



Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

---

## [MPC Comment] Subdivision sidewalks

1 message

---

**Ian Blackburn** <ian@yoki.com>

Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 11:17 AM

Reply-To: ian@yoki.com

To: commission@knoxmpc.org

Hi, folks. I understand that the October 12th vote requiring sidewalks in all new subdivision developments is being re-voted, for some reason. I just wanted to urge you to support this again.

Yours,  
Ian Blackburn  
614 W Hill Ave, #11  
Knoxville, TN 37902

--

---

This message was directed to [commission@knoxmpc.org](mailto:commission@knoxmpc.org)



Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

---

**[MPC Comment] March 8, 2018 MPC Agenda Item 31, Reconsideration of Section 3.05 A.2 of the Knoxville-Knox County Subdivision Regulations regarding Sidewalk Policy 2-B-18-OB**

1 message

---

**Jack W** <ajwoodal@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 6:10 PM

Reply-To: ajwoodal@gmail.com

To: commission@knoxmpc.org, gerald.green@knoxmpc.org, tom.brechko@knoxmpc.org

I am a member of Community Forum. I have appeared before the MPC several times to address the sidewalk requirement in the revised subdivision regulations. Community Forum, established in 1987, is an organization that includes representatives from many neighborhoods in the City of Knoxville and Knox County.

At the October 2017 meeting, MPC approved a motion by the Chair that the subdivision regulations include a requirement for sidewalks in all new Knox County subdivisions. At the December 2017 meeting MPC approved a one year postponement of that amendment to allow a number of issues to be addressed before the amendment became effective. The sidewalk issue again is being revisited at this meeting.

The original sidewalk proposal in the subdivision regulations two years ago included a requirement for sidewalks in all new subdivisions. As part of MPC discussions, MPC distributed an excellent video emphasizing walkability and the importance of sidewalks. Knox County's new subdivisions are not only for next year but will represent the life of the community for the next 50 years.

Sidewalks encourage people to get out of their houses and cars and provide opportunities for walking and physical activity that improve health and well-being. A subdivision with sidewalks has an enhanced sense of community by giving residents better connections to their neighbors.

Sidewalks are important to the everyday lives of children. They are critical to the safety of children who walk to schools and walk through their subdivisions to meet school buses. Sidewalks enable children to walk safely with their parents and to walk safely to meet friends. Children in Knox County's should not be required to walk on the streets of new subdivisions to get to schools or to get to school bus stops on arterial roads. Pedestrian safety for Knox County children is too important to be overlooked when a new subdivision is approved.

MPC has approved a requirement for sidewalks in all new subdivisions, and has agreed to a postponement of the requirement to address issues that could have been resolved in the last two years. MPC has nothing new to address in a revisit of the October 2017 vote and that decision should be confirmed.

Jack Woodall  
[865-250-3189](tel:865-250-3189)

--

---

This message was directed to [commission@knoxmpc.org](mailto:commission@knoxmpc.org)



**Knox County Schools**  
**Transportation Department**

Descriptor  
Code:

***E***

**Bus Routes:**  
**Route and Stop Parameters**

Date of  
Last Change: **November 1, 2009**

**E.5 Subdivision Stops for Grades K-5**

Students within an area of one (1) mile from the school, by the shortest route, are not eligible for and shall not have transportation services provided by the Knox County Schools. Those students residing on a road with continuous travel should have a designated bus stop located no further than one-fourth (1/4) mile from their home unless a bus stop cannot be situated at a location within the one-fourth (1/4) mile range which allows adequate visibility between the bus driver and other motorists. Eligible students residing in a subdivision development or other roads with NO continuous route will have a designated bus stop located near the development entrance or nearest intersection. Designated stops should be added within these areas if the distance from the entrance to the last residence along the shortest road route exceeds three-fourths (3/4) mile or where fifteen (15) or more K-5 grade students are eligible for services and a suitable turnaround location for the bus exists. In cases where there is a continuous route through a subdivision, the distance must meet or exceed three-fourths (3/4) mile from the nearest entrance to the last eligible student's residence. The only exception to this policy shall be where a subdivision has fifteen or more elementary or fifteen or more middle and high school students who ride the bus on a regular basis. In the aforementioned exception the bus will enter the subdivision, travel to a safe intersection and then exit the subdivision (EDD).

**E.6 Subdivision Stops for Grades 6-12**

Students within an area of one and one-half (1 1/2) miles from the school, by the shortest route, are not eligible for and shall not have transportation services provided by the Knox County Schools. Those students residing on a road with continuous travel should have a designated bus stop located no further than one-half (1/2) mile from their home unless a bus stop cannot be situated at a location within the one-half (1/2) mile range that allows adequate visibility between the bus driver and other motorist. Eligible students residing in a subdivision development or other roads with NO continuous route will have a designated bus stop located near the development entrance or nearest intersection. Designated stops should be added within these areas if the distance from the entrance to the last residence along the shortest road route exceeds three-fourths (3/4) mile or where fifteen (15) or more 6-12 grade students are eligible for services and a suitable turnaround location for the bus exists. In cases where there is a continuous route through a subdivision, the distance must meet or exceed three-fourths (3/4) mile from the nearest entrance to the last eligible student's residence. The only exception to this policy shall be where a subdivision has fifteen (15) or more elementary or fifteen (15) or more middle and high school students who ride the bus on a regular basis. In the aforementioned exception the bus will enter the subdivision, travel to a safe intersection and then exit the subdivision.



Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

---

## [MPC Comment] Sidewalks

1 message

---

**Jessica Taylor** <jessicataylor227@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 7:04 AM

Reply-To: jessicataylor227@gmail.com

To: commission@knoxmpc.org

Dear Commissioners,

I am sure all of you are aware of the benefits of having sidewalks in our community, so I will not explain why I think we should require them to be included in subdivision development.

Instead, I would like to pose a question to you:

Can it be justified that sidewalks should NOT be required in subdivisions?

Please keep in mind how many people benefit from sidewalks as opposed to how many people benefit from not having to include them in the development of their property.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Taylor  
4201 Valencia Road  
Knoxville

--

---

This message was directed to [commission@knoxmpc.org](mailto:commission@knoxmpc.org)



Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

---

## [MPC Comment] Sidewalks

1 message

---

**John Fort** <fort247@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 8:16 AM

Reply-To: fort247@gmail.com

To: commission@knoxmpc.org

I think sidewalks are a healthy and safe way for families to get around the neighborhood. Please don't kill our sidewalks.

--

---

This message was directed to [commission@knoxmpc.org](mailto:commission@knoxmpc.org)



Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

---

## [MPC Comment] Sidewalks!

1 message

---

**Dianne Blane** <himara1@me.com>

Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 5:39 PM

Reply-To: himara1@me.com

To: commission@knoxmpc.org

Dear commissioners:

The need for sidewalks in all of our neighborhoods is a true no-brainer. Please do not change your vote to at least require sidewalks to be built in all new subdivisions!!

Thank you,

Dianne Blane  
Knoxville

Sent from my iPad

--

---

This message was directed to [commission@knoxmpc.org](mailto:commission@knoxmpc.org)



Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

---

## [MPC Comment] Sidewalks

1 message

---

**randy graham** <rgraham0921@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 4:45 PM

Reply-To: rgraham0921@gmail.com

To: commission@knoxmpc.org

I am a resident of West Knox County, and am writing to request that all commissioners vote to require construction of sidewalks in all new Knox County subdivision developments. Sidewalks may cost the developer a little extra money up front, but the neighborhood will not only be more walkable, for all ages, safer, and ultimately likely to have a higher property value for homeowners. It will also encourage more Knox County residents to exercise, and will therefore improve community health. This seems like a no-brainer to me, and is basically a win-win situation. I would certainly view a new (or old) subdivision more favorably, if I was considering buying a home, if it had sidewalks. Please vote to require construction of sidewalks in all new Knox County subdivision developments.

Randy Graham

804 Clover Fields Ln

Knoxville, TN 37932

--

---

This message was directed to [commission@knoxmpc.org](mailto:commission@knoxmpc.org)



Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

---

## [MPC Comment] Sidewalks

1 message

---

**Donna Bueckman** <drdonna@bueckman.net>

Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 7:51 AM

Reply-To: drdonna@bueckman.net

To: commission@knoxmpc.org

Dear MPC Commissioner,

I urge you to support sidewalks as you continue to make decisions for the Knoxville-Knox County area. We are in desperate need of procedural changes that direct how we build our neighborhoods. For the sake of health and safety, sidewalks are so important.

The most important reason, from my perspective is for our children. Even in neighborhoods built far out in the County, children walk to a bus stop, and the youngest ones are typically walking in the dark. The roadway is no place for them to be walking. When my children were in elementary school, we participated in Walk to School Day, and in our neighborhood sidewalks are almost non-existent. I recall one year it was dark and the day was foggy as the children walked. All arrived safely that day, but it forever impressed upon me the importance of getting the children out of the roadway when they walk to school or to bus stops. Please support sidewalks for the safety of the many generations who will be able to safely walk in their neighborhoods.

One last comment, and frankly, it's a purely economic one. If sidewalks are not put in as subdivisions are developed, they never will be. The additional cost of putting in a sidewalk will be lowest when a new subdivision is created. Retrofitting a roadway and front yards just won't happen after the fact because the cost is prohibitive. The prudent economic decision is to work them in to the process of development.

Thank you for your time,  
Donna Bueckman  
2417 Ridgecres Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37918

---

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

--

---

This message was directed to [commission@knoxmpc.org](mailto:commission@knoxmpc.org)



March 6, 2018

Hello MPC Commissioner,

I am a recently retired private practice physician, specializing in internal medicine and nephrology. Since retirement I have been involved with advocating for improved better biking and walking in the Knoxville region. I feel very passionate about my issues - particularly improving the poor health of most Tennesseans. 2/3rd of adults and 1/3rd of children are overweight or obese with associated diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular and renal disease.

My medical practice and office were based in West Knoxville at Park West Hospital; I frequently prescribed walking to my patients to help with weight management. Many said they had no place to walk because their subdivision had no sidewalks and they were fearful to walk in the street. I wanted them to walk only 10 minutes twice to three times a day as that was all many could tolerate. Connecting sidewalks to destinations outside of their subdivision was not my goal- my goal would be 100- 200 yards for each outing. But they could not even do this since they could not walk safely from their homes. They would tell me that their only daily physical activity was light house work, shopping, and walking to/from their parking spot at work and to their mailbox. And they were not motivated to join a gym or other fitness facility either due to expense or inconvenience, So, having a sidewalk in the neighborhood would a difference in residents' activity level even if there is not a connecting sidewalk from the neighborhood to other destinations.

Car dependence creates health problems including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and depression. The built environment has been shown to have a direct impact on an individual's health outcome- people living in walkable, connected neighborhoods are healthier than neighborhoods that are not walkable or connected. And this finding is confirmed even when access to healthy food is included in the data evaluation.

Substantiating Data:

- There is a strong correlation of obesity and Type 2 Diabetes (T2DM) that is very prevalent in the southern states.
- Diabetic pharmaceuticals alone exceeded \$60 billion in 2014. For comparison, federal transportation funding is \$60 billion/ year.
- USA health costs continue to rise. The overall share of gross domestic product (GDP) related to health care spending was 17.9 percent in 2016, up from 17.7 percent in 2015.
- Out-of-Pocket (11 percent share): Out-of-pocket spending grew 3.9 percent in 2016 to \$352.5 billion, faster than the growth of 2.8 percent in 2015. This was the fastest rate of

growth since 2007 and exceeded the average annual of growth 2.0 percent from 2008-15. Individuals are spending more of their own money for health care.

Medical literature citations:

**Longitudinal Associations Between Neighborhood Physical and Social Environments and Incident Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA)**  
***JAMA Intern Med.* 2015;175(8):1311-1320. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2015.2691**

Conclusions:

“Long-term exposure to residential environments with greater resources to support physical activity and, to a lesser extent, healthy diets was associated with a lower incidence of T2DM, although results varied by measurement method. Modifying neighborhood environments may represent a complementary, population-based approach to prevention of T2DM, although further intervention studies are needed.”

*JAMA Intern Med.* 2015;175(8):1311-1320. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2015.2691

**Association of Body Mass Index With Cardiovascular Disease Morbidity; JAMA Cardiology Published online February 28, 2018**

Findings: “In this population-based study, overweight and obesity were associated with significantly increased risk for CVD. Obesity was associated with shorter longevity and a greater proportion of life lived with CVD; overweight was associated with similar longevity as normal weight but at the expense of a greater proportion of life lived with CVD.”

“The economic implications of direct and indirect medical costs of the overweight and obesity epidemic are enormous, and total health care costs attributable to overweight and obesity are estimated to exceed \$800 billion by 2030 if current trends per

Commissioner, please vote for the sidewalk policy that was passed by your commission on October 12, 2017. The Knox County citizens deserve and need safe places to walk.

Respectfully,  
Caroline Cooley, MD  
President Bike Walk Knoxville  
903 Windgate St  
Knoxville, TN 37919