

City to install sidewalks on Arch Street

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Content

The city of Lancaster's first sidewalk project will install new sidewalks on East Arch Street from the fire station to Glenwood Avenue.

Lancaster City Council announced its plan to maintain and improve the condition of city sidewalks at its Feb. 14 meeting.

Funding for the nearly \$600,000 East Arch Street project will come from a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), with a \$188,000 match from the city's engineering fund.

New sidewalks also may be added to South Hughes and South Ferguson streets as part of the project if the budget allows it.

The engineering design for the East Arch Street project is expected to be done this year and construction will begin in 2024.

A recent study found that 66% of the 251 streets within Lancaster city limits have sidewalks in need of work. The city's sidewalks span about 30 miles.

City Council partnered with civil engineers at Keck and Wood in Rock Hill for the project after the City of Lancaster 2020 Downtown Revitalization Plan survey deemed pedestrian accessibility as a priority.

Keck and Wood evaluated every street in the city's system and rated the sidewalks' condition on a six-unit scale: excellent, satisfactory, good, poor, gap or new.

Sidewalks rated "excellent" were recently constructed with minor discoloration and no cracks. The city has 3.5 miles of these.

"Good" sidewalks have discoloration and cracks, but are still usable and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. The city has 12 miles of good sidewalks.

“Satisfactory” sidewalks have discoloration, cracking and beginning stages of vegetation overgrowth. They are still considered accessible, but may have some accessibility hazards. The city has 12 miles of these.

“Poor” sidewalks have large amounts of cracking and deterioration, as well as sections that are unusable to pedestrians. The city has 2.5 miles of poor sidewalks.

“Gap” sidewalks have breaks in the sidewalk that need to be reconnected. The city has 2.5 miles of these.

Finally, “new” sidewalks are areas that do not have sidewalks, but need them. The city has 50 miles of streets without sidewalks.

The project also identified several points of interest, which are the priority places for sidewalk construction. These are near public buildings and businesses, such as churches, government buildings, grocery stores, historic sites, libraries, medical offices, parks, public service buildings, schools and Dollar General.

Within the six-unit scale determination of sidewalk quality, Keck and Wood also allocated points on a 10-point scale to determine right-of-way availability, constructability, pedestrian activity, road classification, gap closure, proximity to points of interest, cost, low-to-moderate income area ranking and income focus, percentage of sidewalk to be replaced and price.

The study determined that the East Arch Street sidewalk was the key project.

City Councilwoman Jackie Harris said the stretch of road and sidewalk by the Lancaster Meat Center, 657 Lancaster Bypass East, should also be deemed a priority as many residents use that sidewalk to get groceries.

“You see every day someone’s taking a risk to cross a four-lane highway to get to the Meat Center,” Harris said. “I don’t know if you’ve ever had a chance to go over there and watch those people try to cross the street with bags of groceries.”

Hutfles said the city plans to start with the East Arch Street section, and slowly keep building and fixing sidewalks in other areas. The total estimated cost to fix every sidewalk in the city is about \$19 million.

The city plans to apply to more CDBG grants to generate funds for future projects, although CDBG grants will only cover the installation of new sidewalks, Hutfles said.

Child images

LANNWS-03-01-23 CITY SIDEWALK PLAN 1



LANNWS-03-01-23 CITY SIDEWALK PLAN PLAN 2

Existing Sidewalk Condition

