



Date: January 17, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Aaron T. Ditzler, PE, Assistant City Engineer

Subject: Approve Additional Sidewalks for the Morningside C Neighborhood Roadway Reconstruction, Improvement No. BA-462

Information / Background:

Following the December 6, 2022 public hearing, the Council authorized the design phase to begin on December 20, 2022. Based on public hearing testimony, the Council requested staff prepare a survey soliciting feedback on constructing sidewalks on Kipling Avenue, Monterey Avenue and West 40th Street.

Staff prepared three separate surveys, one for Kipling Avenue and Monterey Avenue residents, one for Edina West 40th Street residents, and one for St. Louis Park West 40th Street residents. Staff also received one petition from residents living along Kipling Avenue requesting sidewalk installation along Kipling Avenue, and one petition from residents living along Grimes Avenue requesting sidewalk installations along Kipling Avenue, Monterey Avenue and West 40th Street.

The attached survey results show mixed results. When answering if the resident supported a sidewalk **on their street** without mention of location of the side of the street, there was 42% - 50% support for all three additional sidewalks. When answering if the resident supported a sidewalk **on their side of the street**, there was 25% - 50% support for all three additional sidewalks.

70 Edina properties were mailed a survey postcard and 34 Edina residents responded to the survey. 40% to 63% of Edina residents did not respond and 100% of St. Louis Park residents did not respond. Staff believes our survey had a low response rate because of the attached petitions in favor of the sidewalks. For reference, the Kipling and Grimes Avenue petitions were received prior to staff mailing the survey postcards to the residents.

The Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Fund (PACS) has budget to support constructing these additional sidewalks. Recall, authorizing sidewalk installation requires a minimum of 3 out of 5 Council votes in favor to pass.

Recommendation

Staff recommends constructing additional sidewalks along Kipling Avenue, Monterey Avenue and West 40th Street in the Morningside C Neighborhood Roadway Reconstruction, Improvement No. BA-462. The preliminary locations are along the west side of Kipling and Monterey Avenues and the south side of W. 40th Street.

Staff is recommending installation for the following reasons.

1. The petitions and surveys show support. Staff believes our survey had a low response rate because of the petitions in favor of the sidewalks.
2. Recommendation aligns with the guiding principles of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, although these locations are not specifically identified in that plan.
 - a. Provide safe routes for all ages and abilities
 - b. Develops facilities and address network gaps
 - c. Provide connectivity for everyday uses and needs
3. Installing during street reconstruction is more cost effective and efficient to reduce costs and impacts.
4. The PACS fund has budget to install these sidewalks.
5. The streets will be narrowed from a proposed 27 feet wide to 24 feet wide, reducing the estimated assessment per REU by a few hundred dollars.