

City of Vancouver Sidewalk Program

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Transportation & Mobility Commission

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Presentation Overview



- Program Background
- Complaints and Enforcement
- Sidewalk Cafés and Street Eats
- Future Changes and Next Steps

Presentation Purpose

- Provide general information about the City's sidewalk program
- Outline potential changes to the sidewalk program in the future
- Respond to questions about the sidewalk program
- Receive feedback about the sidewalk program and potential changes to the program

Program Background

- Sidewalk Management Program officially created in 2017
- Initial sidewalk and curb ramp inventory and assessment completed in 2017
- Two full time staff dedicated to the program
- \$500,000/year dedicated funding for the sidewalk program

Program Background (continued)



- Sidewalks: 635+ miles of existing and about 495 miles with no sidewalks
- Curb ramps: approx. 10,400 existing curb ramps and 5,000 corners without curb ramps
- Estimated Costs:
 - \$45M - \$65M for sidewalk repairs
 - \$80M - \$85M for curb ramps
 - \$140M - \$210M to infill missing sidewalks

Program Background (continued)

- City constructs new sidewalks & ADA ramps through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Pavement Management resurfacing projects include & require construction of ADA-compliant ramps
- Development projects requiring transportation improvements



Program Background (continued)

- Maintenance of sidewalks in Vancouver are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner (VMC 11.030)
- New developments & site expansions require repaired, new, or reconstructed ADA-compliant sidewalks & ramps
- Deficient sidewalks addressed via complaint-driven process
- Pedestrian accessibility remains a challenge

City Repair Responsibilities

- City owned or maintained properties
- Columbus Day storm trees
- Curb ramps in the public right of way
- Signals, signs, and striping
- Other areas in the public's best interest: school and transit routes, park access, etc.



Enforcement – Sidewalk Deficiencies



- Notification/code case letters:
 - Initial 90 days to correct the deficiencies
 - Encourage owners to meet with staff
 - Outline process and procedures to do the work
 - Second 60-day notice to correct the deficiencies
 - Options needed if work still not done

Enforcement – Vegetation or Obstruction

- Code compliance case – VMC 22
- Initial correction notice – 14 days to correct
- Second notice/notice of violation – 7 days to correct
- Ability to assess fines (if needed)
- City willing to work with owners



Sidewalk Café Program



- Over 40 active locations in uptown, downtown, and waterfront areas
- Add to the vitality and business activity within the downtown area
- Provide consistent guidelines to all applicants

Sidewalk Café Program

- Permit required to use public right of way
- Minimum ADA requirements must be met
- If alcohol is served, separation between uses required per Liquor Control Board



Street Eats Program



- Street Eats program extended to March of 2024
- Permit required to use public right of way
- Maximum of 50 spaces total for all locations
- Parking fees slated to begin in October 2022

Next Steps and Future Changes



- VMC Updates (Fall 2022)
- Develop Homeowner Grant Program
- Develop ability for property owners to contract directly with the City
- Move to more proactive program

VMC Code Changes

- Delegate repair necessity to Public Works Director
- Ability for property owners to contract directly with the City
- Assessment of costs for non-complying owners
- Enforcement of pedestrian access in construction zones
- Adjustment of Transportation related fines

Homeowner Grant Program



- Eligibility based on income
- Cover 100% of repair costs
- Maximum grant amount of \$2,500*
- First year total grant program of \$50,000*
- Evaluate actual repair costs and program amounts after first year

* Maximum grant and program amounts still to be determined

Homeowner Grant Program (continued)

- Only available to residential properties
- Businesses out of home are eligible
- Property owner applies for grant after initial notification
- Utilize existing Clark Public Utilities Operation Warm Heart screening



City Financial Assistance Program



- Homeowner contracts with City for repairs
- Repay over time – 5, 10, or 20 years
- Only available to residential properties
- Must have an active code case related to the property

Next Steps

- Staff outline of next steps based on capacity, TMC feedback, Council review and direction
- Workshop on annual updates to Title 11 scheduled for September 6 meeting

Questions and Discussion

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www.cityofvancouver.us/publicworks/page/sidewalk-management

