

TO: Planning & Zoning Commission

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Commission Review of the Sidewalk Master Plan 2022 Update

DATE: August 4, 2022

Attached is the draft update of the Columbia Sidewalk Master Plan (SMP).

The SMP is a document which contains a prioritized list of new sidewalk construction projects. It is not a comprehensive pedestrian document, as it does not focus on the repair/reconstruction of existing sidewalks. The existing SMP was approved by the City Council in April, 2013.

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission (BPC) has completed their review of the draft SMP update. The BPC's review was focused on the list of projects, which is the core element of the Plan.

The draft SMP was also reviewed by the Disabilities Commission at their June 9 meeting. No specific requests were made for additions, although the Commission expressed interest in having direct involvement in setting priorities.

Staff will now proceed with the public hearing phase for the draft SMP.

Of the forty-two projects contained in the Plan approved in 2013, ten of them have been completed or are funded/in process. One of the projects (Audubon Drive) was rejected by the City Council in 2021 and has been canceled. These projects have dropped out of the SMP.

Eight new projects have been added to the draft Plan as a result of the BPC's review, and there are a total of thirty-nine projects now listed. The new projects are as follows, listed by their project number in the draft SMP:

- 9. Rangeline Street: W side, Boone Electric to existing sidewalk S of Vandiver
- 10. Rangeline Street, Vandiver to Elleta Blvd
- 14. New Haven Road: Lemone Industrial Blvd to S Warren Drive
- 15. Clark Lane, south side, across from Creekwood Parkway
- 22. St. Charles Road – Keene Street to Hominy Branch Trail
- 23. St. Charles Road – Clark Lane roundabout to Demaret Drive
- 24. Conley Road & I-70 Drive Southeast Pedestrian Connector
- 31. Northland Drive: Blue Ridge Rd to Parker Street

Comments were also provided by the Public Transit Advisory Commission (PTAC). The PTAC membership expressed their support for three projects in particular, those being #9, #10, and #22, all of which are on or provide a connection to a GoCOMO bus route.

The SMP is a major source for sidewalk projects to be added to the City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Currently, the two Broadway sidewalks listed in the SMP are also included in the current CIP as proposed projects, with no funding yet identified for either project's implementation. Other projects formerly in the SMP, such as the North Stadium Boulevard sidewalk (in the final design stage) are now in the CIP and in process.

Street corridors on which sidewalk waiver requests have been made, and which include SMP sidewalk projects along the relevant property, might be evaluated with that status as an additional factor, as the likelihood of a future sidewalk being constructed is increased with its presence in the SMP.

Suggested Commission Action

Staff requests that the Commission hold a work session, or multiple sessions, on the attached Draft Sidewalk Master Plan and make any recommendations they may have for changes, including any comments the Commission may have on prioritizing specific projects.

After sufficient work session discussion by the Commission, staff will schedule a public hearing for the next Commission meeting.