

## **Bobbie Walthall**

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**From:** Laura Routh <lauridi@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2013 8:36 AM  
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**Subject:** Auditor's Work Plan, and Sidewalks

June 23, 2013

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Community Sidewalk Taskforce, I am writing to thank you for considering sidewalks as a topic for the City Auditor to examine in the coming year.

The Community Sidewalk Taskforce (CST) is a joint effort of the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods and The League of Women Voters.

As part of the 2014 work plan, the CST supports the City auditor's examination of pedestrian access, safety, and the status of sidewalks in Lawrence.

We have discussed a variety of possible questions for City Auditor Eglinski to consider:

Under current City code and ordinance, what is the history and status of City enforcement activities related to sidewalk repair/ clearance?

Are the City's existing sidewalks design and construction practices adequately serving elderly and disabled residents?

Would the the creation of a City advisory board specifically addressing pedestrian access and safety be beneficial?

How can the City best realize the pedestrian goals contained within T2040 and the Complete Streets plan?

How can the City best ensure equity related to sidewalk infill and repair? In some areas of the City, residents have participated in benefit districts, used CDBG funding, or paid out of pocket to repair/replace their sidewalks. In other areas, the City has constructed sidewalks at City expense. We are concerned about the potential equity issues inherent in some current practices. We are also interested in having City staff examine the best methods for getting sidewalks constructed on arterial routes in those areas of town which were developed when there were no requirement for sidewalks.

How can the City equalize the cost burden if/when new sidewalk infill, repair or replacement efforts are undertaken?

How are other Cities (comparable to Lawrence) addressing pedestrian safety, sidewalk infill, repair and replacement? What works? What doesn't work? What lessons have been learned, elsewhere, that we might benefit from?

What preferred financial instruments are available for the City to realize better pedestrian safety and access? New sales tax revenue? Existing infrastructure sales tax revenue? TAP \$? STP funding? Low interest loans? Payment at the time of property sale? Single contractor, or site by site choice? Sidewalk Utility Fee?

How can the City best assist low to moderate income homeowners in regard to sidewalk repair and infill?

What are reasonable goals and timelines for sidewalk infill and repair? How can the City best prioritize?

**The CST asks that the City Commission make analysis of pedestrian access and safety, and improved sidewalk connectivity in Lawrence, a priority task for the Auditor's 2014 work plan.**

At any point, we would be delighted to meet with individual Commissioners, or Mr. Eglinski, to share the results of our work, thus far. The Community Sidewalk Taskforce meets the second Wednesday of every month, at 7 PM, in the basement conference room of the Carnegie Building, downtown. We invite all interested parties to attend.

We respectfully request that this letter be included in the packet for the June 25, 2013 City Commission Meeting.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration, and your continued service to the citizens of Lawrence.

Cordially,

Laura Routh  
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