

City-Wide Commercial Sidewalk Program  
Revised 12/17/2009

The City of Akron has a program to replace substandard sidewalks and drive approaches at commercial or non-owner occupied residential property (i.e. a rental property or other business). The City will construct the necessary improvements. After the improvements are completed, the property owner can elect to either pay in cash, or have the cost plus interest assessed over a 10-year period. Property owners participate on a voluntary basis. The program is limited to commercial or non-owner occupied residential property, and the property must be on an improved street (i.e. street must have curbs).

To participate, a property owner must contact the Engineering Bureau and request a petition. An Engineering Bureau representative will visit the site, speak with the property owner if available, and determine which items of work are needed. The Engineering Bureau will send the property owner a petition form listing the items of work, along with a preliminary estimate of assessment for the repairs. The petition will include the necessary work agreement language, and a statement waiving the property owner's right to object to the assessment.

If the property owner chooses to have the City do the work, the owner must sign the petition and return it. The Engineering Bureau will schedule the work as soon as practicable, typically in the next construction season. The property owner shall be assessed 100% of the cost of construction plus the cost of engineering and inspection costs.

The City will be responsible for any street tree work required including the re-planting of new street lawn trees at no cost to the property owner. However, any tree on private property that must be removed to accomplish the work will be removed at the owner's expense. The cost depends on the size of the tree. These costs will be provided in the estimate with the petition. Sidewalk slabs that are lifted by tree roots but are otherwise undamaged are considered defective, and need to be replaced. If it is determined that cutting the roots will kill the tree, the tree will be removed at the time of construction.

Property owners can contact the Engineering Bureau at 330-375-2355 for more information.