



Friendly Area Neighbors (FAN)

Sidewalk Improvement Program proposal for implementation

Prepared for: FAN Executive Board

Prepared by: Todd Miller, FAN Secretary, on behalf of FAN Transportation Committee

December 6, 2014

Executive Summary

Objective

Make FAN completely pedestrian accessible, safe, and inviting through ensuring key walking route connectivity, minimization of hazards and disrepair, and commitment to ongoing sidewalk maintenance.

Goals

Identify and prioritize sidewalk improvement needs, educate neighborhood residents about sidewalk rules and responsibilities, facilitate project partnerships and financing, and be a neighborhood resource for voluntary, collaborative, sidewalk improvement project completion.

Solution

Survey and map sidewalk conditions and key walking routes; catalog and disseminate pertinent codes, rules, and responsibilities; develop proactive partnerships with City programs, ENI, LTD, 4J, and others; implement demonstration sidewalk repair projects; and fund and complete priority projects. These solution elements are further described below.

1. Conditions Mapping

At minimum, a comprehensive map of FAN sidewalk infrastructure, known hazards and shortcomings, and key routes will be maintained. Depending on interest and involvement, mapping could include digital graphics, GIS, database, “apps”, or other computer technologies; development and use of reporting and survey tools; and other methods to maintain a knowledge base of FAN sidewalk conditions and priorities. Mapping could also result in production of a “favorable walking routes” map for FAN use. The program map will be key for outreach, project prioritization, and securing funding.

2. Rules Cataloging

At minimum, FAN will gather information on sidewalk codes and responsibilities of the City and property owners. Facts gained could include information on liability, lawsuits (“don’t let this happen to you”), permitting requirements, complaint and mitigation methods, and other related information.

3. Education & Outreach

Organized and strategic outreach to FAN residents is key to gaining participation, appreciation, and support for sidewalk improvements. Outreach to both targeted and FAN-wide audiences will raise awareness of FAN program goals, issues, and opportunities. Outreach can be accomplished through the following means:

- FAN web page
- FAN Facebook page
- FAN general meeting presentations
- FAN newsletters
- Flyers, door-hangers, or other targeted outreach tools deemed appropriate

4. Funding Partnership Development

At minimum, FAN will collaborate with ENI to formalize ENI as the non-profit fiscal agent to funnel program funding and construction project payments; the premier benefit of ENI is ability for property owner tax benefit for sidewalk repair. Other likely partnerships to pursue will be with the City sidewalk inspector and permitting staff, City public works for project funding and/or preferred contractors, LTD for bus stop connectivity coordination, Eugene School District 4J and City of Eugene Safe Routes to School program coordinators, Neighborhood Grants, and other grant resources.

5. Interim Measures and Demonstration Projects

FAN will facilitate demonstration sidewalk improvement projects with willing property owners to demonstrate how project planning, permitting, funding, and construction will be completed. These demo projects will help learn the ins and outs of project implementation and can be used as outreach to attract attention to sidewalk conditions and improvements.

Other interim measures may be conducted as steps toward enhancing sidewalk conditions, increasing safety, and raising neighborhood awareness. Interim measures could include sidewalk hazards marking (with City coordination), vegetation clearing, grinding and asphalt patching, or other similar small-project endeavors.

6. Improvement Project Construction

After key project prioritization and property owner repair project means have been secured, FAN will facilitate project completion under two primary pathways:

- **Prioritized Projects:** these are major identified key projects within FAN as a result of mapping and coordinated effort with project stakeholders to secure support and funding.
- **Self-Identified Projects:** these projects will be brought forth by individuals or groups of adjacent property owners who recognize the need and opportunity to improve their sidewalks and wish to do so with the assistance and coordination of FAN's facilitation.

Project Plan

The chart on the following page illustrates the basic components of the Sidewalk Improvement Program and their relative deployment timeline and relationship.

