



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

[MPC Comment] Sidewalks are great

1 message

Paul Laudeman <paul@laudeman.com>

Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 11:04 AM

Reply-To: paul@laudeman.com

To: commission@knoxmpc.org

I have heard that the Commission is revisiting the sidewalk requirement because of some procedural issue?

What ever the issue I support the inclusion of sidewalks in all new development and in any substantial redevelopment. Sidewalks are necessary for the safety of pedestrians, especially children. I see kids walking on the roads in many neighborhoods where there are not sidewalks and it is scary. This is also unsafe for vehicles that have to dodge around pedestrians who must walk in the road way.

People like sidewalks and it adds value to homes in areas that have them no matter what developers may say.

Please continue to support sidewalks and other measures that increase the safety and health of Knoxville and Knox county.

Paul Laudeman

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This message was directed to commission@knoxmpc.org



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

[MPC Comment] Sidewalks Are Critical

1 message

Nolan Wildfire <nwildfire@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 7, 2018 at 10:49 AM

Reply-To: nwildfire@gmail.com

To: commission@knoxmpc.org

Commissioners,

I can't believe that I even have to write this letter in 2018 regarding the importance of sidewalks in urban planning and development. Study after study has shown the importance of sidewalks in developing community. They create safer neighborhoods, they create healthier neighborhoods, and they level the playing field across socioeconomic classes where some citizens cannot afford a vehicle or public transportation. Moreover, the increase property value and have a positive impact on the local economy.

Do they cost money? Of course they do! But are they worth it? Of course they are!

Please do not focus on the short term financial gains, but instead focus on the long term vitality of our community.

Thank you!

Nolan Wildfire

Oakwood/Lincoln Park resident

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This message was directed to commission@knoxmpc.org



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

[MPC Comment] sidewalks, Item 2-B-18-OB

1 message

Deborah Thomas <deb33immel@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 11:20 AM

Reply-To: deb33immel@gmail.com

To: commission@knoxmpc.org, Gerald Green <gerald.green@knoxmpc.org>

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing about the sidewalk requirement to be discussed at the MPC meeting.

I live in a historic area that was built with sidewalks. It is an invaluable resource for our neighborhood. There are sections here, especially in Lincoln Park, that were not built with sidewalks. It is nearly impossible to add them now. We recently created maps for our area based on the existing sidewalks, but had to leave out significant sections of the neighborhood for lack of sidewalks and safe areas to walk.

The importance of proper planning and upfront costs can reap many long term benefits. We have a sedentary society. Sidewalks offer not just exercise opportunities, but a safe walking route to public transportation and a form of neighborhood watch, as well as a neutral place to meet and talk with neighbors.

Don't short-change our future communities by overlooking this valuable asset.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

Deborah Thomas
President, OLPNA
428 E Burwell Ave

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This message was directed to commission@knoxmpc.org



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

[MPC Comment] sidewalks

1 message

Cherry, Chris R (Christopher Cherry) <cherry@utk.edu>

Wed, Mar 7, 2018 at 1:05 AM

Reply-To: cherry@utk.edu

To: "commission@knoxmpc.org" <commission@knoxmpc.org>

Commissioners.

I just learned that the commission is taking up the sidewalk debate again. I've lived in Knoxville 10 years and am struck by the lack of sidewalks every time I travel and return. There's really no good excuse not to mandate 1st-world infrastructure like sidewalks. I'm living in Brisbane Australia for a few months now and I wondered at the great urban infrastructure that they have, including major parks and indeed global city stature. I learned that their launching point as a city came when they hosted the 1988 World's Fair (you should see their world fair park). There are a lot of factors that dictate where Knoxville has been and where it's going, but these two cities at least have that in common.

Knoxville has a lot to offer and I love to live here (there), but I feel like Knoxville has fallen behind in some of the "livability" standards that many cities enjoy and helps attract top companies and workers. Sidewalks are a fundamental core piece of infrastructure that must be in any city (on both sides of the street!). Don't let developers take shortcuts before they move onto the next spot, at the expense of livability, safety and obesity for Knoxville (did I mention that it's hard to find an overweight person here, by design?). Do what other cities have done for generations, mandate sidewalks.

Chris Cherry

[1305 Beacon Hill Ln](#)

[Knoxville TN 37919.](#)

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This message was directed to commission@knoxmpc.org



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

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This message was directed to 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)

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This message was directed to commission@knoxmpc.org

	Knox County Schools Transportation Department	Descriptor Code: <i>E</i>
	Bus Routes: Route and Stop Parameters	Date of Last Change: November 1, 2009

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

2

3 Students within an area of one (1) mile from the school, by the shortest route, are not eligible

4 for and shall not have transportation services provided by the Knox County Schools. Those

5 students residing on a road with continuous travel should have a designated bus stop located

6 no further than one-fourth (1/4) mile from their home unless a bus stop cannot be situated at a

7 location within the one-fourth (1/4) mile range which allows adequate visibility between the

8 bus driver and other motorists. Eligible students residing in a subdivision development or oth-

9 er roads with NO continuous route will have a designated bus stop located near the develop-

10 ment entrance or nearest intersection. Designated stops should be added within these areas

11 if the distance from the entrance to the last residence along the shortest road route exceeds

12 three-fourths (3/4) mile or where fifteen (15) or more K-5 grade students are eligible for ser-

13 vices and a suitable turnaround location for the bus exists. In cases where there is a continuous

14 route through a subdivision, the distance must meet or exceed three-fourths (3/4) mile from

15 the nearest entrance to the last eligible student's residence. The only exception to this policy

16 shall be where a subdivision has fifteen or more elementary or fifteen or more middle and

17 high school students who ride the bus on a regular basis. In the aforementioned exception

18 the bus will enter the subdivision, travel to a safe intersection and then exit the subdivision

19 (EDD).

20

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

22

23 Students within an area of one and one-half (1 1/2) miles from the school, by the shortest

24 route, are not eligible for and shall not have transportation services provided by the Knox

25 County Schools. Those students residing on a road with continuous travel should have a desig-

26 nated bus stop located no further than one-half (1/2) mile from their home unless a bus stop

27 cannot be situated at a location within the one-half (1/2) mile range that allows adequate visi-

28 bility between the bus driver and other motorist. Eligible students residing in a subdivision

29 development or other roads with NO continuous route will have a designated bus stop located

30 near the development entrance or nearest intersection. Designated stops should be added

31 within these areas if the distance from the entrance to the last residence along the shortest road

32 route exceeds three-fourths (3/4) mile or where fifteen (15) or more 6-12 grade students are

33 eligible for services and a suitable turnaround location for the bus exists. In cases where there

34 is a continuous route through a subdivision, the distance must meet or exceed three-fourths

35 (3/4) mile from the nearest entrance to the last eligible student's residence. The only exception

36 to this policy shall be where a subdivision has fifteen (15) or more elementary or fifteen (15)

37 or more middle and high school students who ride the bus on a regular basis. In the aforemen-

38 tioned exception the bus will enter the subdivision, travel to a safe intersection and then exit

39 the subdivision.

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

[MPC Comment] Sidewalks

1 message

Jessica T aylor <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

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This message was directed to 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.

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This message was directed to 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

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This message was directed to 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](#)

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This message was directed to 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>

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This message was directed to 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



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

[MPC Comment] Sidewalks in Knox county

1 message

Thomas Worley <thomas.worley@me.com>

Wed, Mar 7, 2018 at 3:35 PM

Reply-To: thomas.worley@me.com

To: commission@knoxmpc.org

Commissioners,

Sidewalks have lasting effects on a community! As a resident of Forest Heights neighborhood for the past 15 years I have enjoyed riding my bicycle almost every day to work at Fort Sanders Hospital where I practice as a Hospitalist physician. I have seen more and more people utilize the green belt network and sidewalks over this time. I am one of many who gains much benefit from having a walking/biking network so close at hand. I wish all of Knox County had a safe place to walk and bike right outside their front door... I certainly feel that if you "build it, they will come" with respect to utilization of sidewalks. The Sutherland Avenue green belt expansion resulted in a dramatic increase in usage in our neighborhood. Individuals and families could feel safe walking to the grocery store or local restaurants!

Why is this important? There are countless benefits! However, as a physician, I am most concerned about the ongoing obesity epidemic in East Tennessee. Unfortunately, I treat the consequences of obesity related disease every day in the hospital. Often I feel that I could have more of an impact on our community's health by focusing my efforts on helping design a society that promotes daily exercise from children to the elderly. Sidewalks in every new neighborhood are a great way to start that journey. An integrated green belt to connect neighborhoods and existing green belts would be even better! I realize this is expensive and won't happen overnight, however we must endeavor to make a change. Our community's health is in peril.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Thomas Worley, MD
Statcare Hospitalist Group.

Sent from my mobile. Thomas Worley.

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This message was directed to commission@knoxmpc.org



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

[MPC Comment]

1 message

Community Health Council <knoxchc@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 7, 2018 at 7:46 PM

Reply-To: knoxchc@gmail.com

To: Scott Smith <commission@knoxmpc.org>, Gerald Green <gerald.green@knoxmpc.org>

Dear Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commissioners:


As the Community Health Council (CHC) serving Knox County, the City of Knoxville, and the Town of Farragut, we are writing to you urge you to revise the Knoxville-Knox County Subdivision Regulations to **require** sidewalks in all new developments. Please see the attached information sheet that helps provide data and context for the position of the CHC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe Miles
Chair, Policy and Advocacy Committee
Community Health Council

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This message was directed to commission@knoxmpc.org

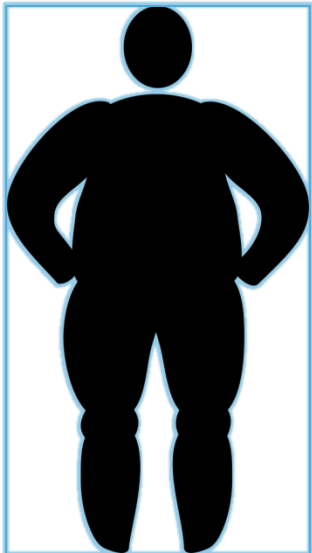
 CHC Sidewalk Information Sheet.pdf
658K



serving Knox County, the City of Knoxville, and the Town of Farragut

We urge you to support Subdivision Regulations that would require sidewalks in all new developments.

WHY?



- ***Because our children & families deserve safe neighborhoods.***
- ***Because we all deserve healthier & safer options to get where we are going.***
- ***Because you live and work here, too.***



Walkability makes our communities safer:

- Lack of sidewalks & other pedestrian infrastructure is a key cause of pedestrian fatalities.



One of the most critical public health issues facing our community is physical inactivity.

- **Physical inactivity & car dependence** relate directly to **obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and depression** – major killers & causes of skyrocketing health care costs.



Walkability improves health for everyone:

- **People living in walkable, connected neighborhoods are healthier** than in neighborhoods that are not walkable or connected, even when access to healthy food is included in the equation.
- **People who live in walkable communities are TWICE AS LIKELY to meet physical activity guidelines** as those who don't live in walkable communities.
- **Men who live in walkable communities weigh 10 lbs. less & women weigh 6 lbs. less** on average than those who don't.



Most people prefer living in neighborhoods with sidewalks & good places to walk

- **84%** of Knox County residents reported that sidewalks are “somewhat or extremely important” for improving the quality of life in the county.
- When asked what keeps them from using parks & greenways as often as they’d like, **68%** of Knox County residents surveyed indicated the lack of sidewalks & trail connections.



The investment in infrastructure for active transportation benefits a substantial portion of the population, with **11%** of trips taken via walking or bicycling.

- Investments in walkability typically **increase land value by 70-300% & retail sales by 30%**.
- **Time to sell is shorter for homes with sidewalks.**



Sidewalks make children safer & healthier by increasing opportunities to walk to school safely & by reducing traffic-related pollution

- **Probability analysis shows over 4,700 potential walk-to-school trips every day** within the Parental Responsibility Zone in Knox County.
- **Traffic-related pollution at school has been shown to increase children’s risk of asthma.** Helping more children walk to school helps decrease idling traffic around schools.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



You can make health and safety a priority in our neighborhoods by supporting the version of the Knoxville-Knox County Subdivision Regulations which would require sidewalks in all new developments!!

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

knoxchc@gmail.com