



**Roll Call Number**

**Agenda Item Number**

70C

June 24, 2019

**Date**

Communication from Councilmember Coleman regarding sidewalks.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ to

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
BOESEN				
COLEMAN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
MANDELBAUM				
WESTERGAARD				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**CERTIFICATE**

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

70C

## Memo

TO: Mayor and Council  
FROM: Chris Coleman  
Date: June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Subject: High Priority Sidewalks

I am writing to ask for your support of adding FOUR sidewalk projects in the SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PLAN in an expedited manner. My hope is that each of these four projects will happen within 15 months. At the Council meeting on 6/24/19, I intend to make such a motion to execute these sidewalks.

Key pieces of background:

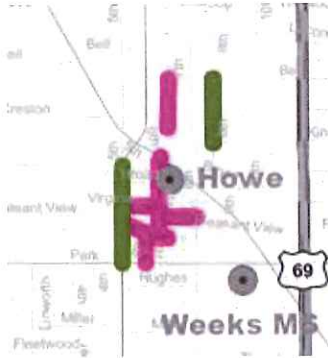
- The City Council has spent time in strategic session planning for a major investment in sidewalk as strategy for multi-modal accessibility and safety, especially on routes to schools.
- At the March 25<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the Manager pulled the agenda item related a second Fleur Drive sidewalk, recommending the action be delayed so that questions could be answered, and the project be considered in light of new policies discussed (but not approved) at the Council Strategic Session.
- It was requested that Council consider the agenda item, against the recommendation of the City Manager, who recommended we delay action.
- 100% of the Ward Councilmembers who did not represent Fleur Drive opposed the action.
- Because of the unanimous opposition of Ward Council members not representing the area, I opposed moving forward *at the time* so that all issues raised could be addressed and, hopefully, accommodated. To clarify, we opposed the proposal because:
  - the Manager recommended delay.
  - Because the project was significantly higher in costs than originally budgeted.
  - Because the agreement, at the time, did not require a specific design of a high quality fence (which the city would be paying for) on this major gateway to the City.
  - Because there was no documented agreement on where the sidewalk and fence would be placed (ensuring safety from fast moving vehicles on Fleur).
  - Because there were (and are) many more affordable and equally high priority projects in the other three Wards that are not currently in the sidewalk plan, or are in the plan but not planned for construction until at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
- Since then, I have worked to find a compromise plan that would allow sidewalks on Fleur. This has include Engineering, City Managers and his office, and Councilmember Mandelbaum.

At the 6/24 Council meeting, we can address the concerns and take action to be fair to all citizens regardless of which Ward they reside in.

I have worked with City Manager and City Engineer to ensure the four projects are appropriate and similar in terms of the support of neighborhoods. The Four projects are:

702

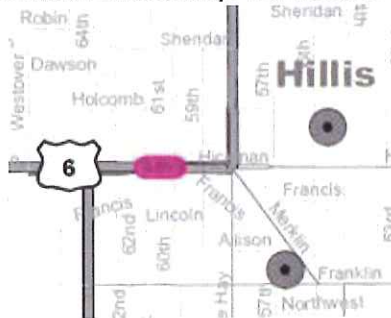
1. Howe Elementary sidewalks (shown in pink, as green are included in 2019 projects). This is a vastly underserved school area and will provide necessary safety for students and families immediately. Further, a planned park at Weeks will be connected to the residential neighborhood.



2. Hubbell Avenue from relocated East Douglas to E 3<sup>rd</sup>. This connects the new sidewalks along Hubbell, which abruptly ends, to business center, parks, schools and amenities.



3. Hickman Road (request from Merle Hay NA). Connecting citizens to the new Hy Vee Fast and Fresh and to Hillis Elementary. Further, to the closest park (Tower) and Library (Franklin).



4. Fleur Drive – Park Avenue South to the approved Sidewalk south of Wakonda CC Drive.
  - As negotiated by the City Manager and City Real Estate, this JUNE proposal results in:
    1. A lower net cost for the sidewalk than in March.
    2. Sufficient right-of-way so the new sidewalk is a safe distance from the roadway
    3. A commitment to build a high quality monument style, black, steel, decorative fence as current exists at the north end of Wakonda.

I appreciate the work of Scott Sanders, Steve Naber, and Phil Wageman; and the ongoing discussions with Josh Mandelbaum. I think this comprehensive plan for high priority sidewalks is better for the whole city and affordable in moving forward.

Thanks.

Chris Coleman