

## Department of Public Works

City Hall  
730 Washington Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403  
262.636.9121 - Public Works  
262.636.9191 - Engineering



Richard M. Jones, P.E.  
Commissioner of Public Works

Thomas M. Eeg, P.E.  
Asst. Comm. of Public Works/Operations

John C. Rooney, P.E.  
Asst. Comm. of Public Works/Engineering

November 9, 2009

**To:** Alderman Holding, Chairman  
Public Works & Services Committee

**From:** John C. Rooney, Asst. Commissioner of Public Works/Engineering

**RE:** Item 09-4362

This item pertains to a request by WisDOT to include sidewalk installation as part of ARRA Stage 3 Project ID: 2703-00-00; South Memorial Drive – Chicory Road to City limits. In the WisDOT review of the 60% plans for the above referenced project, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has required all project receiving stimulus funds to consider pedestrian and bicycle facilities. WisDOT has requested the City's position on extending sidewalk along the length of the South Memorial Drive project.

The consultant has determined preliminary quantities and cost estimates, and the impact on the project would be significant. A total of 37,400 SF of sidewalk, 1,125 tons of dense aggregate base and 24 detectable warning fields would be needed. This results in an increase of \$147,000 over the project cost without sidewalk. In addition to the construction costs, 1,620 SF of right-of-way would need to be acquired to install ADA accessible ramps at all intersections.

The updated project estimate (with sidewalk quantities included) is \$636,000. The \$147,000 for sidewalk alone (not including right-of-way acquisition) represents 23.1% of the total project cost. In Section 7 of Chapter 11-20-1 of the FDM, one of the exemptions for requiring sidewalk facilities is if "the cost of bicycle and pedestrian facilities constitutes more than 20% of a total project cost".

In addition to this, the City of Racine's policy on the removal of sidewalk would be contradictory to approval to include sidewalk at this location. That is, once sidewalk is installed, it could in theory be petitioned for removal by the abutting property owner as it meets several criteria for removal. Criteria met would include: it would not create a discontinuance in the sidewalk system, the sidewalk would not be continuous between intersections, and it is not a major pedestrian route serving a school.

If the committee agrees, the appropriate action would be to create a resolution for "turn-down" of the sidewalk request due to sidewalk facility costs exceeding 20% of total project costs and the installation of sidewalks in conflict with City of Racine policy allowing sidewalks to be removed at areas meeting established criteria.