From:	Amelia Winfrey <winfreya23@gilbert.k12.ia.us>
Sent:	Monday, November 28, 2022 12:56 PM
To:	City Council and Mayor
Subject:	Ames/Gilbert Sidewalks

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Haila,

I hope this letter finds you well and willing to hear the voices of your constituents.
My name is Amelia Winfrey and I'm a senior at Gilbert High but reside in the northern part of Ames. I'm writing to you today concerning the safety and well-being of Ames and Gilbert pedestrians who attempt to walk and/or bike along George Washington Carver Ave. as well as W 190th street. Currently, sidewalks and bike paths line the remainder of the Northridge Heights neighborhood before cutting off near the Ames Country Club. Similarly, there are no sidewalks or paths anywhere along W 190th street, hindering Ames residents who attend Gilbert from safely completing the journey to Gilbert.

From George Washington Carver Ave. to Grand Ave., W 190th street stretches a total of 2 miles. I know there are many factors such as property and cost, but with both Gilbert and Ames growing every year, the two will eventually merge, forcing the city to build walkways anyways. Additionally, a huge part of the problem concerning the lack of sidewalks is that Ames kids whose parents have busy jobs and can't afford to drive their kid to school every day *need* an alternate option. Furthermore, even with running bus routes, kids are forced to know and ride their bus at the same time, meaning some kids can't participate in certain clubs and sports, and if a child misses the bus, they have no alternate option without assistance. One must remember some of Gilbert's families and students belong to the City of Ames; and its council has the responsibility of ensuring safe, reliable access to education for all its residents.

I hope the concerns addressed in this letter convince you to look further into the issue and hopefully give your city and its residents a new, safe form of transportation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amelia Winfrey