



Inter-Departmental Communication

Office of the City Auditor

Date: March 1, 2022
To: Councilman Lee Barnes
From: Douglas Jones, City Auditor 
Subject: City Council Direction to Prioritize Sidewalk Repairs and Replacement Near Schools

This is in response to your question about whether recent legislation (Resolution 211098) directing the city manager to prioritize sidewalk construction or replacement near schools using GO Bonds is consistent with the ballot language approved by voters in April 2017. To address your question, we reviewed legislation associated with the GO Bond and GOKc Sidewalk Program.

This memo does not constitute an audit under Government Auditing Standards.

Summary

The direction given by the City Council to prioritize sidewalk construction or replacement near schools using GO Bonds appears to be consistent with the GO Bond ballot language "...for the purpose of paying for the construction and reconstruction of streets, bridges, and sidewalks..." This direction is also consistent with past City Council direction related to prioritizing sidewalk inspection and repairs using GO Bond funds.

What We Found

Committee Substitute for Ordinance 160877, as Amended (passed 1/19/2017) included ballot language asking voters to approve the issuance of general obligation bonds not to exceed \$600 million for the purpose of paying for the construction and reconstruction of streets, bridges, and sidewalks. Voters approved the bonds in April 2017.

Committee Substitute for Resolution 160951 (adopted 1/19/2017) established the City Council's intent that a maximum of \$150 million of the \$600 million for the construction and reconstruction of streets, bridges, and sidewalks would be allocated to sidewalk projects. It also established the Council's agreement to develop a comprehensive plan that includes an assessment of needs throughout the different council districts in order to allocate the available funds. The final distribution of funds will be subject to Council adopting an ordinance that implements the comprehensive plan.

Committee Substitute for Resolution 170516 (adopted 8/10/2017) approved a systematic sidewalk program to prioritize inspection and repairs based on existing inventory and user demand as well as a prioritization methodology. Proximity to schools was one of the elements in the prioritization methodology.

Resolution 211098 (adopted 12/16/2021) directs the city manager to determine the number of schools within the city that do not have sidewalk access or have insufficient sidewalk access and to prioritize the construction or replacement of those sidewalks in the next phase of GO Bond projects.

cc: Mayor Quinton Lucas
Members of the City Council
Brian Platt, City Manager