

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

POSITION STATEMENTS & WRITTEN COMMENTS

PUBLIC FORUM

25-1171 Approve the recommendation establishing the 2026-2027 Annual New Sidewalk Program

WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY

1. **Robin Sipla (Naperville)** I live on the 1400 block of Webster Street. There is a proposal to add sidewalk on the east side of the street, which is the side my property is on. This proposal would cause undue hardship for me.

My side of the street has one section of sidewalk added where one house was redeveloped. There is a complete sidewalk on the west side of the 1400 block of Webster Street for everyone to use.

As a senior citizen, it is difficult to clear snow in the winter time. My property is the first driveway north of the 14th Ave & Webster St intersection. The snowplows distribute the ice/slush/snow mix from the intersection to a minimum of 4 feet up the end of my driveway. On the parkway the snow has easily piled 2-3 feet high during an average winter. In winters with more snow storms, the snow has piled up closer to 4 feet high on the parkway.

I have a snowblower, but it does not work well on the mixture of ice/slush from the street. At my age, it is a health hazard to try shoveling the snow by hand. On my limited income I cannot afford to pay a service to clear my driveway and a potential section of sidewalk. Unless the city is offering some form of help, I will not be able to keep a section of sidewalk cleared during the winter months.

2. **Michael Beran (Naperville)** 1. Has anyone on the Board actually visited in person the proposed sites? Things are different when you actually see, rather than look at a plat diagram. Victoria Court is, from what I've been told by some of our "old timers", either the very first cul de sac or one of the very first ones in Naperville. There are 8 houses in the cul de sac, the majority of those still being original. As such, that is a quite a bit of original or nearly original landscaping. Sidewalks would disrupt this landscaping. In addition it might do damage to tree roots on trees that have been in place for many years. This would open them to possible further damage by pests or weaken them enough so structural integrity is compromised. The possibility of a weakened tree could be having to replace it, at considerable cost to the homeowner. Or with the current issues of global warming cause it to be more easily blown over and cause damage to homes. As Victoria Ct is an old cul de sac and there haven't been sidewalks. East Highlands, developed originally by Harold Moser began in 1954. If the area, and specifically Victoria Ct has gone without sidewalks since then, it probably can do just as well without them for quite some time into the future.
2. Again, have you looked at the area? The proposed sidewalk on Victoria Ct would be a sidewalk to nowhere. Prairie Ave on the south side has no sidewalk from Brainard to at least Julian. There is a sidewalk on the north side of Prairie and it is often used. What's wrong with using that existing sidewalk as it is now? If a concern is for further safety you might be better adding a stop sign at the intersection of Loomis and Prairie. This would stop cars which don't have to now and would make the intersection safer, especially for

children, and the parents, who walk to the school.

3. Have you determined the environmental impact of a sidewalk? For a standard concrete sidewalk, emissions are roughly proportional to the amount of cement and concrete used. For example, a 4-inch thick sidewalk covering 100 sq ft uses about 1 cubic yard of concrete (approximately 4,000 pounds), resulting in about 3,720 pounds of CO₂ emissions for the concrete alone. How much CO₂ would you be putting into the environment? Naperville likes to “tout” itself as environmentally friendly. This isn’t the way to go about being environmentally friendly

4. Have you considered what the overall impact on the environment would be with removing landscaping, even grass? Removal of grass eliminates its natural carbon sequestration; even basic turfgrass absorbs some CO₂, though not nearly as much as diverse native vegetation. The construction process itself also uses energy-intensive machinery and may generate additional dust, debris, and waste materials that contribute to environmental harm. Lawns and landscaping cool the air relative to paved surfaces, help manage stormwater (by absorbing rainfall), and provide habitat for insects, beneficial microbes, and birds. Replacing permeable surfaces like grass with impervious concrete increases stormwater runoff, which can worsen local flooding and erosion, and reduce groundwater recharge. You recently put in a sidewalk all along the east side of Loomis from Highland to Prairie. Have you stopped at the intersection of Loomis and Porter since then? Even with some light rain a lake forms. There wasn’t a lake forming before the sidewalk went in. Landscaped areas can host diverse plantings (especially if native species are used), supporting much more biodiversity than concrete.

5. Did you know that it is generally not legal for a municipality in the United States, including Illinois, to count non-votes as “yes” votes when tallying the results of a formal vote on an issue? The voting practice used for the decision is therefore probably not legal. It clearly states on the letter sent regarding this issue that not voting is a “yes” vote. Most state laws, local government codes, and parliamentary procedures require that only actual votes cast—either “yes” or “no”—be counted, and abstentions or non-votes do not get interpreted as approval. In Illinois and most other states, municipal votes are governed by statutes (e.g., the Illinois Municipal Code) and parliamentary rules that require affirmative action to pass an ordinance, resolution, or motion. Non-voters, absentees, or those abstaining are not counted as supporting the measure; only “yes” votes are counted, and the majority is based on those present and voting. Counting non-votes as “yes” could be seen as disenfranchising voters and would likely violate principles of open government and transparency. Naperville likes to “tout” itself as being transparent. This doesn’t seem to match actions.

Please strongly consider the impact the proposed sidewalks would have on homeowners, their property and the overall environment in Naperville

3. **Christopher Werner (Naperville)** We respectfully oppose the proposed Sidewalk Gap Construction on Franklin Ave between Columbia St. and Julian St.
No Demonstrated Need: The houses on the south side of Franklin Avenue have existed for over 85 years without a sidewalk. The north side of Franklin already provides ample sidewalk access for pedestrian traffic, and pedestrian use of the south side is virtually nonexistent. In practical terms, this project does not address a demonstrated need. City resources would be better directed toward areas with genuine safety or accessibility concerns.
Concerns with the Property Owner Feedback Process: We wish to raise concerns about the process by which property owner input is evaluated. As we understand it, a project segment proceeds if fewer than two-thirds of adjacent property owners express

opposition. On Franklin Avenue, however, the segment in question includes only two adjacent property owners. This means that for the project to be reconsidered, effectively 100% of property owners must be opposed. Such a threshold is unreasonable and inequitable, as it gives a single property owner disproportionate influence. In this case, our formal opposition was nullified by only one neighbor, leaving us effectively without a voice in the process. This outcome undermines the intent of community consultation, particularly since the proposed project does not even have the support of a majority of adjacent property owners.

Impact on Property and Landscaping: The sidewalk construction threatens to cause significant damage to existing landscaping, mature trees, and our front brick walkway potentially amounting to thousands of dollars in losses. Existing tree root systems may be harmed. The construction would negate dozens of hours we have invested to beautify the streetscape and improve the character of the neighborhood. We have routinely received compliments from passersby on the appearance and attractiveness of the landscaping that would be destroyed. It is our understanding the City of Naperville would not provide compensation or assistance in repairing, relocating or replacing what would be destroyed. This project represents an undue burden on affected homeowners.

Inconsistencies in Project Scope: The exclusion of the gap segment between Julian Street and Huffman Street undermines the rationale for this project. A new sidewalk already exists for part of this stretch, yet the proposed construction stops short of connecting it. This omission makes the Columbia-to-Julian segment appear arbitrary and unnecessary, rather than part of a coherent plan to improve pedestrian safety or connectivity.

Conclusion: In light of the lack of demonstrated need, the inequities in the property owner feedback process, the likelihood of significant property damage without compensation, and the inconsistencies in project scope, we strongly urge the City to remove the proposed sidewalk gap construction on Franklin Avenue between Columbia St and Julian St from being a candidate for construction.

4. **James and Denise Tsioles (Naperville)** Hello, we are the homeowners at 515 S. Wright Street. If there will be a sidewalk installed in front of our house, can you please build the sidewalk in front of the existing tree instead of removing the tree?
5. **Arif Molla (Naperville)** I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed new installation of sidewalk along the east side of Parkway Drive. The proposed new sidewalk would negatively impact my family and our yard. It would cut my front lawn in half, running through a large flower bed, mature trees, irrigation system and my paver driveway. The block has a continuous sidewalk along the west side of Parkway and our side of the road is unnecessary. If the sidewalk has to be finished we ask that it please be considered to be placed down at the street side to match our neighbors to the left so that it does significantly less damage to our lawn and the very mature trees on the property
6. **Anthony Trunnell (Naperville)** A sidewalk on the east side of Brainard between Prairie and Hillside is unnecessary. There's barely any room on that side of the street. I'd prefer the large amount of people who walk/run use the existing large sidewalk on the Highlands Elementary side. People constantly cut through my yard without having a sidewalk to encourage more of them to do the same (I own 330 Prairie Ave). Recently the city took away my ability to park in the front of MY OWN HOUSE during certain school hours - even though it had been done for decades. If a sidewalk is built on the south side of Prairie from Brainard to Loomis I can only imagine how many more people will take the south side and then walk across my yard/landscaping because they're in a

hurry. I do have a sidewalk in front of my home that's right on the curb. I don't mind it because if people are dropped off they won't kill my grass, but extending it down the entire street will change people's approach. The current setup works very well. Remember: our block is right next to the school so we have above average foot traffic (which I don't mind at all). Walking on the other side of the street is a great way to keep the people a little further away for the homeowners living there.

7. **Tom Brdecka (Naperville)** We have lived at 606 N Wright Street for 17 years, watching our 3 continuous blocks of Wright St, as well as the neighborhood change significantly. We vehemently support sidewalk installation and especially in the gap segments. I have asked the city for 10 years for this and offered to pay half the cost, but that public/private option is long gone. I have watched the street and neighborhood become more congested, filled with utility vehicles, delivery services, electric scooters and construction/landscape crews. There is no escape nor safety for the pedestrian on our segment of Wright St but for the west side which just got sidewalks a handful of years ago. But that is just one side and due to the busy nature of the neighborhood, having the east side completed is essential for safety as well as recreation. Our side should be connected to the north along 8th avenue and over to the beautifully rebuilt Columbia street. Although my family is no longer young, I see the next generation coming up and safety is really the key here. As you may know, our neighborhood is commonly used as a "cut-through" for cars to bypass Washington/Ogden intersection, let alone for racing commuters to be dropped off or picked up. Having sidewalks is of vital importance to the safety of our community. What's more, having sections of sidewalk that end periodically (like the adjacent sidewalk does south of my property) is very dangerous, especially at night for walkers and young bikers. Please prioritize filling the gaps on Wright street!
8. **Ed Doyle and Suzanne Fox (Naperville)** Our comment addresses the proposed sidewalk on the south side of Prairie Ave. between Brainard and Loomis. There are mature trees on that side of the street, including a 60+ year old oak tree in the parkway of 370 Prairie and a 20 year old pear tree in the parkway of 350 Prairie. Constructing a sidewalk will likely fatally injure these trees per our discussions with arborists. The oak tree in particular is highly susceptible to root damage. We strongly support walkable neighborhoods and walk in the east Highlands neighborhood year-round. One of this neighborhood's most desirable features is the mature trees, however, a number of them have been damaged or killed as the city constructed sidewalks on both sides of the East Highlands streets in the last 10 years. We invite the TAB members to walk the neighborhood and see the damage for yourselves. Constructing a sidewalk on the south side of Prairie will likely kill three mature trees - yet the benefit to public safety will be negligible. We understand the city's ambition to make neighborhoods more walkable, but we think that considering the fate of nearly irreplaceable parkway trees should factor in the evaluation process. We also note that last year that the city banned parking on this block during dropoff and pickup times at Highlands School. Since there are no longer parents loading or unloading kids on the south side of the street, there is even less need for a sidewalk. The city's urban forest web page notes the many benefits that trees bring to neighborhoods and the environment, "The City of Naperville recognizes that trees beautify and lend value to homes, neighborhoods, parks and business areas. At the same time, trees conserve energy, help clean the air, protect rivers and streams and provide a habitat for wildlife." We ask that the TAB consider those benefits when evaluating where to construct sidewalks. Please do not recommend a sidewalk on the south side of Prairie between Brainard and Loomis.

9. **Karen Onishi (Naperville)** I am in support of new sidewalk construction on Vest Ave. It would be safer for residents walking/ biking as there would not be an extreme terrain and elevation change while enjoying our subdivision. They would also not be subject from going from a paved sidewalk to navigating through bushes and weeds that are currently there. or walking on the street Also, when it rains, there would be a way for the water at this junction to be directed to the drain instead of creating a large pool that can often take days to evaporate or absorbed by the ground and prevent mosquito hazards. Esthetically, it would provide continuity of our subdivision as this is the only parcel of land that does not currently have a sidewalk. Thank you.
10. **Will Williams (Naperville)** We are 100% in support of this! Please expedite this request so our children can safely ride their bikes around the block.
11. **Robin Sipla (Naperville)** I live on the 1400 block of Webster Street. There is a proposal to add sidewalk on the east side of the street, which is the side my property is on. This proposal would cause undue hardship for me.
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I have a snowblower, but it does not work well on the mixture of ice/slush from the street. At my age, it is a health hazard to try shoveling the snow by hand. On my limited income I cannot afford to pay a service to clear my driveway and a potential section of sidewalk. Unless the city is offering some form of help, I will not be able to keep a section of sidewalk cleared during the winter months.
My address is 1412 N Webster St, Naperville, 60563

POSITION STATEMENT

SUPPORT

1. Robert Crawford (Naperville) (Parkway Dr from Jefferson Ave to Benton Ave – East)
2. Ashley Crawford (Naperville) (Parkway Dr from Jefferson Ave to Benton Ave – East)
3. Will Williams (Naperville) (Laird St from Benton Ave to Wilson Ave – West)

OPPOSE

1. Michael Beran (Naperville) (Victoria Ct from Prairie Ave to Cul-de-Sac – West)
2. Christopher Werner (Naperville) (Franklin Ave)