

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: SUMMIT AVENUE SIDEWALK

BACKGROUND:

On January 26, 2010, City Council directed staff to look at the Summit Avenue area and to provide cost estimates on what would allow for safe pedestrian transportation from the area in question northward to the High School and safe pedestrian transportation to the new aquatic center. Three alternatives have been identified to address these needs.

Under **Option 1**, sidewalk would be installed in limited locations to provide a continuous connection throughout the area. This could be accomplished by placing sidewalk on the City owned portion of land between Summit Avenue and Ridgewood Avenue, installing a crosswalk to the west side of Summit Avenue, and placing sidewalk on portions of two private properties to connect to the existing sidewalk going north (see Figure 1). This option would provide sidewalk along Summit Avenue on at least one side for the entire length. As part of this option, the City would need to relocate a stop sign and stop bar slightly farther to the south to allow pedestrians to cross in front of stopped vehicles. This will not create any additional safety issues as the sight distance at this intersection would remain unchanged (see Figure 2).

The estimated cost of this option is \$16,750, including engineering and administration. This option would not include any costs for the stop sign or stop bar as that can be accomplished with City staff, and staff would also paint a crosswalk at this location. The location of the sidewalk on the City-owned property means that the City would be responsible for the cost of installing sidewalks in that location.

This option only has two private properties that would be affected. The breakdown of costs is shown below.

City Portion	\$ 13,780
1517 Summit Avenue	\$ 920
1523 Summit Avenue	\$ 2,050

There is the possibility of using Community Block Develop Grant (CDBG) funding if the private property owners at 1517 and 1523 Summit Avenue meet certain income guidelines. If used, this could be used to offset or reduce their assessments.

Under **Option 2**, sidewalks would be installed in accordance with the original sidewalk request from Mark Goodale, a resident on Summit Avenue. As shown in the staff report to City Council on January 26, 2010, completing the missing segments of sidewalk on

both sides of Summit Avenue would have an estimated cost of \$25,760. All of these costs would be borne by the adjacent private property owners.

Option 3 was also presented in the staff report of January 26, 2010, and entails completing the missing segments of sidewalk on both sides of all the streets in this neighborhood. This project has an estimated cost of \$60,670, which would all be borne by the adjacent private property owners.

All of these options would provide at least one continuous sidewalk connection from 16th Street through the neighborhood to the intersection of Ridgewood Avenue and 13th Street. This would provide a route for pedestrians from the neighborhoods south of 13th Street to access Ames High School. It could also utilize the signalized crossing on Ridgewood Avenue at 13th Street to access the shared use path leading to the Furman Aquatic Center. However, **it should be noted that citizens from this neighborhood are encouraged instead to use the off-street shared use path along the south side of Ames High School to access the new path to the aquatic center from the north.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Direct staff to design the project described under **Option 1** and initiate the special assessment procedure for public improvement to assess costs to the properties at 1517 and 1523 Summit Avenue for their portion, and to use project savings in General Obligation Bonds to cover the City portion of the cost.
2. Direct staff to design and construct the project described under **Option 1** to be funded entirely with project savings in General Obligation Bonds.
3. Direct staff to design the project described under **Option 2**, as requested by Mr. Goodale, and initiate the special assessment procedure for public improvements to assess costs to the private properties for their portions, and to use project savings in General Obligation Bonds to cover the City portion.
4. Direct staff to design the neighborhood-wide project described under **Option 3**, and initiate the special assessment procedure for public improvement to assess costs to the private properties for their portions, and to use project savings in General Obligation Bonds to cover the City portion.
5. Take no further action to install sidewalks in this area.

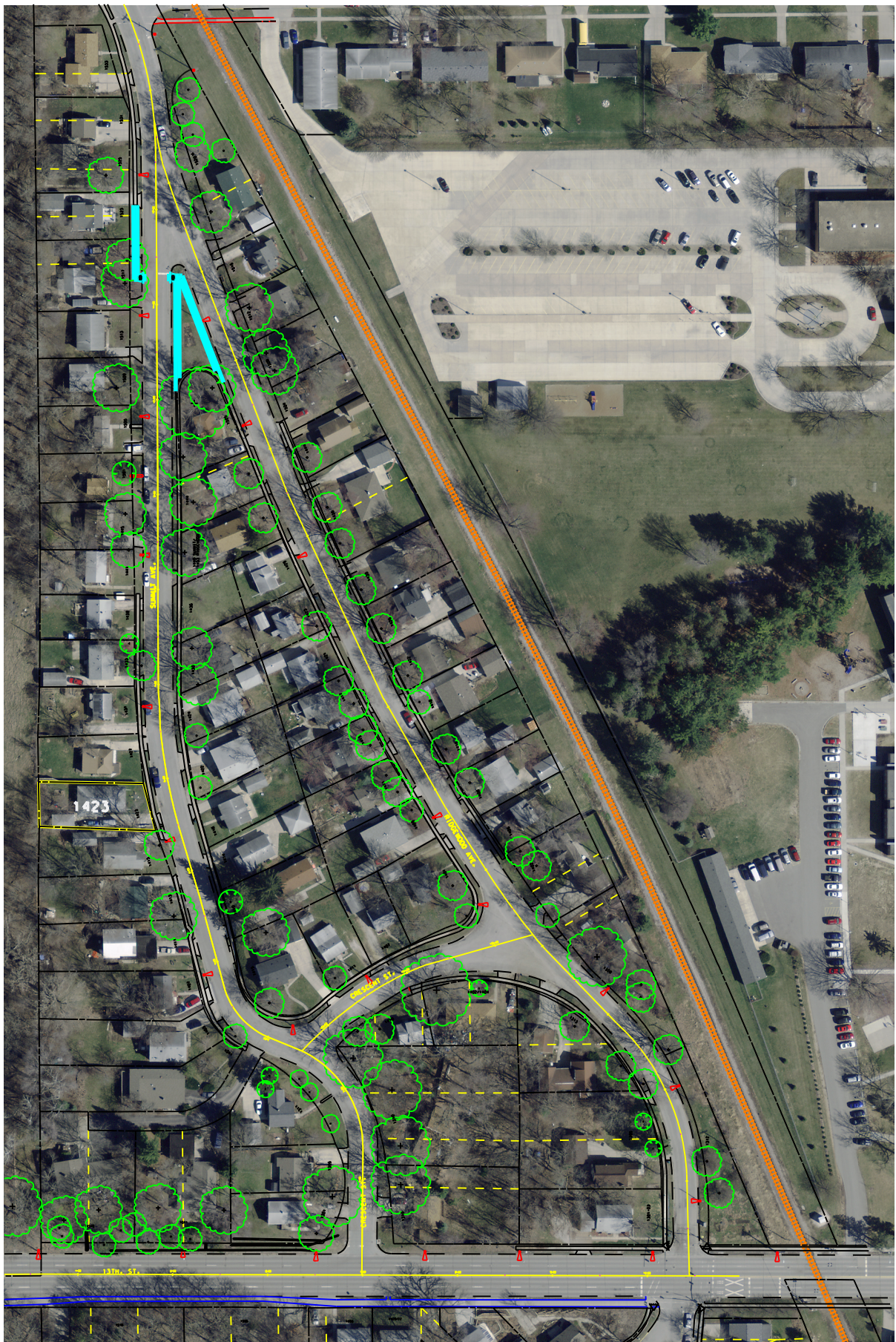
Under Alternatives 1-4, staff could also be directed to explore CDBG funding for affected private property owners to reduce or offset their assessments.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the City Council's current policy to pay the entire cost of a sidewalk infill when it is on an arterial street and part of the Safe Routes to School. The sidewalk in question does not meet the standards of that policy.

However, a resident of this area has approached the City requesting that sidewalks be provided so that he and other residents can safely access schools, churches and the new aquatic center.

Based on the direction given to staff on January 26, 2009 which seemed to indicate a preference to improve this pedestrian situation, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1. This alternative directs staff to proceed with the design and construction of the proposed sidewalk described under **Option 1**, to assess the owners of 1517 and 1523 Summit for their benefited portions, and to work with the affected private property owners to determine if CDBG funding could be used to reduce or offset their assessments. Further, the City cost of \$13,780 for constructing this sidewalk would be funded with savings from other General Obligation Bond projects.



LEGEND

- PROPOSED WALK
- EXISTING WALK
- SHARED USE PATH

SUMMIT/CRESCENT/RIDGEWOOD
SIDEWALK INFILL

