

City Council Agenda Item Memo

From: John R. Thompson, Public Works Director

Council Meeting: April 23, 2024

Subject: Informational Item: 2024 Sidewalk Repair Assistance Pilot Project

Person(s) Responsible: John R. Thompson, Public Works Director

Summary:

Staff will be implementing a 2024 pilot project to assist property owners within the City in regards to sidewalk repairs caused by boulevard trees or thermal upheaving, cracking, and recession.

Background:

Public sidewalks provide an essential system of connectivity throughout our City and state law requires property owners to maintain sidewalks abutting their property.

The City's annual sidewalk inspection program identifies trip hazards along sidewalks throughout the City. Once sidewalk hazards have been identified, City staff provide notice to the property owner and allow the property owner a year to make repairs or opt into the City's annual concrete replacement program. If the repairs are not completed by the following year, the City includes that section or sections of sidewalk to its' annual concrete replacement project. At that time, the property owner may still act to repair the sidewalk themselves or allow the City's contractor to make the repairs, with the cost of such repairs, being charged back to the property owner.

Item Details:

In 2023, staff became aware of a community need to develop a project which would provide financial assistance to property owners with first-time boulevard tree damaged sidewalks and income-qualified property owners. This 2024 pilot program will utilize up to \$35,000 to assist property owners with the financial burden of making sidewalk repairs, as a result of first-time boulevard tree damage. A portion of the \$35,000 will also be made available for property owners who have sidewalk damage and cannot afford to pay the estimated repair cost.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

Safe Inclusive, Connected Community - This pilot project is focused on continuing the City's effort to fix sidewalk trip hazards throughout the community. By assisting residents with repairing these hazards, the City is helping provide a route for citizens of all ages to recreate, travel, and enjoy the community. The public sidewalks provide an essential system of connectivity throughout the City that must be maintained to ensure

the safety of our citizens, and this program is one of many steps towards the goals of our strategic plan.

Financial Consideration:

There are sufficient appropriations of \$35,000 budgeted in the 2024 Fiscal Year adopted budget in Org. 213 - Capital Improvements.

Options and Recommendation:

This is an informational item and does not require action from City Council.