating is that the Complete Streets Plan actually be used to evaluate whether sidewalks should be added as part of this project. It looks like selective memory on the part of both staff and council has led us to this current predicament.

I ask that council Tuesday simply remove sidewalks from this project, or stop the project altogether.

The council action forms of both Feb. 25 and for Tuesday both say that the plans were prepared following the Complete Streets Plan. Cost estimates including the "Complete Street features (in this case, infilling the sidewalk) . . ." Please forgive me if I am wrong, but on a quick read of the Complete Streets Plan I see no reference to infilling sidewalks.

Similarly, the Complete Streets Plan calls for many items and values to be considered for each project. Connectivity is one of those items, but it is not to be considered in isolation as the overriding value.

The Complete Streets Plan, in my view, calls for a somewhat holistic approach to design and planning, including some implementation procedures that have been adopted poorly, if at all.

Let me try to summarize what has happened so far.

This street resurfacing project has been in the CIP for years.

The Complete Streets Plan was adopted in October 2018.

Sometime around Thanksgiving 2019, Dean Sayre, new engineer hire in the Public Works Department, starts contacting property owners and residents in the neighborhood about the project. He loses essentially two weeks from the holidays. (Our household's only contact during this time is a phone call or two between Dean and my wife, Nancy Blyler. Nancy says we don't see a need for a sidewalk and don't want one . . . the sidewalk would damage our young trees and perennial gardens. She also says we would very much like for storm sewer intakes to be installed on the west side of 15th and Douglas.)

On Jan. 30, there is a public information meeting to show the plans. Maybe 10 folks attend. We are assured that staff will not recommend sidewalks where residents oppose them. (The map shown, however, later turns out not to be quite what all residents believed.)

This item is pulled from the consent agenda Feb. 25 by council member Gloria Betcher. Council is given misinformation from municipal engineer Tracy Warner. The council authorizes specs to go out for bids under the map, and there is a second motion from council member to achieve connectivity on at least one side of 15th between Douglas and Kellogg.

Since Feb. 25, Gloria, Mayor Haila and Steve have come out to discuss the situation. Steve and I talked for 45 minutes in the rain Thursday. Thanks, Steve. But whoever wrote the council action form for Tuesday gave more disinformation. Did you write or review this, Steve? If not, who did?

The start of the third paragraph of the CAC has been changed from Feb. 25, now giving a false misrepresentation about when these "public outreach sessions" occurred. The Feb. 25 form said only that residents were concerned about the removal of mature trees. Now the form says concerns also included storm water runoff, devaluation of properties, lack of traffic making walking in the street possible, etc. The way this process has been handled procedurally (and my main complaint) has meant that we never had a chance to express these concerns before the motion on Feb. 25 to achieve connectivity. Dean and/or Tracy never came out to talk on location with our household about the project until March 12. The point of their visit was to determine where a sidewalk would go. And they indicated mature trees were basically the only factor in where they had earlier recommended sidewalks, according to what Nancy said.

This project has been so bungled procedurally that I must insist that sidewalks be dropped from the project, or the project simply be stopped. The neighborhood is behind the eight-ball if you proceed to a public hearing. Essentially, we now have to show that connectivity can be achieved without a sidewalk. Dean and Tracy basically say no way. I think the City should be required to show that this project as now envisioned complies with the Complete Streets Plan.

Plus, we probably would be limited to three minutes each at the public hearing, woefully insufficient for me to say what I would want to say. I suggest that such projects as this go through some sort of P&Z type process, either before that Complete Streets Advisory Committee or Subcommittee, or figure out some process where there can be extensive discussion before the P&Z Commission.

Sincerely,

Merlin L. Pfannkuch  
1424 Kellogg Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010-5447  
515-509-8148

## Dean Sayre

---

**From:** J F Sabl <jfsabl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2020 1:46 PM  
**To:** Merlin Pfannkuch  
**Cc:** gbetcher@cityofames.org; jhaila@cityofames.org; tgartin@cityofames.org; acorrieri@cityofames.org; rjunck@cityofames.org; dleeson@cityofames.org; dmartin@cityofames.org; beatty-hansen@cityofames.org; schainker@cityofames.us; sschainker@cityofames.org; STEVE SCHAINKER; dvoss@cityofames.org; kdiekmann@cityofames.org; tracywarner@cityofames.org; dsayre@cityofames.org; TRACY WARNER; Brett McLain; Pieter Maris; Kabongwe .; MARK LAMBERT  
**Subject:** Re: Can we just stop sidewalks in view of coronavirus?

Dear City Council and neighbors and engineers;

We've been told (as expected) by the City's Civil Engineers, Mr. Sayre and Ms. Warner, that the block of 15th between Kellogg and Douglas can't have "on grade" (street level) sidewalks / shared use lanes, unless they're Protected (by curbs, poles, etc).

Slower overall speeds, which could negate the requirement for protection, are apparently not up for discussion. (Not sure why.)

Could you please remind us why it's not possible for the street repaving to be done in a way that removes a parking lane on the North side of the street, and changes that space to a raised (thus, not "on grade") shared use lane? It would completely meet both the letter and the intent of the proposal to create "continuity" from one end of the block to the other.

If the raised-grade "shared lane" is asphalt rather than cement, and on the North Side, where the sun hits, it will melt clear much faster in winter. It will also be less open to frost heave. I've seen this solution in other parts of the city, implying there's nothing in the code to ban it. I believe it could even be cleared by regular snowplows (raise the level of the blade by 6 inches, make a 2nd pass).

As to the loss of a parking lane: 15th between Kellogg and Douglas is a block with 5 houses total.

It has  $2 \times \sim 440 \text{ ft} = \sim 880 \text{ ft}$  of parking. That's over 170 feet per house. In functional terms, it's enough for every house to park 10 full size cars or trucks—or two semi trucks-with-trailer apiece—without even using their driveways (which they all have). Even ignoring that at least three of the current owners essentially never park on the street (as that can change) and that 4 of them are corner houses, that also have parking on either Douglas or Kellogg...surely half that space would be adequate, even if the needs and preferences of individual homeowners change.

Ecologically, making the conversion from flat asphalt to raised asphalt would leave us at parity, as far as paved vs porous surface. Favoring pavement over permeable surface and reducing tree cover is frankly a move in the wrong direction for a city that takes flood prevention seriously.

If raising part of the road during repaving is much more expensive than adding sidewalks, that would be a legitimate counterargument. But I'd like to hear that argument made (and supported).

In the name of reliable disability accommodations, we'd frankly also like to see the city move towards a setup where the city plows can help to make those paths more accessible after a snowstorm, rather than less accessible (as is the case currently). Homeowners have 24 hours after a storm to clear walks. The city responds much faster, for street clearing,



but often reburies cleared walks in the process, leaving wheelchair users blocked until the homeowner can re-clear (which can functionally mean 48 hours of inaccessibility, after storms).

Amicably, but with some frustration,

--Joy Sabl (and for Pieter Maris)

On Fri, Mar 13, 2020 at 12:50 PM Merlin Pfannkuch <[me2magic@yahoo.com](mailto:me2magic@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Mayor Haila and members of the Ames City Council:

Can we just stop sidewalks on 14th and 15th Streets for now in view of the shoddy way this has been handled by the City and in view of the coronavirus?

I know you can force sidewalks on us if that's what you want, but surely we deserve a decent chance to discuss this first, a chance that so far we have not been given. Don't you see that's why I'm so angry over this process?

Can you really save enough money by combining the street resurfacing with installing sidewalks to justify making our neighborhood feel like it has been bludgeoned? And no one knows how much actual work will get done this year anyway in view of the coronavirus.

On a personal level, I am at high risk, given that I am 71 with four chronic conditions. So I need to try to pull back from fighting this sidewalk until it is considered better . . . so I don't exhaust myself.

Yes, I know I get "hostile." I'm very concerned with process, and get angry quickly when I feel my sense of fair play has been violated. I felt that occurred when councilwoman Betcher pulled this item from the consent agenda Feb. 25.

I have been watching the video of that meeting in recent days, and am appalled at how municipal engineer Tracy Warner presented this to the council. She so mischaracterized what had occurred in discussions among staff and neighborhood residents up to that point that I am flabbergasted. And based on her misrepresentations, council seemed to feel justified in moving forward with connectivity/sidewalks.

Please watch this portion of Tracy's presentation up until councilwoman Betcher starts talking. It's only maybe a couple of minutes. Almost nothing in what Tracy says here was how this was presented to the neighborhood.

It's almost like neighbor Brett McLain said. It's like there was a Plan A and a Plan B. The neighbors were told Plan A. You were told Plan B. Is this an acceptable way for the City to treat its residents, who are also part of the City?

Let me cite what I think are some of the most egregious misrepresentations. Very soon in her presentation she says "There have been numerous public meetings." No, there was one meeting on Jan. 30.

She says something like we could have taken the approach of no sidewalks but this was not the approach taken where we can infill. What we were told at that Jan. 30 meeting was that staff would not recommend sidewalks where residents opposed them. I don't recall that the Complete Streets Program was even mentioned at the Jan. 30 meeting, let alone that this project had been analyzed under it.

She says that staff had gone out of their way to preserve large trees, even putting the sidewalk right along the curb in some areas.

There had been no discussion of exactly where a sidewalk might go before the Feb. 25 meeting, to my knowledge. The first I knew where one might go with certainty was yesterday (March 12) when Tracy and engineer Dean Sayre came out to talk to my wife Nancy Blyler and me.

As I had just again watched the video of the meeting, I blew up at Tracy.

It's almost as if Tracy, when she found out that the item was going to be pulled from the consent agenda, started preparing her remarks to make council feel justified in mandating connectivity/sidewalks. Maybe you should ask her what was going on . . . I'm at a loss. She may have been trying to move this project along so that the City could get a "good" bid for both the resurfacing and the sidewalks. (This is in large part the problem I've had for the last 28 years with city procedures . . . the process so often seems to be tainted to move something along in the direction believed desired by council. I don't believe, however, that I've ever seen such bald-faced misrepresentation.)

The only objection to sidewalks Tracy mentioned was the removal of large trees. If the neighbors had been asked Jan. 30 about other points about sidewalks, I believe the points would have been numerous. I would have mentioned the runoff problem we already have in the neighborhood, the difficulty with snow and ice removal on the south side in winter (our house shades much of the right of way), the lack of demonstrated need, destruction of aesthetics, and the probable destruction of some of our landscaping (smaller trees and perennial gardens). We no longer have large trees in the right of way -- our American elm died six or seven years ago and had to be taken down.

Dean Sayre was new in November, I'm told, and maybe this accounts for a good deal of the lack of discussion between staff and the neighborhood. Anyway, the only contact with Dean before the Jan. 30 meeting that I can recall was a phone call or two between Dean and Nancy. Nancy told Dean we were opposed to sidewalks, and pointed out the runoff problem, suggesting that storm sewer drains be installed on the west side of 15th and Douglas to hopefully help with the increased runoff these days.

Several neighbors attended the Jan. 30 meeting where we were assured staff would not recommend sidewalks where residents opposed them. The same map was presented then as at the Feb. 25 meeting. Since then, I have learned that the map was not accurate for two of the five homeowners between Kellogg and Burnett. (KB and Julia Kabongwe, 1429 Kellogg; Sherry Dickerson, 311 15th. However, as I read the specs, they specify a sidewalk to the north of KB and Julia, a sidewalk they did not approve.)

We were not asked what other thoughts we might have to about a sidewalk. So we didn't give them then. And we didn't have a chance to give them to council either before you voted for connectivity/sidewalks. Then you can't understand why we are upset?

I please ask you to delay sidewalks until this matter receives more deliberation. Would someone please motion for the project to not include sidewalks at this point. Your vote Feb. 25 was based on misrepresentations. More accurate information is essential or the neighborhood will feel forever like it was steamrolled. Surely saving maybe several thousand or more dollars from doing both resurfacing and sidewalks at the same time is not worth that. And, with the coronavirus, I don't think any of us should really spend more time on this at the moment.

Sincerely,

Merlin Pfannkuch  
1424 Kellogg Ave.  
515-509-8148

P.S. I also am perturbed at councilwoman Amber Corrieri. She said in this part of the Feb. 25 meeting that the neighborhood had been walked with several members of the neighborhood. I asked Amber for an explanation but received none. Gloria said she can only remember one other person on the north of downtown tour with a wheelchair, but she can't recall who it was.)

## Dean Sayre

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**From:** Dean Sayre  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:16 AM  
**To:** kabongwe .  
**Cc:** Julia Novotny  
**Subject:** Re: Sidewalk Project  
**Attachments:** Body291E0.gif; Body2C720.gif; Body2FC60.gif; Body33180.gif; IMAGE.1583846180292.PNG; IMAGE.1583846180294.PNG; IMAGE.1583846180295.PNG; IMAGE.508516347474.PNG

Thursday works for me! I will see you Thursday around 8:30. Let me know if anything changes.

Thanks,

## Dean Sayre, P.E.

*Civil Engineer II*

Office: 515.239.5277 | Fax: 515.239.5404

[dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org) | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

[www.CityofAmes.org](http://www.CityofAmes.org) | ~ Caring People ~ Quality Programs ~ Exceptional Service ~



-----"kabongwe ." <[kabongwe@gmail.com](mailto:kabongwe@gmail.com)> wrote: -----

To: "Dean Sayre" <[DSayre@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:DSayre@city.ames.ia.us)>  
From: "kabongwe ." <[kabongwe@gmail.com](mailto:kabongwe@gmail.com)>  
Date: 03/10/2020 07:46AM  
Cc: "Julia Novotny" <[jnovotny949@gmail.com](mailto:jnovotny949@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Re: Sidewalk Project

Dean, I can meet you between 8am and 9am on Thursday or Friday at the same time. Do either of those days work for you?

On Fri, Mar 6, 2020, 9:37 AM Dean Sayre <[DSayre@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:DSayre@city.ames.ia.us)> wrote:  
Good Morning KB and Julia,

With the current plans out for bid there will be sidewalk infill at you location but it will **not** result in the removal of your tree. We have been directed by the City Council to issue an addendum to infill sidewalk on at least one side of the street for this project. This addendum will be completed before the March 10th council meeting. We are doing our best to avoid tree removal by placing the sidewalk on the south side of 15th street and trying to work with property owners to determine sidewalk locations that will have a minimum impact on our trees. I have also been out with our City Forester inspecting several of the trees on this project. The City of Ames has adopted a Complete Streets Policy that is intended to increase the connectivity and safety for all modes of transportation including

pedestrians. The Complete Streets Policy can be found at the following link. <https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/public-works/traffic/complete-streets> Would you be available on March 12th at 4pm to meet at your property and discuss the sidewalk location and your concerns?

Thank you,

**Dean Sayre, P.E.**

*Civil Engineer II*

Office: 515.239.5277 | Fax: 515.239.5404

[dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org) | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

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-----"kabongwe ." <[kabongwe@gmail.com](mailto:kabongwe@gmail.com)> wrote: -----

To: "[dsayre@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:dsayre@city.ames.ia.us)" <[dsayre@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:dsayre@city.ames.ia.us)>

From: "kabongwe ." <[kabongwe@gmail.com](mailto:kabongwe@gmail.com)>

Date: 03/06/2020 12:20AM

Cc: "Julia Gwebu" <[jnovotny949@gmail.com](mailto:jnovotny949@gmail.com)>

Subject: Re: Sidewalk Project

Greetings Dean,

As I previously expressed during our previous phone conversation, I am deeply concerned with and opposed to the city's current plan to place a sidewalk on our property-1429 Kellogg Ave. My concerns largely center on the impact of devaluation of property value and damage to the ecosystem services that the removal of one of the last surviving trees on our property will have. This concern is grounded in both anecdotal information we've heard from friends and family looking at buying houses, as well as empirical peer reviewed scholarship from respected academic journals such as the Ecological Economic. Consequently, the rationale outlined in your last email of our family having to accept the proposed plan which we certainly anticipate to have adverse impacts on property value and ecosystem services, is unacceptable. Our concerns are exacerbated by the fact that no alternate solutions or additional rationale has been shared and/or discussed with us for our consideration regarding this project, again- especially given the currently proposed plan's adverse impact on our property and living situation.

Unfortunately, our work schedules are set far in advance given our busy jobs, therefore we are not available to meet on such short notice-specifically tomorrow or Monday. Nonetheless, we hope our frustration and disappointment with the haphazardness and exclusionary approach the city/council has taken to make this decisions which negatively impacts our property and lifestyle is unequivocally clear. We propose that additional time be spent exploring other options for this project. It is worth noting that our neighbors, who will also be impacted by this project, are against advancing this project without exploring alternate options. Moving forward, we would like to have more advanced notice to work with you or the city/city council members to find a time that is conducive and sensitive to our work schedules for us to talk face to face on alternate solutions. With more

advanced planning we can identify a time and date that works. Additionally, can we please get written information on the impetus behind this project as well as what alternatives have been discussed to meeting the goals of the project?

We look forward to identifying a time later next week (our schedules opens up later in the afternoons after Wednesday) to work more collaboratively on a solution that will be equitable to all parties involved/impacted by this project

Regards,

KB and a Julia Gwebu

On Thu, Mar 5, 2020 at 15:00 Julia Gwebu <[jnovotny949@gmail.com](mailto:jnovotny949@gmail.com)> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dean Sayre** <[DSayre@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:DSayre@city.ames.ia.us)>

Date: Thu, Mar 5, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Subject: Re: Sidewalk Project

To: Julia Gwebu <[jnovotny949@gmail.com](mailto:jnovotny949@gmail.com)>

Hello Julia,

You were not noted as approved for the sidewalk project but the construction plans that went out for bid did include sidewalk on your block. We were able to move the side walk to the back of curb at the location of your tree along 15th St. Since this was the only tree to be impacted on the block sidewalk was left here for the final design. I apologize for not reaching back out to you to inform you of this. The city council has directed us to have sidewalk on at least one side of both 14th and 15th St. Due to the impact on trees this will most likely be on the South side of both streets. I would like to set up a time to meet you at your property and discuss the location of the new sidewalk. Would you be available this Friday 3/6/20 after 2pm or Monday 3/9/20 morning?

Thank you,

**Dean Sayre, P.E.**

*Civil Engineer II*

Office: 515.239.5277 | Fax: 515.239.5404

[dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org) | City Hall, [515 Clark Avenue](https://www.cityofames.org) | Ames, IA 50010

[www.CityofAmes.org](https://www.cityofames.org) | ~ Caring People ~ Quality Programs ~ Exceptional Service ~



-----"Julia Gwebu" <[jnovotny949@gmail.com](mailto:jnovotny949@gmail.com)> wrote: -----

To: [dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org)

From: "Julia Gwebu" <[jnovotny949@gmail.com](mailto:jnovotny949@gmail.com)>

Date: 03/02/2020 11:37AM

Subject: Sidewalk Project

Hello Dean,

I just sent an email to city council but they suggested I follow up with you directly. This is what I sent to city council.

I am writing regarding the newly proposed sidewalk project down 15th street. My husband and I live at 1429 Kellogg ave, the corner of 15th street and Kellogg. My husband called Dean after his card was left in our door and expressed his disapproval of this project. It came as a surprise when our neighbor, Merlin, said we were on the list of people who were in favor of this project at a city council meeting. We are not in favor of this sidewalk project and would like that be reflected in whatever notes/ votes you are taking. Please let me know if something else needs to be done to make this change.

Thank you,

Julia and KB Gwebu

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Kabongwe M Gwebu

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## Dean Sayre

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**From:** Brett McLain  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2020 3:43 PM  
**To:** Merlin Pfannkuch; Joy McLain  
**Cc:** John Haila; gbetcher@cityofames.org; tgartin@cityofames.org; David Martin; rjunck@cityofames.org; beatty-hansen@cityofames.org; acorrieri@cityofames.org; dleeson@cityofames.org; Steve Schainker; dvoss@cityofames.org; kdiekmann@cityofames.org; tracywarner@cityofames.org; dsayre@cityofames.org; jfsabl@gmail.com; Pieter Maris  
**Subject:** Re: Please slow down on 14th/15th Street project

Ames City Mayor Haila, Ames City Council and staff.

Mayor, Council or staff Please communicate with us your thoughts....

First of all thanks abunch Merlin for your email.

I totally agree with Merlin we should slow down and get everyone that has concerns and questions an opportunity to meet about this surprise sidewalk on 15th.

Putting a sidewalk in won't fix anything because there isn't a problem now. Right??

Last Tuesday night at 4:45 pm was the first I learned about this surprise sidewalk when city staff called me. I would of attend the meeting last Tuesday if it wasn't such short notice.

So at this point I am totally confused about how the city process works for something like this.

Good day.

Brett McLain, retired US Navy  
1431 Douglas Ave  
Ames, Ia 50010.

On Fri, Feb 28, 2020, 10:02 AM Merlin Pfannkuch <[me2magic@yahoo.com](mailto:me2magic@yahoo.com)> wrote:  
Mayor Haila and members of the Ames City Council, selected city staff and some neighbors,

This is a followup to my e-mail of Wednesday. So far council members Tim Gartin, Gloria Betcher and David Martin have responded. I now have a few additional items, questions. Steve Schainker . . . would you and would you please direct staff to answer my questions as appropriate.

I asked at the meeting for council members to say specifically whether they had been out to look at the neighborhood regarding sidewalks/connectivity. What I think I heard was that some of you had been, and I think it was mentioned that the neighborhood had been walked with some neighbors. From Betcher's response, she and council members Amber Corrieri and Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen walked the neighborhoods north of downtown at some point, but she didn't

mention that neighbors were involved.

I remain deeply disappointed that none of the long-term residents seem to have been involved in discussions with council until after the decision largely already had been made. The long-term residents certainly know the neighborhood better than anyone with the city, and we certainly should have been given a better opportunity to engage you face-to-face Tuesday.

Do any of you happen to remember Ken Anderson/Andersen, a wheelchair bound man who lived on O'Neill St., east of Duff? He ran for city council one time, probably about 20 or so years ago. He died maybe a decade ago. Ken fairly often in good weather would go past our house with his wheelchair on the street en route downtown. He must have found our street quite safe.

At this time, children en route to Meeker seem to exclusively use either Douglas or Burnett. A factor here is that Kellogg T's at 16th. I wouldn't expect this to change anytime in the future, except possibly for children who eventually live north of 13th on Kellogg. There is relatively little foot traffic between Burnett and Douglas on 15th. Dog walkers and middle schoolers getting on the bus are the main ones. (So the school system also must think 15th is pretty safe, since that's where they pick up the neighborhood children.)

Another question I have: What existing neighborhoods have been "forced" to install sidewalks, if any? I can't recall any . . . would this be the first time?

If you proceed with the plans approved Tuesday, can the neighborhood have the city's best "expert" on trails/paths/walking involved in determining how connectivity can be achieved? This can become quite an expensive project. Is my understanding (it is not very good at this point) that the taxpayers will absorb all costs rather than individual property owners correct?

How soon will plans have to be definite? Giving us only a few weeks seems insufficient. If the City has to get this project out for bids quickly, the City only has itself to blame for the situation you have created. Is there a bonafide reason why this project couldn't be delayed a year?

Sincerely,  
Merlin L. Pfannkuch  
1424 Kellogg Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010  
515-509-8148

On Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 06:31:52 AM CST, Merlin Pfannkuch <[me2magic@yahoo.com](mailto:me2magic@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Mayor Haila and members of the Ames City Council:

Please slow down on the 14th/15th Street Asphalt Street Pavement Improvement project, perhaps for a year if necessary. You are letting the desire to get this project bid quickly start down



a path that may lead to lifelong disgruntlement of some residents toward the city and long-lasting ill will among neighbors.

I find it ironic that at the same time Mayor Haila (and apparently some others in the city) are trying to figure out better ways to communicate with our residents and to improve city processes that you are providing a perfect bad example.

And I find it highly disturbing that no council member except Tim Gartin seemed to find anything wrong with the process that developed Tuesday night.

Council member Gloria Betcher said something like "Merlin, this isn't underhanded. This is just what we do when we pull something from the consent agenda."

I suggest that therein lies the problem. This is just your usual way of operating in such instances. And it's simply crappy.

As far as I know, there was only one meeting for affected residents -- on Jan. 30. (Tracy Warner would you give us the dates of other meetings and some detail . . . like who was invited, who came, topic.) . Warner and Dean Sayre reviewed the plans, answered questions,. At no point, to my knowledge, did either suggest that council may have other ideas than what they were recommending.

I was not aware that this was even on the agenda until Sayre called me about 4:45 Tuesday and said something like this item was going to be pulled from the consent agenda, and putting a sidewalk on the south side of 15th St. between Kellogg and Douglas was being considered. Warner said after the meeting that they had just learned about 4 pm that this was being pulled from the consent agenda. (I'm pretty sure my neighbor Brett McLain, 1431 Douglas, would have come to the meeting as well, but his father's car broke down and he had to take him back to Marshalltown. I don't know who else Sayre may have reached.)

Then, Betcher motioned to the effect that there will be at least one sidewalk everywhere in this area, with staff to work with neighbors to achieve this. Again, only Gartin disagreed, as far as I could tell. This is just great . . . pit neighbor against neighbor with the staff in the middle. That hardly seems fair to staff . . . you were elected to make the decisions after all. It seemed that the rest of you are not very concerned with process, perhaps since you are likely to vote for this anyway in the end.

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Frankly, the way council handled this quite easily suggests there was some pre-council communication among council members.

I'm especially perturbed at council member Betcher. She is our ward 1 council member. Did she ever reach out to see what these residents have to say before she made the motions and got off on connectivity? She appeared not to understand the disaster that the council effort to require sidewalks almost 15 years ago was. Rather she cited that council had adopted a policy of mandatory sidewalks on both sides. Can anyone tell me (Steve Schainker perhaps) whether this is still policy and, if so, cite examples where it has been enforced over objections.

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In sum, I think you should apologize to the neighborhood for the heavy-handed way this was handled. And please delay this project until the process is more reasonable. Lots of projects get delayed. Why, the monies for the east industrial area were approved four years ago.

Sincerely,

Merlin L. Pfannkuch  
1424 Kellogg Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010-5447  
515-509-8148

## Dean Sayre

---

**From:** J F Sabl  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2020 5:09 PM  
**To:** GLORIA BETCHER  
**Cc:** Brett McLain; Pieter Maris; John Haila; gbetcher@cityofames.org; tgartin@cityofames.org; David Martin; rjunck@cityofames.org; beatty-hansen@cityofames.org; acorrieri@cityofames.org; dleeson@cityofames.org; Steve Schainker; Tracy Warner; Dean Sayre; John C Joiner; Merlin Pfannkuch  
**Subject:** Re: Please slow down on 14th/15th Street project  
**Attachments:** Body60420.gif; Body638E0.gif; Body66D60.gif; Body6A1E0.gif; 20200130\_170710.JPG; 20200130\_170705.JPG; 20200227\_083648.JPG; IMAGE.713299125794.PNG

Dear Gloria (and council members all);

The sidewalk proposal as presented to the public emphatically did not include new sidewalks on our block of 15th, nor several other blocks (as Merlin knows, because he was at the meeting, as were Pieter and I).

Multiple people brought up the issue, saying that they had shown up specifically to make sure that sidewalks on their blocks were not part of the proposal.

Pieter and I asked, not once but twice, whether the new procedure of having the city pay for sidewalks instead of billing homeowners was so that the city could force people to accept sidewalks on their property.

(As you may remember, the most effective way that individual property holders successfully refused to install sidewalks or let the city install sidewalks, was to refuse to pay.)

We were explicitly told that no such intention had been discussed nor would such a thing ever be considered, as City Planning "is not in the business of making residents miserable."

It appears that City Council has instead taken that job upon themselves.

I suppose if Ames does not have a petition-based procedure to trigger recall elections, our council can pull stunts like this with relative impunity. You are all therefore probably under the impression that this is normal (?).

However, simply because you can

a) waste hours of your Planning Department's time creating lovely detailed plans that prioritize things like actual usage, runoff management, Green Space preservation, and maintaining cooling tree canopy (that you then ignore);

b) have your planning department present this misleading information (snapshots attached)

along with false reassurances;

c) waste your constituents' time, by having them come in to comment on those plans;

d) ignore property owners' and residents' stated preferences, as expressed in those meetings

and

e) fail to recontact those residents who signed in at the meeting and left multiple forms of contact information, letting them know that a wildly different plan was before the council

doesn't mean you should.

Your planners know that north-facing yards with houses close to the road (like Merlin and Nancy's yard) stay icy and frozen. (Terrible place to put a sidewalk! See picture; bulbs up in our yard, snow lingering for weeks in theirs). Your planners know that the older neighborhoods of Ames have a vast excess of paved and asphalt (non - permeable) surface, relative to population and traffic. Your planners understand the role of trees in controlling flooding and runoff. They take time squaring declared goals with actual local needs.

In short, they are professionals who should be allowed to do their job competently, without well-meaning but ham-handed interference from people who outrank them in power, but not in knowledge.

Please reopen the issue. Merlin and Nancy walk miles, every day. Pieter and I walk and bike. Brett and (other) Joy walk their dog and bike. We're all telling you that this isn't a NIMBY complaint; it'd be a terrible idea to stuff a sidewalk here even if we all lived on another block.

We and others on the block would be happy to give up a Parking Lane, so that you can repurpose underutilized asphalt for "shared use." Put a recessed cane "tap strip" in the street, repost it for lower speed, and you will be just as Compliant, far Greener, and provide a much better walking experience, for a fraction of the cost.

--Joy F Sabl, Ph.D.

(Spouse, Pieter Maris Ph.D., Physics Faculty)

1502 Kellogg Ave, Ames

On Fri, Feb 28, 2020, 12:50 PM Merlin Pfannkuch <[me2magic@yahoo.com](mailto:me2magic@yahoo.com)> wrote:

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Gloria J Betcher <[gbetcher@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:gbetcher@city.ames.ia.us)>

**To:** Merlin Pfannkuch <[me2magic@yahoo.com](mailto:me2magic@yahoo.com)>

**Cc:** John Haila <[jhaila@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:jhaila@city.ames.ia.us)>; [gbetcher@cityofames.org](mailto:gbetcher@cityofames.org) <[gbetcher@cityofames.org](mailto:gbetcher@cityofames.org)>; [tgartin@cityofames.org](mailto:tgartin@cityofames.org) <[tgartin@cityofames.org](mailto:tgartin@cityofames.org)>; David Martin <[dmartin@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:dmartin@city.ames.ia.us)>; [rjunck@cityofames.org](mailto:rjunck@cityofames.org) <[rjunck@cityofames.org](mailto:rjunck@cityofames.org)>; [beatty-hansen@cityofames.org](mailto:beatty-hansen@cityofames.org) <[beatty-hansen@cityofames.org](mailto:beatty-hansen@cityofames.org)>; [acorrieri@cityofames.org](mailto:acorrieri@cityofames.org) <[acorrieri@cityofames.org](mailto:acorrieri@cityofames.org)>; [dleeson@cityofames.org](mailto:dleeson@cityofames.org) <[dleeson@cityofames.org](mailto:dleeson@cityofames.org)>; Steve Schainker <[sschainker@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:sschainker@city.ames.ia.us)>; Tracy Warner <[twarner@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:twarner@city.ames.ia.us)>; Dean Sayre <[dsayre@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:dsayre@city.ames.ia.us)>; John C Joiner <[jjoiner@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:jjoiner@city.ames.ia.us)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 05:34:30 PM CST

**Subject:** Re: Please slow down on 14th/15th Street project  
Merlin,

Let me begin by apologizing for getting heated in my response to your input. It was inappropriate for me to have engaged with you during public input, and I'm sorry. I've also been in touch individually with Brett McClain about his concerns.

You're right that I didn't reach out to affected homeowners on this hot-button issue, but it wasn't because I was trying to slip this past residents. I didn't realize sidewalks were involved in this project until I read the staff report in the Council packet Sunday night. The residents of the affected blocks of 14th and 15th Streets actually knew about the specifics of this project before I did because staff conducts the outreach process on projects; Council isn't involved in that process. So, while it's my job to represent you and all residents of Ward 1, it's staff's job to conduct outreach on Public Works projects and report to Council the results of that outreach, which they did. On the consent agenda, the item was simply listed as "Resolution approving preliminary plans and specifications for 2019/20 Asphalt Street Pavement Improvements (14th Street and 15th Street); setting March 18, 2020, as bid due date and March 24, 2020, as the date of public hearing," which indicated nothing about sidewalks. In this case, when I had read the staff report and realized that this bidding would involve sidewalks, I let the City Manager know on Monday that I had questions about ADA compliance and sidewalk infill. He passed my questions on to staff to address, and I received that requested information at the Council meeting. In the meantime, judging by what I have since learned, staff phoned affected property owners to let them know that the item would likely be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. So, the process was followed as intended, as I observed at the meeting, and staff did their jobs well throughout the process. There was no communication among Council members to line up votes for this in advance of the meeting.

I asked to have the item pulled from the consent agenda because the staff report didn't address ADA compliance, focusing instead on removal of mature trees and Complete Streets costs that were above 22% of the proposed project. This is one of our first tests of the 22% cost rule, and it will no doubt bear further discussion, since the issue here for me wasn't project cost but, rather, resident accessibility to sidewalks. The staff provided us with the resident input from the outreach meeting held on January 30th, at which, as I understand it, the project was presented with the possibility of sidewalks on either or both sides of the street and residents were asked if they wanted those sidewalks. Staff did a good job reflecting the input from property owners, many of

whom (no names or addresses specified) were against sidewalks because of mature trees in the areas where the sidewalk infill would need to occur. The staff recommended no sidewalks because of that input and because adding them to the project exceeded the 22% cost rule. (Incidentally, you can find the entire adopted Complete Streets Plan under Traffic on the Public Works portion of the City's website at <https://www.cityofames.org/government/departments-divisions-i-z/public-works/traffic/complete-streets>, and if you need access to any plan in the future, the search box on the website is very helpful for quick access.)

Sidewalks in older neighborhoods have been an issue since I've been on Council and, obviously, were a huge concern about 15 years ago when the City considered mandating sidewalk infill projects any place no sidewalks existed, as you note. That initiative, as you know, was not pursued by Council, but it's always in the background of projects that involve potential sidewalk infill. Had I been on Council at the time this plan was considered, I would have voted against it, not because I don't think we need sidewalks, but because it wasn't an incremental approach: too much, too quickly, for too many residents at a high cost to property owners. On the other hand, I would have supported and do, now, support incrementally making improvements to the sidewalk infrastructure. We've changed as a community in the last 15 years and are more aware now of what it takes to enable all residents to enjoy a high quality of life. Last night, Council voted to set as one of our values that "We value a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community." Accessibility to and around neighborhoods is one aspect of that equity, inclusion, and quality of life. So, in cases like that of 14th and 15th Street, where the City can make incremental changes to ensure connectivity as we complete road projects, I'm in favor of that move. Note that, last night, I asked that we complete the connectivity of sidewalks on only one side of the street (side to be determined by staff in conjunction with property owners) so that a pedestrian could choose to use the side with safe, complete sidewalks or the side which would require walking in the street. You characterize this as putting staff between neighbors and pitting neighbor against neighbor. I doubt that mandating sidewalks on both sides of the street to avoid this strife would have met with a more favorable outcome, regardless of how much outreach were done, but maybe I'm wrong. Last night we also took action on a similar infill project to require that a shared-use path be added at 1305 Dickinson to complete the shared-use path infrastructure on at least one side of Mortensen, so that residents had a connected path from South Dakota to the west.

In 2018, Council became aware of the 14th Street sidewalk infill issue because we had an ADA request for sidewalk infill in the area, which we complied with in 2019, so that a resident of the area who is blind would not have to walk in the street. We took additional input on sidewalks on that street during the decision-making process in 2019. We learned from input on that ADA request that the individual making the request had already been hit by a car once while walking in the street where no sidewalk was available in the neighborhood. I had to ask myself why we were forcing anyone to walk in the street--whether they lived in the neighborhood or were just passing through, whether in need of ADA accommodation or not--when we could be addressing the problem by adding missing infrastructure on one side of the street.

Since I've been on Council, I've heard from residents of Ward 1 who walk dogs or push kids in

strollers, from residents who have short-term and long-term mobility challenges (like a broken foot or a need to use a walker, wheelchair, or knee scooter, for example), and from mobility and Complete Streets advocates. Bronwyn, Amber, and I have all been out for a walk-around in the neighborhoods north of downtown, doing a walking audit, looking for accessibility and safety issues, especially around Meeker school, and some of us have tried to navigate parts of the neighborhood in a wheelchair, which is no easy task. We are well aware of the challenges our older neighborhoods pose for those who have difficulties navigating these areas for one reason or another. We've also heard from those who love the trees in the right-of-way in front of their properties, residents who don't want to pay to install sidewalks, and those who want to continue having a leafy, beautiful area with no sidewalks or the maintenance work and expense that comes with them. As your ward representative, I have to take all of this input, from both sides of the issue, and do what I think is best for the community, rather than for individuals. That's my job, too. It's not an easy one, as you know. Last night, the process for working through what's best in this situation was accelerated by the need to bid the project while we could still get competitive responses to a request for quotations. Yes, lots of projects get delayed, and we see all too often the inflated price quotes the City receives because of a poorly timed bid letting.

More outreach on sidewalks from me would have been a much better choice for communication; I have no doubt of that. It would have allowed residents like you to feel that you had voiced concerns to me, rather than simply to City staff. All I can do is promise better attempts at outreach in the future to keep communication channels open. I appreciate your offer to arrange meetings with those currently affected as well as with others, as long as those meetings don't get in the way of staff doing their jobs in this case. Listening sessions would be helpful before future sidewalk infill projects hit the Council agenda. I'll look into likely infill projects in Ward 1 and also consider the best means to do additional outreach in all areas of the ward where such infill might occur. I'm sure that more infill opportunities will arise, and the neighborhoods north of downtown aren't the only ones with gaps in their sidewalk system. For what it's worth, I'm sure everyone on Council, before voting, took into consideration the staff report, property owners' position on the sidewalk infill in this case, and input received at the meeting, as well as previous discussions on sidewalk infill that we were aware of. The split vote indicates that we arrived at different decisions on what to do in this situation.

Please let me know if you want to help me achieve better communication with your neighborhood.

Best,

Gloria



**Gloria J. Betcher, PhD**

*City Council Representative Ward 1*

home 515.292.5177

[gbetcher@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:gbetcher@city.ames.ia.us) | City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue | Ames, IA 50010

[www.CityofAmes.org](http://www.CityofAmes.org) | ~ Caring People ~ Quality Programs ~ Exceptional Service ~

-----"Merlin Pfannkuch" <[me2magic@yahoo.com](mailto:me2magic@yahoo.com)> wrote: -----

To: "John Haila" <[jhaila@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:jhaila@city.ames.ia.us)>, "[gbetcher@cityofames.org](mailto:gbetcher@cityofames.org)" <[gbetcher@cityofames.org](mailto:gbetcher@cityofames.org)>, "[tgartin@cityofames.org](mailto:tgartin@cityofames.org)" <[tgartin@cityofames.org](mailto:tgartin@cityofames.org)>, "David Martin" <[dmartin@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:dmartin@city.ames.ia.us)>, "[rjunck@cityofames.org](mailto:rjunck@cityofames.org)" <[rjunck@cityofames.org](mailto:rjunck@cityofames.org)>, "[beatty-hansen@cityofames.org](mailto:beatty-hansen@cityofames.org)" <[beatty-hansen@cityofames.org](mailto:beatty-hansen@cityofames.org)>, "[acorrieri@cityofames.org](mailto:acorrieri@cityofames.org)" <[acorrieri@cityofames.org](mailto:acorrieri@cityofames.org)>, "[dleeson@cityofames.org](mailto:dleeson@cityofames.org)" <[dleeson@cityofames.org](mailto:dleeson@cityofames.org)>, "Steve Schainker" <[sschainker@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:sschainker@city.ames.ia.us)>, "[dvoss@cityofames.org](mailto:dvoss@cityofames.org)" <[dvoss@cityofames.org](mailto:dvoss@cityofames.org)>, "[kdiekmann@cityofames.org](mailto:kdiekmann@cityofames.org)" <[kdiekmann@cityofames.org](mailto:kdiekmann@cityofames.org)>, "[tracywarner@cityofames.org](mailto:tracywarner@cityofames.org)" <[tracywarner@cityofames.org](mailto:tracywarner@cityofames.org)>, "[dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org)" <[dsayre@cityofames.org](mailto:dsayre@cityofames.org)>, "Brett McLain" <[mclainbd@gmail.com](mailto:mclainbd@gmail.com)>

From: "Merlin Pfannkuch" <[me2magic@yahoo.com](mailto:me2magic@yahoo.com)>

Date: 02/26/2020 06:35AM

Subject: Please slow down on 14th/15th Street project

Mayor Haila and members of the Ames City Council:

Please slow down on the 14th/15th Street Asphalt Street Pavement Improvement project, perhaps for a year if necessary. You are letting the desire to get this project bid quickly start down a path that may lead to lifelong disgruntlement of some residents toward the city and long-lasting ill will among neighbors.

I find it ironic that at the same time Mayor Haila (and apparently some others in the city) are trying to figure out better ways to communicate with our residents and to improve city processes that you are providing a perfect bad example.

And I find it highly disturbing that no council member except Tim Gartin seemed to find anything wrong with the process that developed Tuesday night.



Council member Gloria Betcher said something like "Merlin, this isn't underhanded. This is just what we do when we pull something from the consent agenda."

I suggest that therein lies the problem. This is just your usual way of operating in such instances. And it's simply crappy.

As far as I know, there was only one meeting for affected residents -- on Jan. 30. (Tracy Warner would you give us the dates of other meetings and some detail . . . like who was invited, who came, topic.) . Warner and Dean Sayre reviewed the plans, answered questions,. At no point, to my knowledge, did either suggest that council may have other ideas than what they were recommending.

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Sincerely,

Merlin L. Pfannkuch  
1424 Kellogg Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010-5447

515-509-8148



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