

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
September 15, 2005
9:30 A.M.

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: Report Back On Curb, Gutter And Sidewalk Maintenance Backlog

CONTACT: Hardeep Sidhu, Senior Civil Engineer, 875-5490

BACKGROUND:

The Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SacDOT) repairs and replaces curb, gutter and sidewalk via an annual \$300,000 contract. Damaged residential curb, gutter and sidewalks are prioritized by a computerized rating system and are scheduled for contract replacement. Priority is based on numerous factors such as the severity of the damage, the amount of pedestrian traffic, and the proximity to schools, parks, bus stops, and hospitals.

Permanent sidewalk replacement for commercial properties is the property owner's responsibility. Commercial property owners are notified by mail of their responsibility for the permanent replacement of defective sidewalks. The County replaces commercial curb, gutters and sidewalks if the damage is caused by a county tree or if the damage was unavoidable and not caused by the property owner (e.g. damage was caused by county forces).

DISCUSSION:

Countywide, there are approximately 6,760 reported locations that are identified as needing permanent repairs with an estimated deferred maintenance cost of \$7.0 million. For the annual maintenance contract, a survey of the neighborhoods with highest ranking damaged locations is conducted to identify other locations that meet the minimum criteria for replacement but have not been reported and are not in the department's database. These locations are then added to the maintenance contract. The pattern in past years has consistently indicated that for every reported location there are approximately two unreported locations in the neighborhood that meet the minimum criteria and are therefore included in the project. The total estimated deferred maintenance cost for both the reported and the estimated unreported locations is approximately \$20.0 million.

With the total backlog of \$20.0 million, it would take approximately 30 years to repair all the locations with a funding level of \$880,000 annually. The required funding level for 20 years and 10 years are also shown below. With the current funding level of \$300,000 annually, the backlog is expected to keep growing due to inflation.

	Annual funding level need for total backlog of \$20.0 Million
30 Years	\$880,000
20 Years	\$1,200,000
10 Years	\$2,200,000

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SacDOT is investigating several funding alternatives in an effort to reduce the deferred maintenance list. They include the following:

- Ø An increased allocation of Road Fund and Measure A: This will have to compete with the other Maintenance and Operations Programs such as the Pavement Maintenance, Signals & Street Light Maintenance, and Tree & Landscape Maintenance.
- Ø Governor’s Transportation Improvement Plan (Proposition 42): This funding source can only be used for the Routine Transportation Maintenance Activities. While it appears sidewalk repair could qualify, it would need to compete with other identified operation and maintenance priorities.

For any changes in the above-mentioned funding allocations, the currently programmed capital improvement and maintenance projects relying on these funds need to be re-prioritized and approved by your Board.

It is desirable to reduce the deferred curb, gutter and sidewalk maintenance backlog initially by about one-third to make the overall program manageable and be able to show a significant improvement countywide. To achieve this goal, SacDOT recommends a three year contract for approximately \$2.2 million per year for a total of \$6.6 million. At the end of this three year contract, the deferred maintenance would be down to approximately \$14.0 million and could be funded by a 20 year program with an annual cost of approximately \$860,000.

Currently, all costs for all curb, gutter and sidewalk repair/replacement fronting a residential property is funded by the County. In an effort to reduce the deferred maintenance cost, the following cost sharing options can be considered:

- Ø Making all property owners responsible for curb, gutter and sidewalk repairs.
- Ø Making all property owners responsible for repairs to the sidewalk while the County would be responsible for gutter repairs.
- Ø Having the County perform all curb, gutter and sidewalk repairs and splitting the cost with the property owners 50/50.
- Ø Revising the Policy to make property owners responsible for private tree damage. The County will be responsible for damage caused by county trees.

If the Board desires to pursue these or other similar options, SacDOT will follow-up and prepare a detailed report on the above alternatives and present to your Board for further consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Thomas J. Zlotkowski, Director
Department of Transportation

Terry Schutten
County Executive

By: _____
Cheryl Creson, Administrator
Municipal Services Agency

RCM:rm

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