

City Sidewalks Missing Connections

Recommendation

That the June 11, 2019, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development report CR_7079, be received for information.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the March 19, 2019, Urban Planning Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

1. That Administration provide a report to Urban Planning Committee including a detailed inventory map visually outlining missing sidewalk connections, an updated budget and action plan for addressing these missing connections.

Executive Summary

Mobility planning for pedestrians is guided by the Active Transportation Policy C544, with direction for pedestrian infrastructure outlined in the City's Sidewalk Strategy - *Ped Connections: a Strategy for Sidewalk Infrastructure* (2008). According to the strategy: "sidewalks play a crucial role in animating our society, from basic transportation and accessibility to community cohesiveness and viability."

The Strategy defines missing sidewalks as those links where no sidewalk exists but there is a desire to have one constructed. An inventory of missing sidewalk links is maintained by Administration and prioritized according to influence on safety, accessibility, connectivity to supportive land uses and expected level of use. There are 105.3 km of missing sidewalks reported city-wide, compared to approximately 5,200 km of existing sidewalks along roadways.

Administration will continue to prioritize improvements according to the sidewalk strategy and additional funding to support the construction of missing sidewalk links will be brought forward as part of the supplementary capital budget adjustment deliberations.

Report

Mobility planning for pedestrians is guided by the Active Transportation Policy C544, Edmonton's Walkability Strategy (2009) and the Sidewalk Strategy - *Ped Connections: a Strategy for Sidewalk Infrastructure* (2008).

The Sidewalk Strategy provides detailed direction on pedestrian infrastructure. It consolidates a strategic direction for the sidewalk system in Edmonton towards improvements in walkability and active transportation, identifies deficiencies in the sidewalk system and develops an approach to prioritization and funding of pedestrian infrastructure.

The Complete Streets policy C573A and Complete Streets Design and Construction Standards further enforce designing for all users and trip purposes in a safe, accessible, context-sensitive manner in all seasons.

Definition of Missing Sidewalks

The 2008 Sidewalk Strategy sets out distinct definitions that inform the discussion of pedestrian infrastructure. Pedestrian infrastructure includes sidewalks, curb ramps, shared-use paths, and connections to bus stops. The Strategy focuses on non-existent sidewalks that are classified as both absent and missing.

“Absent” sidewalks are defined as any location along a roadway where no sidewalk nor pedestrian infrastructure physically exists. “Missing” sidewalks are locations where the sidewalk is not only absent, but there is a desire to have one constructed or it would be used if it were constructed.

The March 12, 2019, Urban Planning Committee report CR_5972 - City Sidewalks, provides a more comprehensive review of the approach to addressing missing sidewalks and sidewalks needing repair.

Missing Sidewalk Inventory

Administration maintains an inventory of sidewalks that are considered “missing”. The majority of missing sidewalk links are identified through citizen requests. The “Missing Links Initiative” undertaken by Paths for People also relies on citizen input to develop a list of missing sidewalks. Administration cross-referenced the locations identified through the Paths for People work initiative with the existing inventory to ensure all missing links are recorded. As a result, an additional 53 locations with a combined length of 14.2 km have been added to the City of Edmonton’s missing sidewalk list.

Attachment 1 includes a copy of the inventory of missing sidewalk links, grouped by four categories: high, medium and low priority and industrial, as of April 9, 2019, including the additions from the Paths for People initiative. These missing links are visually represented by the map included as Attachment 2.

Implementation Strategy

Administration will continue to prioritize the implementation of missing sidewalk links according to the factors outlined in the sidewalk strategy. Factors included in the prioritization include:

- Proximity to supportive land uses such as seniors facilities, commercial developments, high or medium density developments, schools, parks, recreation centres, or public spaces.
- Connection to a river valley/ravine trail.
- Connections to transit centres or transit routes.
- Proximity to high-speed arterial or truck route.
- Alignment and efficiencies with other City of Edmonton construction projects.

Missing sidewalk links will also continue to be constructed as part of neighbourhood and arterial renewal projects where possible.

Budget/Financial

Construction of missing sidewalk links and missing curb ramps is partially funded through a combination of the Transportation Planning & Design - Growth (“Active Modes”), Neighbourhood Renewal Program and Arterial (Goods Movement) Renewal Program capital profiles approved under the 2019-2022 Capital Budget Cycle.

Administration will submit a \$10 million unfunded capital budget request to support the construction of missing sidewalk links for consideration as part of the Fall Supplemental Capital Budget Adjustment process. This funding would enable advancing planning, design, and construction of the majority of high priority missing links, which is approximately 20 km of additional sidewalks by the end of the capital budget cycle in 2022. This funding will enable the completion of a majority of the high priority missing links. The \$2 million currently approved within the “Active Modes” program identified in the 2019-22 capital budget will be directed towards advancing the ongoing completion of missing curb ramps.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): The City of Edmonton has sustainable and accessible infrastructure.			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
Active Transportation Infrastructure is in place	Number of missing sidewalk links.	105.3 km, as of June 2019	Decrease

Attachments

1. Missing Sidewalk Request Inventory List
2. Missing Sidewalk Request Inventory Map

Others Reviewing this Report

- R. Kits, Acting Deputy City Manager, Financial and Corporate Services
- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- G. Cebryk, Deputy City Manager, City Operations
- A. Laughlin, Deputy City Manager, Integrated Infrastructure Services
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor