

MOTION

The City's Sidewalk Repair Program is the primary means by which the City plans and conducts repairs to the City's sidewalk system. Over the past decade, much of the City's Sidewalk Repair Program has been dictated by the terms of the Willits Settlement which sets annual funding minimums for sidewalk repair work and by responding to resident complaints or trip-and-fall incidents. However, since the release of the City Controller's 2021 audit of the Sidewalk Repair Program, this Council has been taking action to review the City's policies for maintaining and repairing its network of sidewalks beyond the mandates of the Willits Settlement.

This Council has ordered a series of reports instructing bureaus and departments to report with recommendations to better implement the Willits Settlement, improve how the City prioritizes sidewalk repair projects, enhance sidewalk maintenance coordination with developers, property owners, and other public agencies, and ensure that accessibility improvements are incorporated into other City projects in the public right-of-way (C.F. 21-1469). The 2023-24 Fiscal Year Adopted Budget includes \$28 million in funding for addressing sidewalk repair needs above and beyond the funding required by the Willits Settlement. The City has also begun laying the groundwork to conduct an overall assessment of the condition of the City's sidewalk network to proactively make repairs (C.F. 21-1469-S1).

While the City is reviewing and updating sidewalk repair and maintenance policies, it is important that the City take action to expedite necessary repairs not imminently in the queue under the Sidewalk Repair Program. In the past, the City has explored the use of alternative sidewalk corrective measures, including the use of diamond cutting to level uneven sidewalks, to make spot repairs. The City has also funded a Risk and Liability Mitigation Program within the Bureau of Street Services to fund repairs for unsafe sidewalks outside of the Sidewalk Repair Program and the FY2023-24 Adopted Budget included \$1.2 million in funding for this work.

The City should deploy all available tools to improve the conditions of our sidewalks in the short- and long-term and should ensure it is making use of newer sidewalk repair methodologies which may have advantages over traditional asphalt spot repairs.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering, with the assistance of the Bureau of Street Services, be instructed to report with recommendations to use alternative sidewalk corrective measures, including diamond and precision concrete cutting, to address needed sidewalk repairs that are not currently scheduled for repair under the Sidewalk Repair Program.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



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