

**TOWN OF ACTON
INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION
TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE**

DATE: November 7, 2000

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Don P. Johnson

SUBJECT: Sidewalk Issues

During the Board's meeting of October 24, you asked that staff prepare a status report with respect to our sidewalk construction program and pull together previous petitions for Board review and consideration. I am pleased to submit this report and the attached package of materials.

Materials and comments are as follows:

1. TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE "PROPOSED SIDEWALK MASTER PLAN" DATED SEPTEMBER 1987:

This was the first concerted effort at organizing our sidewalk construction priorities and program. It set basic selection criteria, recommendations and the first priority list. With respect to the list, we have achieved the following:

1. Route 2A - much of Route 2A now has sidewalks
2. Route 27 - we have made progress but there are still several major segments to be done
3. Arlington Street - this segment has been completed
6. Coughlin/Taylor/Minot to Conant School - nothing done
4. Jefferson Drive - nothing done
7. Central Street - nearly complete
8. Piper Road - neighborhood did not want, nothing done
9. Joseph Reed-Capt. Brown's - nothing done
10. Windsor Ave. - done

It is noteworthy that two major sidewalk projects have been undertaken outside of the above listing (School Street and Concord Road). Both are well advanced. School Street is nearly complete. Concord Road has a difficult section yet to be constructed.

2. SIDEWALK CAPITAL PLAN COMPLETED PROJECTS:

This spreadsheet delineates the sidewalk projects that we have completed since 1996. You will note that we have added 5.0 miles of sidewalk since 1996, bringing the total length of sidewalk, as of November 1, 2000, to 33.6 miles. This is nearly 1/3 of our total street mileage.

3. SIDEWALK CAPITAL PLAN PROPOSED FIVE YEAR PLAN:

This document represents the Engineering Department's recommended plan for sidewalks over the next five years. It is fluid and subject to adjustment, depending on availability of funds or changes in priorities of the Board. It follows the general criteria of the Sidewalk Master Plan for selection of priorities with one major footnote. The footnote is that we have tried to rotate projects around town such that no particular area receives all (or none) of our attention.

4. UN-BUILT SIDEWALKS FROM APPROVED SUBDIVISIONS:

This document lists the sidewalks and/or funding for sidewalks, resulting from the subdivision process, that have yet to be built.

5. PETITIONS:

We have included copies of the various petitions and correspondence we have received in recent years. Engineering advises that the Prospect Street segment (shown in their '04 plan) and the Martin Street section (shown in their '06 plan) both derived from verbal requests. Mid-way through this package of materials, in descending chronological order, you will find reference to (and a copy of) the TAC Sidewalk Petition Form. These materials are designated 5a for reference purposes. We have offered it to several petitioners but they seem to find it too cumbersome to use.

6. SIDEWALK MASTER PLAN MAP:

The last document is a current map of sidewalks in Acton. You will note that the existing, constructed sidewalks are shown in red. The dark blue/purple lines represent the sidewalks recommended in the Engineering Department's Proposed Five Year Plan (item #3 above). The green lines depict sidewalks to be constructed by developers.

