

Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

Date: July 31, 2019
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: City Council Chambers
140 W. Pine Street, Missoula , MT

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John DiBari, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Julie Merritt, Jesse Ramos, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

Members absent: Julie Armstrong, Gwen Jones

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

1.2.1 Approve minutes from July 24, 2019

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Consider Revisions to the City Sidewalk Funding Assistance Program

Monte Sipe, Construction Projects Manager, spoke on revisions to the City Sidewalk Funding Assistance Program. His PowerPoint presentation is available online for the public.

He outlined the 'missing' sidewalks in Missoula and provided a sidewalk funding history. Before 2011, property owners were assessed 100 percent of the required curb/sidewalk associated improvements. In 2012, the original curb/sidewalk funding assistance program was implemented. In 2017, the resolution was modified to provide additional funding assistance to all parcels; this was done primarily because of escalating construction costs.

In the fall of 2018, Mayor Engen and Council requested that staff look at one/two dwelling parcels. in an effort to reduce assessments.

Mr. Sipe presented information about the cost of sidewalk per mile. There have been substantial cost increases since the curb/sidewalk funding program began in 2012. He cited the price of materials and the prevailing wages between 2013 to the present among the contributing factors.

The street related work includes removal, replacement, and new installation of curb/gutter, asphalt, alley approaches, and associated drainage structures.

Bringing in additional funding sources to the program will lower overall assessments. In 2017, there were funding assistance changes. The available assistance increased to \$16,500 for property owners, applicable to all commercial and residential parcels.

Mr. Sipe was asked to determine how many total sidewalks have been improved. He stated that the answer is complex, due to material costs, differentiated sidewalk depths, and other factors. Additionally, he noted that the ability to assess comes from state statute outside of structured special improvement districts (SID).

Mr. Sipe discussed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan and the Facilities Pedestrian Master Plan. There are two targets: 1) installing missing ADA facilities; and 2) upgrading existing ramps and facilities in the highest priority areas. Current funding comes from the annual sidewalk program and the ADA funding assistance for sidewalk program. New funding would be the annual sidewalk program and ADA improvement program; this would be included in the 2021 capital improvement program.

The curb/sidewalk assistance program is separate from the proposed ADA Improvement Program. Back of curb to back of curb road work will be paid with Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Act (BaRSAA) funds. The owner responsibility cap is \$9,000 for one/two family dwelling parcels. The ADA improvement program takes ramp costs into consideration and benefits all one/two family corner parcels, as opposed to just owner-occupied parcels.

Moved By Julie Merritt

Draft a resolution regarding revisions to the City's sidewalk assessment funding assistance program.

For (7): Mirtha Becerra, John DiBari, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Julie Merritt, Bryan von Lossberg, and Heidi West

Against (1): Jesse Ramos

Absent (3): Stacie Anderson, Julie Armstrong, and Gwen Jones

Approved (7 to 1)

4. ADJOURNMENT