



500 West Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084
troymi.gov

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Date: April 16, 2020

To: Mark F. Miller, City Manager

From: Kurt Bovensiep, Public Works Director
Scott Carruthers, Operations Manager, Streets and Drains

Subject: Suspension of Sidewalk Replacement Program

History

Chapter 34.10 of the City of Troy Code states, "It is the duty of the owner to place said sidewalk or driveway approach in a safe condition". To satisfy the ordinance, the Streets and Drains Division inspects residential and commercial areas of the city and determines if the sidewalk is defected and requiring replacement. The City of Troy only accepts financial responsibility for the repair if the defect is caused by city infrastructure (manhole, City ROW tree). Abutting property owners are financially responsible for all other defects causing the sidewalk to be unsafe.

Sidewalk construction takes place in the spring and fall of each year, and property owners are given the choice to complete the work themselves, hire their own contractor or have the City contractor complete the work. Of the \$330,000 scheduled repairs for this spring, \$113,000 of it was to be the abutting residents' financial responsibility.

On March 11, 2020, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a State of Emergency, and has consequently issued the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive order which directed all non-essential people to stay home to help slow the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus. In the course of complying with the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order, some Troy property owners may have been negatively financially impacted.

Action

The City of Troy will suspend its Sidewalk Replacement Program until at least fall of 2020, in efforts not to contribute to any financial hardships residents may be facing at this time. City staff will continue to patch trip hazards in order to mitigate the risk of trip and fall incidents, and we will add those locations to the repair list. We will re-evaluate the situation in late summer to determine whether to continue the Sidewalk Replacement Program in the fall.