Apple, Pear and John A. Wood Sidewalk Project

Guided Walk, Questions & Answers

May 7, 2025

6:15-7:45pm

Attendance: 32 Residents / 2 City Staff / 1 Consultant

City Staff: Francisca Chan, Jasmine Isaac and Carmelle Tremblay (Wade Trim)

General Comments

- DTE appears to be performing utility updates (new poles, etc) in the neighborhood. Please coordinate the project with DTE so that they do not place a pole in the way of the sidewalk.
- Response: Thank you for the information. We will coordinate with DTE for this project.
- A traffic calming petition was submitted for John A. Woods – will this be incorporated into this project? Response: We checked with the Traffic Calming Program, they have no record of a traffic calming petition at John A. Woods.
- The Safe Routes to School project in 2018 identified the need to improve the crosswalk at Pontiac Trail and Taylor, for access to Northside STEAM. That would be the best investment for safety in this area.

Questions & Answers

1. Apple Street residents have heard of a petition to close Apple St to vehicle traffic, except for local driveways. If that is implemented, would a sidewalk be needed? Response: As this is a sidewalk gap project, the project is scoped for sidewalk rather than significant street changes. If at some point in time the street is being fully reconstructed, more options can be considered.

2. Apple St residents say there is so little on-street parking on this street and it barely gets used. Could the street be narrowed and on-street parking removed in order to save trees and move sidewalk further away from homes on the north side of Apple? Response: There is a significant amount of right of way on the north side of Apple, and it appears the sidewalk may fit within the current width, while preserving trees. There does not appear to be a need to narrow the road and remove the on-street parking on this side of the road.
3. Can the forester come to the next guided walk? Response: We can forward him the invitation but cannot guarantee his attendance.
4. Is it possible to see the data that was used to support the need for this project, such as citizen's requests, speed and crash data etc.? Response: Yes, some data is publicly available, such as crash data. The Michigan Traffic Crash Facts website will give you access to all certified crash data in the state. One way to search crash data is this website: www.michigantrafficrashfacts.org. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) website is another excellent source of certified crash data. You may also find crash data on the city's website. This data is focused on reporting out local conditions and do not replicate the functionality of the other websites. For the speed data, do you mean traffic counts? For traffic counts or citizen request such as a copy of the petition, please submit a FOIA, process is outlined here: https://www.a2gov.org/city-clerk/records-request-foia/
5. Can you share some examples of retaining walls used for sidewalk projects? Response: Yes, I can email you some examples, or I can also show some at the next in person public engagement meeting, please email me.

6. Who are the decision makers for this sidewalk project? Response: The Engineering Division within the Public Services Department is responsible for the technical aspects of sidewalk construction, including planning, design, and project management. We work closely in a project team that includes Forestry, Planning, Transportation and incorporates public feedback and input. We are also guided by regional and national standards for sidewalk construction.
7. Can you provide more information on what an easement is and how it works? Response: An easement is a legal term for a type of property right that allows another person, business or entity access to a specific part of your property. In this case we are referring to City acquiring legal right to use property for construction of the sidewalk. An easement is typically handled with the private property as an exact drawing exhibit will show the land limits and a legal document outlining what the property will be used for.
8. Are and were speed humps considered as an alternative to sidewalks? Response: No, speed humps are a traffic calming element that would be considered through Traffic Calming Program or if this was a project for the street. This is outside the scope of our sidewalk project.
9. What happens if Apple is narrowed, and the curb is moved in? Parking? Response: There is a significant amount of right of way on the north side of Apple, and it appears the sidewalk may fit within the current width, while also preserving trees. There does not appear to be a need to narrow the road and remove the on-street parking on this side of the road.
10. When does the current sidewalk millage expire? Response: The New Sidewalk Millage, approved in 2020 has a 6-year term.

11. Will Apple St be resurfaced alongside this project, since it is in such poor condition?

    Response: Staff will look into this and have a response by the preliminary design public meeting.