

# Proposed Sidewalk Network Ordinance Amendments

Planning Commission Meeting

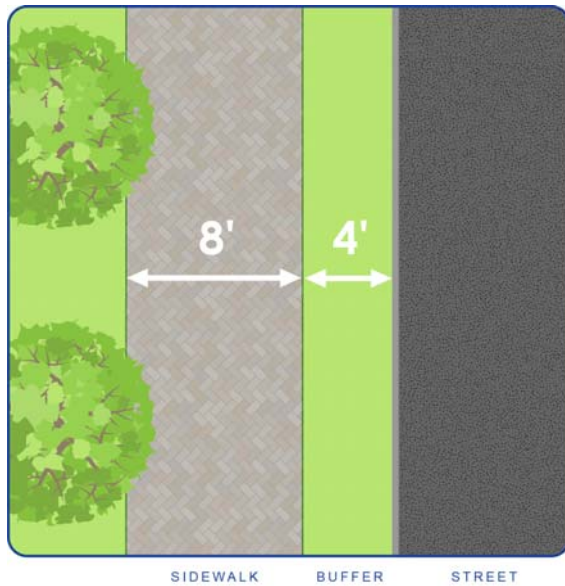
May 26, 2022



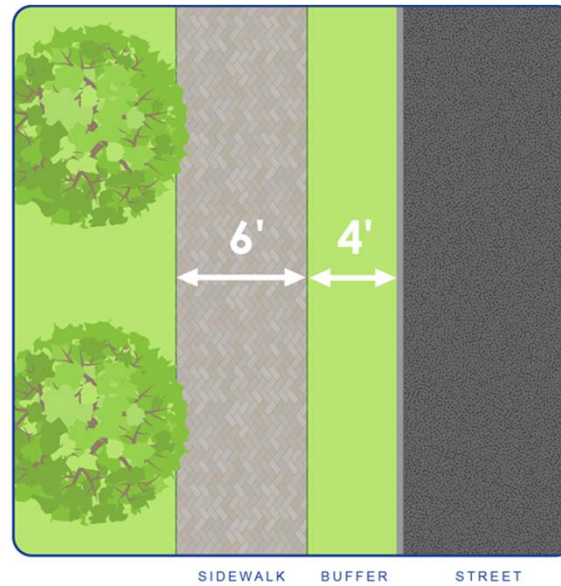
PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT

# Current Standards

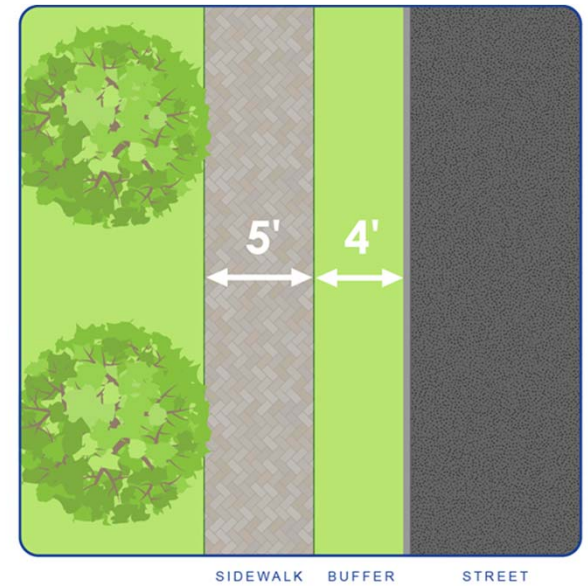
Central Business District



Major Thoroughfare



Local Street



# New Sidewalks are required if a ...

Sec 40-552(b)

- new single-family home (SFH) is constructed.
- non-SFH building is constructed or expanded by > 25%.
- new parking lot is constructed, or expanded > 25% or by more than 10 parking places.
- pedestrian route is established for off-site parking.
- construct a new roadway within a public street.

## Current Options

Automatically qualify for sidewalk exemption (Sec 40-556(b))

Construct the sidewalk

Apply to **waive** or **modify** (\$1,204.97)

## Proposed Options

Automatically qualify for sidewalk exemption (Sec 40-556(b))

Construct the sidewalk

Apply to **modify** only (<\$1,204.97)

Pay fee in lieu of sidewalk construction:

- Meet automatic eligibility criteria; or
- Request approved by Sidewalk Committee



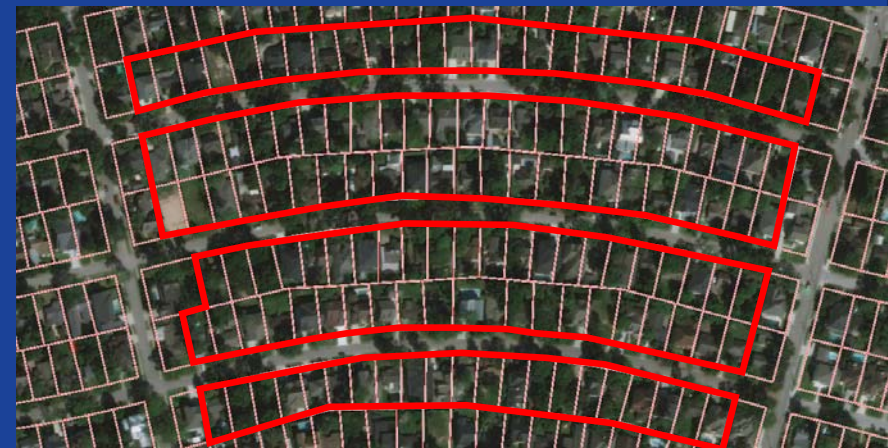
The proposed rules will provide more options to promote a complete sidewalk network

# Automatically Eligible for Sidewalk Fee

Sec 40-560(a)(1)

Construction of a new single-family house will automatically qualify unless the lot:

- 1) fronts a Walkable Places Street or Transit Oriented Development Street;
- 2) is a corner lot;
- 3) makes up more than 20% of the blockface;
- 4) is on a blockface with an existing sidewalk;
- 5) is on the same block as a school.



New SFR construction automatically eligible for paying the sidewalk fee

# Request to Pay Sidewalk Fee

Sec 40-561

The applicant may request to pay sidewalk fee by:

- 1) submitting an application
- 2) submitting a sidewalk plan
- 3) paying application fee
- 4) providing supporting documents

# Request to Pay Sidewalk Fee




Sec 40-561






**The Sidewalk Committee may approve the request if:**

- 1) sidewalk construction is infeasible; or
- 2) sidewalk construction creates unsafe condition; or
- 3) there is an approved sidewalk project on the same blockface; or
- 4) constructing the sidewalk adversely impacts a public street project.

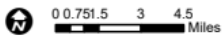


# Proposed City of Houston Sidewalk Service Areas

-  Freeways
-  Major Roads
-  Full City Limits

- Service Areas**
-  1
  -  2
  -  3
  -  4
  -  5
  -  6
  -  7
  -  8
  -  9
  -  10
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  -  12
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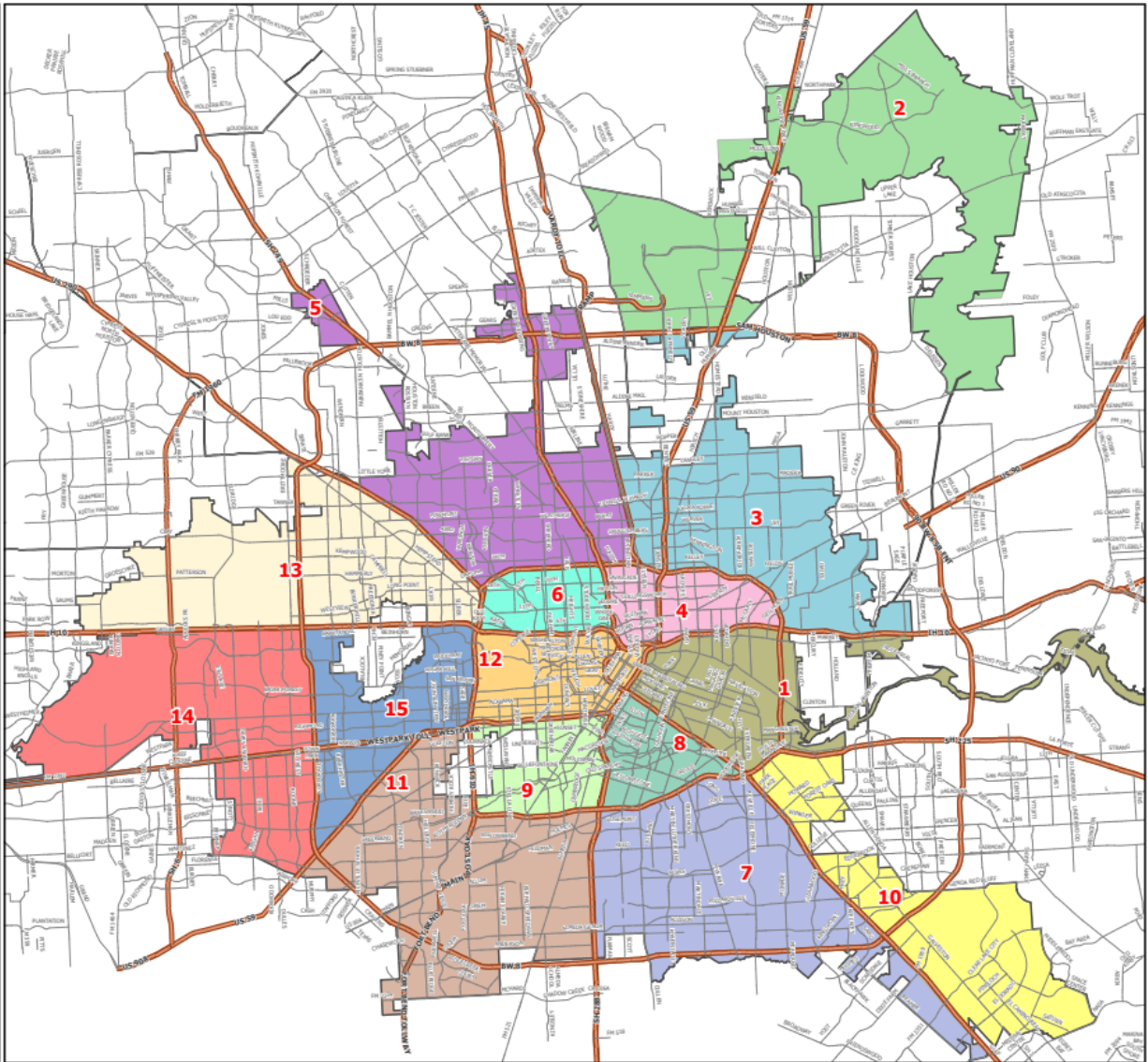
Source: COHGIS Database  
 Date: May 20, 2022  
 Reference: PJ25020



This map is made available for reference purposes only and should not be substituted for a survey product. The City of Houston will not accept liability of any kind in conjunction with its use.



**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**



# Proposed Sidewalk Fund



- Establish a sidewalk fund for each sidewalk service area
- 70% spent in same sidewalk sector, 30% spent citywide
- Sidewalk project priorities will be established
- Managed by PDD, implemented by HPW

# Sidewalk Fund Administration

## The Chief Transportation Planner will:

- 1) develop and maintain a sidewalk prioritization process for funds;
- 2) provide an annual report to the Planning Commission;
- 3) propose updates to the Sidewalk Service Area Map and the sidewalk prioritization process when needed.

# Factors to Prioritize Projects



Safety

Pedestrian Volumes

Presence of Major Trip Generators

Demographics

Available Funding

# Project Timeline

- Presentation to Planning Commission: May 26, 2022
- Public comment period: May 20 – June 23, 2022
- Presentation to council committees: July 2022
- City Council action: late summer
- Effective date: October 1, 2022

# Public Comment Webpage

<https://houstontx.gov/planning/sidewalk-ordinance-amendments.html>



The Planning and Development Department proposes amendments to the Sidewalk Ordinance to create a complete sidewalk network in the city by providing more sidewalk options and establishing a sidewalk fund and protocols for constructing sidewalks. Staff will present the proposed Sidewalk Ordinance amendments to the Planning Commission at 2:30 p.m., May 26, 2022.

The meeting is open to the public in person at City Hall Annex Council Chamber, 900 Bagby, and virtually on Microsoft Teams. [View Planning Commission meeting details.](#)

The public comment period for the proposed Sidewalk Ordinance amendments starts from 3 p.m., May 23, 2022 and will end at 5 p.m., June 23, 2022. Share your comments using the online comment form below.

To learn more about the proposed amendments, please review the following documents:

- [CH 40 Art XXII. Sidewalk Network Ordinance – Planning Commission Draft](#)
- [Proposed Sidewalk Ordinance Amendment Summary](#)
- [Proposed Sidewalk Service Area Map](#)

## Proposed Sidewalk Ordinance Amendments Comment Form

\* Required

1. In general, do you support the proposed changes to the Sidewalk Ordinance? \*

- Yes  
 No

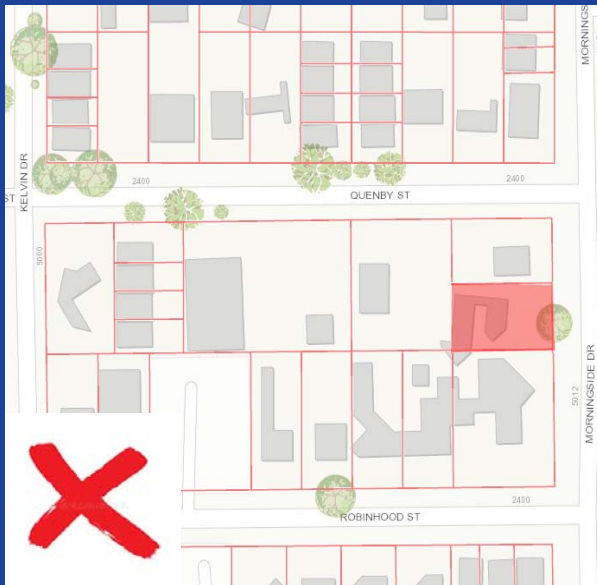
Q&A



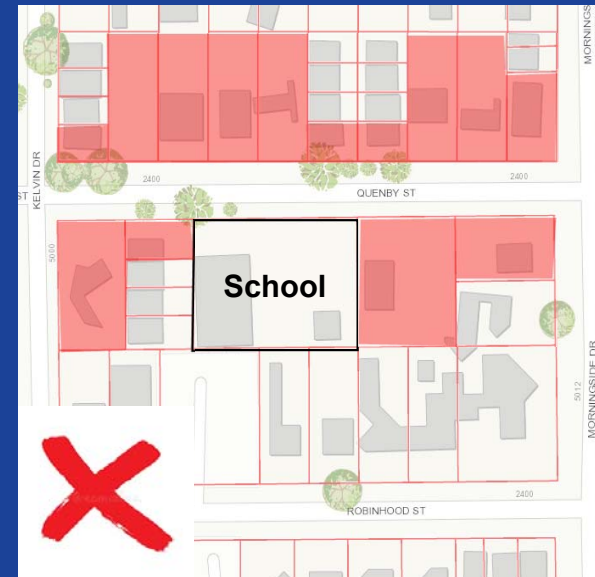
# Sidewalk Fee Eligibility Sec 40-560(a)(1)



Parcels ineligible for Sidewalk Fee



Ineligible  
(More than 20% of the blockface)



Ineligible  
(School on the same block)