

# Connecting Our Community

## Let's Take a Walk: A Look at Sidewalks in Austin



City of Austin  
Public Works Department

### History: How Did We Get Here?

**1990**

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed into law



**1995**

City code updated; Sidewalk repairs are no longer landowner responsibility



**1995-2012**

Bond allocated funding for sidewalk construction and rehabilitation



**2006**

City of Austin sidewalk maintenance program initiated



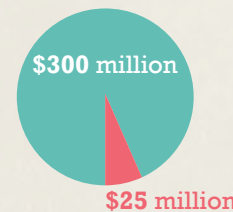
**2009**

Sidewalk Master Plan adopted



**2012**

Transportation and Mobility Bond gives **\$25 million** for sidewalks



**2016**

Sidewalk Master Plan update adopted



### Sidewalk Program: Overview

The Public Works Department is responsible for building and repairing sidewalks all around Austin. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a driving factor in making sure that the right-of-way along our streets is safe and accessible for everyone.

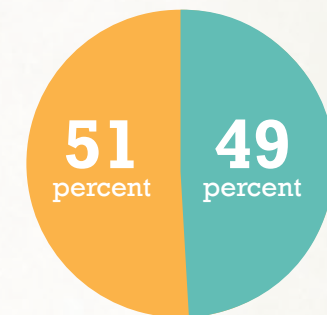
### State of the Sidewalks

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Public Works is currently responsible for **2,400 miles** of existing sidewalks.

The City of Austin is missing **2,580 miles** of sidewalks.

**\$1.64 billion** is needed for construction and maintenance of new and existing sidewalks.

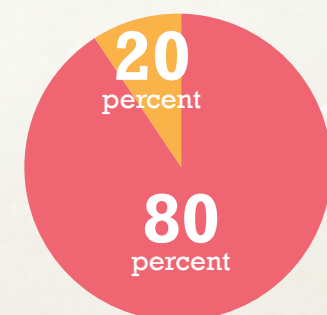


■ existing sidewalks  
■ missing sidewalks

At the current funding rate, it will take **192 years** to build and repair Austin's sidewalk network.

While **20%** of sidewalks are in good condition, **80%** of existing sidewalks are in poor condition.

Approximately **40%** of existing sidewalks have some type of overgrown vegetation blocking the pedestrian pathway.



■ Good Condition  
■ Poor Condition

### How Are Sidewalks Funded?

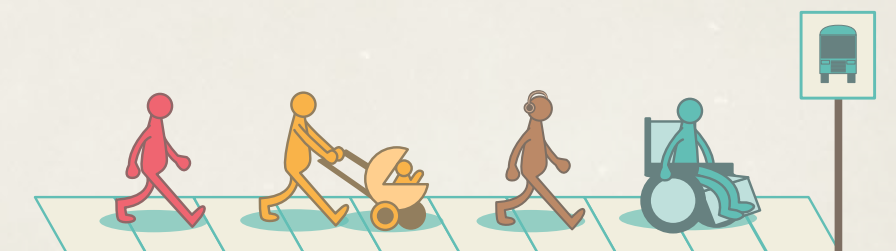
- **BOND FUNDS** (PRIMARY)
- **CAP METRO** (INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT)
- **SIDEWALK FEE-IN-LIEU**
- **GRANTS**

### How Are Sidewalks Built?

- **STREET & BRIDGE OPERATIONS**
- **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**
- **PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT**

## THE BIG PICTURE

We want to encourage walking as a viable mode of transportation, improve pedestrian safety, and enable people to walk to and from transit stops.





## 2016 Sidewalk Master Plan

# 10 YEAR PLAN

• \$250 MILLION •



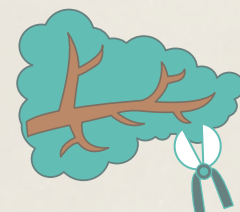
### ADDRESS PRIORITY SIDEWALKS WITHIN 1/4 MILE OF SCHOOLS, BUS STOPS, AND PARKS



- 390 miles of new sidewalks
- Both sides of moderate-to-high capacity roads
- One side of residential streets
- Includes public and private schools

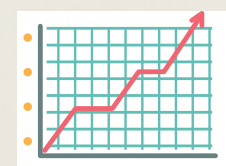


### What does that look like? \$25 million a year



### IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN OUR EXISTING SIDEWALKS

- Inform the public on removing overgrown vegetation from sidewalks and roadways
- Provide stable and sufficient funding for repair and rehabilitation of existing sidewalks
- Assess condition of at least 10% of the existing sidewalk network annually



### What does that look like? \$15 million a year

## How Sidewalks Help Us



Reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality



Keep pedestrians **safe** throughout the city



Keep our city **connected & accessible**

## ☆ BENEFITS ☆

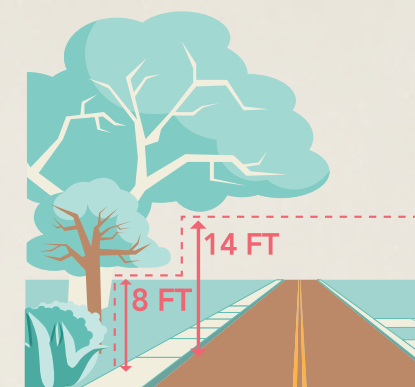
- The average person will walk **half a mile** to their destination if there's a **safe path** to get them there. Walkability is frequently cited as one of the most sought-after features in a neighborhood.
- By **investing** in a network of dedicated walking paths to make active transportation **feasible, attractive and safe**, sidewalks will connect families to healthy food, children to schools and people from all backgrounds to jobs, public transportation and economic opportunities.

## Engage: Make a Difference

### KNOW THE RIGHT OF WAY, CLEAR THE RIGHT OF WAY

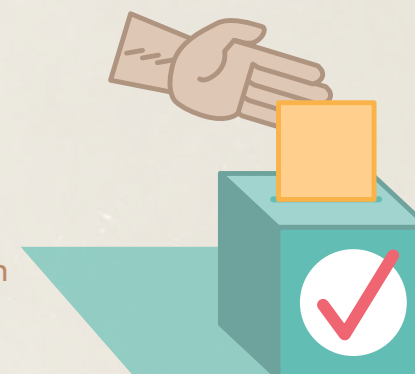
Clearing overgrown brush and vegetation on your property makes sidewalks **safe** and **accessible** for all.

Learn more at [austintexas.gov/cleartherow](http://austintexas.gov/cleartherow)



### GET INVOLVED

Be informed with local elections. Work with your elected mayor and council members. **Join** and **engage** in local government at City Hall by serving on a board or commission that is important to you.



### LEARN MORE

The **Sidewalk Master Plan** and supporting City plans and policies are available through the **Imagine Austin Plan** and **Complete Streets** at [austintexas.gov/sidewalks](http://austintexas.gov/sidewalks).

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### QUESTIONS?

Contact the Public Works Department at 512.974.7065 or dial 3-1-1 (out of area: 512.974.2000) to speak to an ambassador.

