Sidewalk Maintenance Policy

Pedestrian Council Meeting
April 24, 2018
Agenda

- Why?
- What?
- Who?
- Where?
- When?
- Recap
Sidewalk and Multi-Use Path Maintenance Policy

- Policy Implement (P.I.) O-02
- Effective June 17, 2013
- Primary Responsibility: Director of Maintenance & Operations (M&O)
- **Goal**: Maintain sidewalks in operable and readily accessible working condition.
Title 23 USC 116. Maintenance

“...requires the State transportation department to maintain...any project constructed...”

* Town Agreements may define maintenance by others.

Title 28 CFR: Judicial Administration Part 35 – Subpart B – General Requirements

“...requires a public entity to maintain sidewalks...in operable and readily accessible working condition.”
Why?

- Justification
  - Complete Streets Policy (P.I. O-6)
    - “…walking is the most fundamental mode of physical transportation…”
    - “…promote safe access for all users…”
  - Americans with Disabilities Act
    - “…equal opportunity…for people with disabilities…”
DelDOT Does Not Maintain Sidewalks:
- Owned or maintained by municipalities;
- Located in subdivisions;
- Privately owned;
- Maintained by others.

DelDOT maintains the remaining sidewalks located in the state right-of-way.
What?

- Structural Repairs
  - Eliminate horizontal gaps >0.5”
  - Eliminate vertical gaps >0.25”
  - Repair deterioriated pavement
  - Eliminate depressions that trap water/ice
Vegetation Control

- Removal of woody vegetation and/or noxious weeds encroaching on the sidewalk to provide 8 foot vertical clearance and 1 foot horizontal clearance
In conjunction with established priorities for snow removal for sidewalks will commence immediately after completion of roads classified as “Local” and subdivisions.

Sidewalks will be prioritized based on pedestrian traffic, high densities of elderly and disabled, schools, transit routes, and other high volume pedestrian facilities.
All other maintenance, such as sweeping and trash removal, will be performed as resources are available within the Department.
M&O addresses structural repairs, vegetation control, and other sidewalk maintenance based on complaints.

M&O manages snow removal utilizing contractors.
Who?

- **Sidewalk Snow Removal Contractual Services**
  - **Contract DOT1503 Emergency Snow and Ice Removal**
  - Used this contract in 2013-14
  - Hourly rate for equipment and operator
Who?

- DelDOT Employees
  - M&O Employees 1\textsuperscript{st} Priority – Roadways
  - Volunteers & Report When Contacted (RWC)
    - Would need sidewalk equipment
    - Performing Inspection
    - Training, Scheduling, Documentation, etc.
Who?

- Shared Responsibility with Adjacent Property Owners
  - Common approach in incorporated areas
    - 43 of 57 municipalities in Delaware have sidewalk regulations (2012)
  - Issues with consistent enforcement
  - Requires legislation to implement
- Target primary sidewalks beginning at the City of Wilmington and work outwards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Miles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interstates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Freeway/Expressways</td>
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<td>Principal Arterials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor Arterials</td>
<td>61.2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Sidewalks Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>144.7</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Collectors</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Collectors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Roads</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Sidewalks Total</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Sidewalk Miles</strong></td>
<td><strong>237.7</strong></td>
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Where?
When?

- Minimum of four (4) inches of snow and ice
  - Reported DelDOT Website for Official Snowfall Accumulations
- As directed by the Department
  - Factor in forecast
    - Additional storms, warm weather, etc.
Recap

- Issues
  - Contractor’s Insurance
    - Not Indemnified
  - Payment Rates
    - Year 1 Requested Proposals
    - Year 2 Force Account Rates
      - Expensive, Crew Size, Interest, Ability to Complete the Work
Recap

Issues

- Maintenance of Traffic
  - Added Truck Mounted Attenuators

- Sidewalks Plowed In
  - Typically start 2 days after plowing the streets
  - Heavy, compacted snow and ice
  - Curb ramps, street corners plowed in by others
  - Equipment - Walk Behind Mini Skid Steers, Dingos, Bobcats performed well
Recap

- **Issues**
  - Property Damage
    - Turf damage – Spring Repairs
  - Requests for Additional Locations as Public Awareness Grows
  - Direct Inquiries to Public Relations
    - Forward to various groups as appropriate:
      - M&O Districts, Insurance Office, ADA Coordinator, etc.
Recap

- Issues
  - Significant Cost
  - Potentially short term benefit
Recap

• **Benefits**
  • Improved Safety
    • Pedestrians not walking in the street
    • Pedestrians using sidewalks and bus stops as soon as they were cleared
  • Meeting Policy Requirements
Questions & Comments