

CITY OF JOHNS CREEK  
PUBLIC WORKS

SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT POLICY

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## **I. PURPOSE**

The City of Johns Creek recognizes that a good sidewalk network provides many benefits to the community and enhances the quality of life of the citizens. In order to achieve the goal of a connected and accessible pedestrian network, a number of capital improvements have been identified. The city has developed a sidewalk program with two components to guide prioritization and budgeting for these improvements:

1. City Sidewalk Improvement Program- prioritizes new sidewalk construction along major and minor roadways. Major roadways will have sidewalk on both sides of the road and minor roadways will have sidewalk on at least one side of the road.

## **II. CITY SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

### **A. Goals**

The goals of the city sidewalk improvement program are to improve:

1. Pedestrian safety
2. Safe routes to schools
3. Last mile connectivity to parks and activity centers

### **B. Requirements**

Request for new sidewalk on public right of way will be evaluated by the City's Public Works Department. One of the following criteria must be met for a sidewalk request to be included in the City Sidewalk Improvement Program:

1. Traffic volume of the adjacent street is greater than 2,500 vehicles per day OR
2. The corridor is considered a major walking route based on the number of potential pedestrians served OR
3. The sidewalk will fill a gap in the existing sidewalk network of less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile.

## C. Project Prioritization

The Public Works Department will update the priority list of sidewalk projects annually and present the list along with the projects recommended for construction to the Mayor and Council for their approval.

The project prioritization method outlined below is based on the goals stated above. In a given year, further adjustment of the prioritization will occur when the costs and constructability is considered against the capital budget for that year. Other factors such as concurrence with other capital projects, adjacent land development activity and connection to adjacent jurisdictions will also be considered when finalizing the project list for construction each year.

To develop the priority list, the Public Works Department will divide the corridors identified for sidewalk improvements into logical segments and rate each segment using the following criteria:

1. **Pedestrian Safety** (60 points available, 46% of Total Score)
  - Roadway Classification (10 points )
    - Major Arterial 10
    - Minor Arterial 7
    - Collector 4
    - Local 1
  - Accident History (10 points)
    - High Accident area 10
    - Some accidents 5
    - No known accidents 0
  - Evidence of pedestrian activity (10 points)
    - Continuous Activity /  
Well Worn Paths/  
Pedestrian Destinations in area 10
    - Intermittent Activity 6
    - Minimal Activity 2
  - Lack of Existing sidewalk (30 points)
    - No exist sidewalk either side  
of the road 30
    - No exist sidewalk on one side  
with intermittent sidewalk on  
the other side of the road 15
    - Exist sidewalk on one side  
of the road 0
2. **Last mile connectivity / Safe route to school** (35 points available, 27% of Total Score)
  - Proximity to Schools (Private and Public) (15 points)
    - Less than ½ mile 15
    - Between ½ to ¾ miles 10
    - Greater than ¾ mile 5
  - Gap closure (10 points)
    - Connects Existing Network 10
    - Extends Network 6
    - Standalone Sidewalk/Trail 2

- Proximity to Parks (5 points)
  - Less than ½ mile 5
  - Between ½ to ¾ miles 3
  - Greater than ¾ 1
- Proximity to Activity Centers (5 points)  
 (*Activity Centers based on Comprehensive Plan 2030 Future Development Map*)
  - Less than ½ mile 5
  - Between ½ to ¾ miles 3
  - Greater than ¾ 1

**3. Constructability** (35 points available, 27% of total score)

- Cost per Square Foot (\$/SF) (10 points)
  - Less than \$30/SF 10
  - Between \$30/SF to \$50/SF 6
  - Greater than \$50/SF 2
- Topography (10 points)
  - Ample Shoulders, minimal grading, no retaining wall 10
  - Some retaining walls or grading will be required 6
  - Severe Slopes / retaining wall by be required 2
- Right of way (10 points)
  - No RW required. Few driveway Easements if any 10
  - Some RW / easements needed 6
  - Most parcels required RW 2
- Utility (5 points)
  - None / very limited adjustments 5
  - Minor adjustment 3
  - Conflicts that require relocations 1

**Score = \_\_\_\_ out of 130 possible points.**