

Board of County Commissioners Leon County, Florida

Policy No. 13-1

Title: Sidewalk Eligibility Criteria and Implementation

Date Adopted: April 28, 2015

Effective Date: April 28, 2015

Reference: N/A

Policy Superseded: N/A

Policy No. 13-1, Sidewalk/Bikeway Provision Selection Criteria, adopted by the Leon County Board of County Commissioners on July 9, 2013, is hereby retitled “Sidewalk Eligibility Criteria and Implementation” and amended to read as follows:

It shall be the policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, that:

- A. Criteria: The following Criteria shall be utilized to evaluate the proposed sidewalks/bikeways, subject to the availability of funds:
1. Included in the Safe Routes to School list adopted by the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) Board (SRTS)
 2. Routes to parks
 3. Connectivity of a neighborhood to an existing bike route or trail; connections need to be within ¼ mile
 4. Completing a gap (less than ¼ mile in length) between existing pedestrian/bike facilities
 5. Addresses a bike or pedestrian safety issue in an area with documented demand
 6. On an arterial or collector roadway
 7. Located inside the Urban Service Area (USA)
 8. Donation of right of way
- B. Project Categories: Sidewalk projects approved by the Board for construction utilizing County funding (Approved Sidewalk List) shall be classified as either SRTS or Community Sidewalk Enhancements. SRTS projects shall be those included in the SRTS list adopted by the CRTPA Board. Community Sidewalk Enhancements shall be all non-SRTS projects.
- C. Funding: Through the annual budget process and five-year capital improvement plan, 60% of total County sidewalk funds shall be allocated to SRTS projects and 40% shall be allocated to Community Sidewalk Enhancement projects. Staff is authorized to adjust this allocation during the year as projects and funding needs progress toward and through construction. However, the 60%/40% distribution shall be maintained over the five-year period, unless otherwise approved by the Board.

D. Prioritization Tiers – SRTS and Community Sidewalk Enhancements projects included on the Approved Sidewalk List shall be separately categorized as a Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 or Tier 4 project (Priority Tier), in accordance with the definitions set forth in Table #1 below, for the purposes of prioritizing Leon County funding, program design, permitting and construction.

Table #1: Sidewalk Priority Tiers		
Tier¹	Safe Routes to School – Priority Tier Definitions	Community Sidewalk Enhancements – Priority Tier Definitions
1	Meets no less than 4 of the criteria	Meets no less than 4 of the criteria
2	Meets 3 of the criteria	Meets 3 of the criteria
3	Meets 1 to 2 of the criteria	Meets 1 to 2 of the criteria
4 ²	Meets no less than one of the criteria, however one side of the street has an existing sidewalk	Meets no less than one of the criteria, one side of the street has an existing sidewalk
¹ Priority Tiers, with Tier 1 being the highest priority level and Tier 4 the lowest priority level.		
² Unless the Board specifically directs otherwise, once a roadway has a sidewalk on one side of the street, the priority for placing a sidewalk on the opposite side of the street for the same segment shall automatically be reclassified as a Tier 4 project, if it remains on the Approved Sidewalk List.		

E. Additions to the Approved Sidewalk List - Staff shall evaluate new sidewalk segments proposed for construction within the unincorporated area of Leon County through the use of County funds. Those proposed new sidewalk segments that meet no less than one of the Criteria, as set forth in Section A above, shall be presented to the Board for its consideration. Only those sidewalk segments approved by the Board shall be included in the Approved Sidewalk List. Proposed new sidewalk segments that are located outside the USA, and not on the SRTS list, are not eligible for inclusion in the Approved Sidewalk List unless the Board makes an exception. The order by which construction occurs on specific projects shall be dictated by physical, design/permitting, and funding constraints.

F. Implementation of Approved Sidewalk List Projects - All projects within a given Priority Tier level shall be given equal priority with respect to funding and development activities. All Tier 1 projects shall be programmed through construction prior to staff beginning work on Tier 2 projects; all Tier 2 projects shall be programmed through construction prior to staff beginning work on Tier 3 projects; and all Tier 3 projects shall be programmed through construction prior to staff beginning work on Tier 4 projects.

With respect to sidewalk segments located on Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) roadways that are on the Approved Sidewalk List, staff shall prepare plans and acquire permits in order to be able to better position/leverage other funds for the sidewalk construction. Once all the necessary permits have been obtained, the Board may or may not direct staff to proceed with the construction of a sidewalk on FDOT right-of-way.

G. Annual Status Report - Staff shall provide the Board with an annual status report on the sidewalk program. Such annual status reports shall include, but not be limited to, the status of funding allocations, including the distribution of funds between SRTS and Community Sidewalk Enhancements projects.