Apple, Pear & John A Wood Sidewalk Project

Information & Design Meeting

July 29, 2025

6:00-7:15pm

Attendance: 17 Residents / 3 City Staff / 2 Council Members / 2 Consultants

City Staff: Jasmine Isaac, Francisca Chan and Nick Hutchinson

Council Members: Cynthia Harrison and Lisa Disch

Consultants: Carmelle Tremblay and Nolan Mullett

General Comments

- We would lose to many trees on the west side of the street.
- Before final design, please provide 3D photos/images indicating which trees exactly are proposed to be taken down.
- It just sounds like you all are just used to doing what you want. We can talk about it, but we don't have any leverage.
- This is all very performative. You don't actually want our opinions or input. Also, there is a sentiment that wealthy, powerful neighborhoods without sidewalk i.e. (Ann Arbor Hills) dodge this bullet and less wealthy, neighborhoods without power get stuck. As Jasmine said in the intro, we live here, we know. 99% of us don’t see a need for this – it's a waste of tax money. At a minimum, adjust the plan to only one side of John A. Woods and Apple to show a small degree of respect for the community. Prioritize actual busy, dangerous areas to our city.
- We prefer no sidewalks as they are not wanted by the majority of residents. If there must be sidewalks, we do prefer the Eastern side of the road. There are more land beds than property owners on that side.
- This project is being forced upon us. It will drastically change the quality of life in our neighborhood.
- The majority of Pear Street is opposed to this entire project.
- Please put the sidewalk on the west side. Clean up the street create sidewalk to bus that does not require crossing street twice to get to bus.
- Virtually everyone in our neighborhood does not want this change. It will not improve the safety of the Pear Street route to STEAM school.
- The neighbors who are comfortable or neutral about this project did not show up to this meting, and many of us who are supportive aren't comfortable speaking up.
- I request that you consider only on one side of the street (Apple). We already have a sidewalk on John A Wood. Otherwise, can we just have one side – it saves money.
- I live on Pear; I have 2 young kids. I was initially in favor of sidewalks so that my kids could walk safely to/from school. But after looking at the plans, I now see the trees we would lose and how the sidewalks would encroach on people's lawns. I still want my kids to be safer walking on their own Luckily, cars are minimal and already go slowly, and so traffic calming measures would do this just as well as sidewalks. I understand the millage

was for sidewalks, but why can't the sidewalks be 'painted' on the street? It would be significantly less expensive, and would increase safety while also keeping our trees, people could keep their lawns, and the road would not have to be narrowed in any way.

- I am the homeowner at XXX Pear Street in Ann Arbor, writing once again to express my strong opposition and deep concerns regarding the planned sidewalk project on our street. Despite repeated outreach from myself and other Pear Street residents, I feel that our voices have not been sufficiently heard in this process. I understand that the project will move forward this summer, with sidewalks to be installed on just one side of Pear Street. I strongly urge you to select the EAST side of the street for this installation. This option would require significantly less tree removal and would help preserve the unique character and natural beauty of our historic neighborhood. As you may know, some sidewalk already exists on the east side and extending it there would minimize disruption. From my own home, I can see eight mature trees that would be removed if the sidewalk were placed on the west side of Pear. These trees provide not only critical shade and habitat but also substantial value to our homes and community. Removing them would be a tremendous loss for the neighborhood. This project has caused a great deal of frustration and sadness among residents, particularly given the lack of responsiveness to homeowner and community input. If the city must proceed with the sidewalk installation, I urge you to do so in a manner that minimizes environmental and neighborhood impact- by selecting the east side of Pear Street. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for considering the input of those directly affected.
- Highly frustrated that there seems to be no attempt to preserve trees on Apple St. counter to the walk-through discussions. It appears that there is space to meander around trees to avoid the loss of every major tree on the south side. Also, why must there be sidewalk on both sides of Apple St.? One side would be sufficient for pedestrians. If you do remove all the trees on the south side, why not put the sidewalk closer to the street to give space to houses? East side of Pear Street is strongly preferred to maximize preserving the beauty of the neighborhood. That would minimize tree loss and impact less landscaping and yards. In general, we are supportive of adding sidewalks to this neighborhood and on these streets. However, it appears that there is much more opportunity to preserve the existing old trees which are a defining neighborhood feature.
- Personally, my issue with placing the sidewalk on the West side, the side I reside, is our parking space in our driveway on Pear Street. Our garage was built as a horse stable and is not big enough for our minivan. It simply can’t fit, so we use the Pear Street driveway to park it. If the sidewalk goes there, our minivan would effectively either regularly block the sidewalk, or we simply couldn’t park there and would have to take up the already crowded street parking. Plus, there’s a 4-ton rock you’ll need to move to place the sidewalk. Not sure where it could go and not sure if the city will move it, or will I be responsible to move it.

Sidewalk Preference

The responses received at the July 29th meeting are as follows:

East side: 10

West side: 1

I am not sure: 0

Other:

- No sidewalks
- I’m happy either way
- No sidewalks preferred
- This project is unnecessary
- Neither
- None
- None
- No sidewalks on Pear Street
- Not at all
- Traffic Calming measures and a bike path / walking lane drawn onto the street.

Questions & Answers

1. Can the sidewalk be moved closer to the road on Pear, closer to Traver? Instead, of through the center of our yard?
   Answer: At some locations this could be possible, but in general there is not adequate space between the trees and the curb to fit a sidewalk, and the road cannot be narrow any further due to Fire Code. It should also be noted that the proposed sidewalk locations are in the public right of way, not on private property.

2. I understand the millage was for sidewalks, but why can't the sidewalks be 'painted' on the street?
   Answer: A painted line on the street is not a sidewalk and does not create an adequately safe place for pedestrians to walk separated from motor vehicles.

3. Is it too late to move the project?
   Answer: The project is scheduled for construction in 2026. There are presently no plans to change the timeframe.