

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE SIDEWALK POLICY

Under the provisions of the Town Charter, the Town may construct sidewalks on Town property along any public way or part thereof. This policy delineates the decision process to be followed by the Town in considering the construction of new sidewalks.

All sidewalks constructed by the Town comply with Federal Law under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

REQUEST FOR SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION

A request for sidewalk construction may originate with

1. an individual
2. the Public Services Committee
3. the Town Council

Requests from individuals should be submitted to the Town. Petitions from multiple individuals are not required. The request should specify the street(s) on which sidewalk construction is requested and state the reason(s) for requesting sidewalk construction. The individual may provide an opinion as to which side(s) of the street the sidewalk should be installed. Any existing roadway conditions which support sidewalk installation should be noted, including, but not limited to, the following:

- provide access for walking to schools
- provide access to pedestrian destinations, such as the Leland Center, transit stops, parks, places of worship
- provide access for the disabled
- connect to an existing network of sidewalks
- show evidence of a worn path
- history of vehicular/pedestrian crashes

EVALUATION OF SIDEWALK REQUESTS

The Town Council may refer the request to the Town's Public Services Committee for its consideration and recommendation. If the Town Council determines that a sidewalk may be warranted, then it may commission an engineering study to evaluate feasibility, considering factors such as:

- Available right-of-way or Town easement for installation;
- Terrain;
- Existing obstructions, utility poles, landscaping, etc.;
- Existing trees and the impact on trees
- Drainage conditions;
- Cost estimates

The results of the study will be available to the public.

CITIZEN INPUT AND FINAL DECISION

If the engineering study concludes that the construction of the requested sidewalk is feasible, and there is sufficient right-of-way, then the Town will hold a public hearing to consider the construction of the proposed sidewalk. The Town will provide sufficient written notice of the public hearing to those residents on the block subject to the sidewalk request and will use other available communication means to inform all Town residents of the same. Any resident may attend the public hearing and testify.

Following the public hearing and consideration of any written comments provided in response to the public hearing, the Town Council will make a final decision as to the construction of the sidewalk.

Adopted by Council 6/13/2007