Connecting Our Community
Let’s Take a Walk: A Look at Sidewalks in Austin

City of Austin
Public Works Department

History: How Did We Get Here?

1990
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed into law

1995
City code updated; Sidewalk repairs are no longer landowner responsibility

1995-2012
Bond allocated funding for sidewalk construction and rehabilitation

2006
City of Austin sidewalk maintenance program initiated

2009
Sidewalk Master Plan adopted

2012
Transportation and Mobility Bond gives $25 million for sidewalks

2016
Sidewalk Master Plan update adopted

Sidewalk Program: Overview
The Public Works Department is responsible for building and repairing sidewalks all around Austin. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a driving factor in making sure that the right-of-way along our streets is safe and accessible for everyone.

State of the Sidewalks

DID YOU KNOW?

Public Works is currently responsible for 2,400 miles of existing sidewalks.

The City of Austin is missing 2,580 miles of sidewalks.

$1.64 billion is needed for construction and maintenance of new and existing sidewalks.

At the current funding rate, it will take 192 years to build and repair Austin’s sidewalk network.

While 20% of sidewalks are in good condition, 80% of existing sidewalks are in poor condition.

Approximately 40% of existing sidewalks have some type of overgrown vegetation blocking the pedestrian pathway.

How Are Sidewalks Funded?

• BOND FUNDS (PRIMARY)
• CAP METRO (INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT)
• SIDEWALK FEE-IN-LIEU
• GRANTS

How Are Sidewalks Built?

• STREET & BRIDGE OPERATIONS
• CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
• PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

THE BIG PICTURE
We want to encourage walking as a viable mode of transportation, improve pedestrian safety, and enable people to walk to and from transit stops.
2016 Sidewalk Master Plan

10 YEAR PLAN
• $250 MILLION

ADDRESS PRIORITY SIDEWALKS WITHIN 1/4 MILE OF SCHOOLS, BUS STOPS, AND PARKS
• 390 miles of new sidewalks
• Both sides of moderate-to-high capacity roads
• One side of residential streets
• Includes public and private schools

What does that look like? $25 million a year

IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN OUR EXISTING SIDEWALKS
• Inform the public on removing overgrown vegetation from sidewalks and roadways
• Provide stable and sufficient funding for repair and rehabilitation of existing sidewalks
• Assess condition of at least 10% of the existing sidewalk network annually

What does that look like? $15 million a year

How Sidewalks Help Us

Reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality

Keep pedestrians safe throughout the city

Keep our city connected & accessible

BENEFITS

• The average person will walk half a mile to their destination if there’s a safe path to get them there. Walkability is frequently cited as one of the most sought-after features in a neighborhood.

• By investing in a network of dedicated walking paths to make active transportation feasible, attractive and safe, sidewalks will connect families to healthy food, children to schools and people from all backgrounds to jobs, public transportation and economic opportunities.

Engage: Make a Difference

KNOW THE RIGHT OF WAY, CLEAR THE RIGHT OF WAY
Clearing overgrown brush and vegetation on your property makes sidewalks safe and accessible for all.
Learn more at austintexas.gov/cleartherow

GET INVOLVED
Be informed with local elections. Work with your elected mayor and council members. Join and engage in local government at City Hall by serving on a board or commission that is important to you.

LEARN MORE
The Sidewalk Master Plan and supporting City plans and policies are available through the Imagine Austin Plan and Complete Streets at austintexas.gov/sidewalks.

QUESTIONS?
Contact the Public Works Department at 512.974.7065 or dial 3-1-1 (out of area: 512.974.2000) to speak to an ambassador.

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