



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

Date: September 9, 2014

To: Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation and Public Works Committee

Referral to: Honorable John Quincy, Chair Ways & Means/Budget Committee

Subject: Sidewalk Replacement Due to Storm Damage

Recommendation:

- A. Authorize the City to repair sidewalk panel and curb and gutter damage caused by the June 14, 2014 storms without assessing the abutting property owners.
- B. Passage of a resolution the City to replace all sidewalk panels, curbs and gutters damaged by toppled or uprooted boulevard trees at no cost to the abutting property.

Previous Directives:

July 9, 2013: Directed Public works staff to develop a damage estimate for public sidewalks, curb and gutter and alley pavements damaged as result of severe storms on June 21, 2013 and direct staff to return with a proposal to fund repairs without assessing abutting property owners.

June 7, 2011: Directed Public Works to develop a damage estimate for public sidewalks, curb and gutter, and alley pavement damaged by the tornado in North Minneapolis. Create a proposal to fund those repairs without assessing abutting property owners.

September 14, 2009: Increase Public Works, Sidewalk budget 04100 9010939, project number SWK09005 by \$65,000.00 for replacement of sidewalk damaged by the 8-19-2009 storms. Reduce General Fund contingency appropriation, 0100 1230100 by \$65,000.00.

Department Information

Prepared by: Brette Hjelle, Director, Administration Division x2365

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenter in Committee: Brette Hjelle, Director, Administration Division x2365

Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): N/A
- Civil Rights Approval N/A
- Policy Review Group (PRG): N/A

Financial Impact

- Action is within current department budget
- Action is within the Business Plan
- Request provided to the Finance Department

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification: None
- City Goals
 - Great Places: Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected

Supporting Information

June 14, 2014 Storm

Severe thunderstorms hit Minneapolis on June 14, 2014. Significant straight-line winds caused damage to boulevard trees along the southern border of the city. An estimated 70 trees were toppled as a result of the storm and public sidewalk was damaged at six locations.

Sidewalks and curb and gutter are often damaged when boulevard trees fall. The standard sidewalk replacement process involves inspection, condemnation, and replacement with the costs of the work being assessed to the property owner. This can include curb and gutter sections as well.

It is the department's recommendation that the sidewalk and other replacement work associated with damage caused by the storm be paid for by the city and not assessed to abutting property owners. Sidewalk damage from this storm was limited to six locations. The estimated cost for repairs is \$6,500. Funds are available in the Sidewalk Repair and Replacement capital budget.

This recommendation is consistent with actions after the 2009 and 2011 tornados and the 2013 straight line-winds. Repairs after the 2009 tornado were funded by General Fund contingency. Repairs after the 2011 tornado and 2013 straight-line winds were funded by FEMA reimbursements.

Future Sidewalk Damage from Toppled Trees

Public Works is also recommending the City Council pass a resolution authorizing the city to replace all future repairs to sidewalk panels, curbs and gutters damaged by toppled or uprooted boulevard trees at no cost to the abutting property. Historically the city has taken stand-alone actions to fund sidewalk repair for moderate to significant storms. Most recently the city funded sidewalk repairs for the 2009 tornado from General Fund Contingency and repairs for the 2011 tornado and 2013 windstorm from FEMA funds. This resolution is also consistent with FEMA's desire that cities have a consistent policy related to sidewalk and curb and gutter repair.

The passage of this resolution will give Public Works the authority to use its competitively bid sidewalk contract to replace sidewalk and curb and gutters damaged by toppled or uprooted trees and charge the repairs to the Sidewalk Repair and Replacement capital budget (SWK01). This is an annual capital program and is funded with \$305,000 of Net Debt Bonds in 2014.

The department estimates the incremental cost increase of this recommendation to be \$6,000 to \$12,000 a year. This estimate accounts for 6 to 12 incidents where a tree topples and damages public sidewalks and/or curb and gutter. The estimate is inclusive of contractor mobilization charges and city overheads.

T&PW/W&M– Your Committees recommend passage of the accompanying Resolution approving Public Works to replace all sidewalks, curbs and gutters damaged by storms at no cost to the adjoining property.

Reich & Quincy

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, Public Works supports green space in the City of Minneapolis through the city strategic goal: *Great Places: Natural and Built spaces work together and our environment is protected* and

WHEREAS, Public Works wants to encourage boulevard trees and

WHEREAS, natural acts such as wind and storms can topple trees, resulting in damage to sidewalk and curb and gutter and

WHEREAS, adopting a consistent policy for the replacement of sidewalk and curb and gutter damaged by toppled trees is preferred by FEMA:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Minneapolis actively supports the replacement of sidewalks, curbs and gutters damaged by storms and other natural disasters at no expense to the abutting property owner.