

Hill, Karen

From: Walsh, Matthew
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 4:44 PM
To: Brown, Stacey; Fennessy, Nathan; Jeff Foote; Sexton, Amanda; Horne, Michele; Keach, Fred; Kretovic, Jennifer; Kurtz, Judith; Councilor McLaughlin; Councilor McNamara; Councilor Schlosser; Schultz, Kris; Ali Sekou; Councilor Todd; Mayor Champlin
Cc: Aspell, Thomas; LeBrun, Brian; Breton, Stefanie; Thompson, Timothy; Bezanson, Michael; Hill, Karen; Chesley, Chip; Major, James; Skinner, AnneMarie; Bass, Alec
Subject: Borough Road Sidewalk
Attachments: 20200323 Report to Council.pdf; 20200413_City Council Meeting Minutes.pdf; Club 55 Basic Site Plan (2023).pdf; TPAC Sidewalk Priority List.pdf

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I hope you're well! Councilor Horne recently made an inquiry regarding sidewalk extensions on Borough Road between #33 Borough and Primrose Lane. Councilor Horne's email is below. Given the history of this issue, City Administration felt it would be appropriate to share our response with the entire City Council to bring you all up to speed.

Generally speaking, and by way of background, the City works to fill in gaps between sidewalks whenever a street is paved / reconstructed as part of the City's annual highway program. By way of example, as part of the FY2024 Budget, which was adopted in June 2024, the City Council appropriated \$1,090,000 to design and construct sidewalks on Pembroke Road (Guay St – Sheep Davis Road), portions of Airport Road, as well as Chenell Drive; all as part of Capital Improvement Project #17. These sidewalk segments are being constructed in conjunction with the City's annual paving program (Capital Improvement Project #78), which includes repaving these roadways. In February 2024, the City Council approved a report, which modified / delayed the annual paving program and related sidewalk project associated with Pembroke Road due to the forthcoming Heights Sewer Improvement Project (Capital Improvement Projects #91 and #275).

As you know, a sidewalk currently exists on the south side of Borough Road between Village Street / Fisherville Road / Manor Road intersection to #33 Borough Road. Said sidewalk is approximately 1,300' long.

There is a long history regarding potential extension of sidewalks on Borough Road. The most recent discussions at the City Council level occurred in March / April 2020, during which the City Council expressly discussed constructing a sidewalk extension from 33 Borough Road to Primrose Lane. The extension would have been around 2,400 linear feet. A copy of a March 2020 staff report, as well as minutes of the City Council's April 2020 meeting, are attached. The minutes of the April 2020 meeting note that the City Council specifically voted 11-4 to proceed with "Option 1" in the March staff report, which entailed repaving Borough Road without constructing the sidewalk. Please see attached staff report and highlighted portion of the attached minutes for more information.

Borough Road was subsequently paved in 2020. In accordance with City's Street Excavation Regulations, Borough Road is currently subject to 5 year "no cut moratorium" through fall 2025.

Further potentially complicating construction of a potential sidewalk extension to Primrose Lane is the creek / wetland which passes beneath Borough Road near Blueberry Lane. Specifically, it is conceivable that the culvert / bridge for the wetland may need to be expanded to support a sidewalk at this location. Any potential expansion of the culvert / bridge would require wetland permits and significant add to the cost of a sidewalk. Additionally, utility poles are located on the south side of Borough Road to approximately Lilac Street. Therefore, it is plausible that some utility poles located along this section of the road need to be relocated to facilitate a sidewalk extension to Primrose. Said details would need to be confirmed; however, both items could add significant cost to any future sidewalk project.

Regarding Councilor Horne's other questions:

- 1) City Administration is unaware of any grant applications being submitted by the City to the NH Department of Transportation for Borough Road, or a "package" of other sidewalk projects. Any such grant applications would require City Council approval.
- 2) Presently there are no projects in the Capital Improvement Program to construct a sidewalk on Borough Road.

Additionally, as eluded to in Councilor Horne's inquiry, there is a development project known as "Club 55", which has been approved at 61 Borough Road. For background, the project was approved several years ago, but did not proceed to construction and permits expired. In July 2023, the Planning Board approved an updated site plan application for this project. The project features 21 senior housing units. A copy of the basic site plan is attached. The Planning Board's approval expires in July 2024; however, the Developer may request a 1 year extension to 2025. As a condition of the Planning Board's approval, the applicant is required to construct a sidewalk along the frontage of 61 Borough Road. Timing of the construction of the sidewalk will need to be coordinated with the 5 year moratorium in accordance with the Street Excavation Regulations. Should the development ultimately move forward and the sidewalk associated therewith be constructed, the residual sidewalk gap easterly between 33-61 Borough Road which would be approximately 850' +/- long. The residual gap westerly from 61 Borough to Primrose Lane would be around 1,100' +/-.

Lastly, City's Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) prepared an inventory of 117+/- sidewalk gaps in the community, and ranked them. Borough Road ranked #24 on the list with a score of "59". TPAC's inventory is attached. It is important to note that TPAC only has the ability to make policy recommendations to the City Council regarding transportation projects and issues. The City Council has sole authority regarding approval of City transportation capital improvement projects, as well as budgetary decisions associated therewith.

I hope this information is helpful. In accordance with RSA 91-A, please refrain from any "reply all" responses to this email.

Best Regards,
Matt Walsh
Deputy City Manager – Development
City of Concord
41 Green Street
Concord NH 03301
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Email: mwalsh@concordnh.gov



From: Hill, Karen <KHill@ConcordNH.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 4:15 PM
To: Horne, Michele <MHorne@ConcordNH.gov>
Cc: Walsh, Matthew <MWalsh@ConcordNH.gov>
Subject: RE: Borough Road Sidewalk

Hi Councilor Horne,

I just wanted to let you know that this email has been received and that I have referred it to Deputy City Manager, Matt Walsh.

Best,
Karen

From: Horne, Michele <MHorne@ConcordNH.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 10:32 AM

To: Hill, Karen <KHill@ConcordNH.gov>

Subject: Borough Road Sidewalk

Good morning, Karen.

During my campaign and now, from my constituents, I have received questions regarding installation on a sidewalk on Borough Road. I have been researching as much as possible as well as asking many questions from Councilman Todd. I now have a few follow questions that I can not seem to find answers for:

The June 28, 2018 TPAC minutes note that staff suggested that the Borough Road sidewalk project be moved to a stand-alone CIP project- has there been movement toward this? I think part of that was next steps to have summer engineering interns develop a conceptual design/layout and cost estimate for the additional 2,400 feet of sidewalk and related roadway improvements. This would provide an idea of the scale of the project, impacts, and associated costs. I am not sure if that part occurred.

With that, it was also suggested that a number of priority sidewalks be bundled and included in a grant application under the appropriate NHDOT sidewalk funding project. Did this ever occur?

I also read in a report from TOC in 2018 that there may be a sidewalk constructed near the southside of Lilac Street with the 61 Borough development. As that development progresses, do we know if the sidewalk is still being considered?

Thank you so much for your help and time on this,

Michele Horne

City Councilor, Concord Ward 2

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