

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is the City proposing a sidewalk along Bidwell Street?

A sidewalk along Bidwell Street between Thompson Avenue and Butler Avenue will fill a gap in the City's pedestrian network that has been identified as a priority route in the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Dakota County's Safe Routes to School Plan for both Moreland and Heritage schools, and the City's comprehensive plan. It is a priority of the City to implement transportation improvements for all modes of transit, including biking and walking, and this project presents an opportunity to do so while also providing a safe route to area schools.

2. Why is the sidewalk proposed on the East side of Bidwell Street?

The east side of Bidwell Street is the proposed location for the sidewalk for the following reasons:

- The majority of existing private utilities (power poles, underground fiber lines, etc.) exist on the west side of Bidwell Street. Sidewalk construction on the west side of Bidwell Street would require significant private utility relocation activities.
- The east side of Bidwell Street allows for the most direct connection to the Heritage STEM Middle School mid-block crossing at Butler Avenue and Charles Matson ball fields.
- The Heritage STEM Middle School is a partner in the project and is granting easements to the City at no cost for construction of the sidewalk.

3. Why is no parking being posted on the east side of Bidwell Street between Thompson Avenue and Orme Street?

In order to construct the sidewalk within existing right-of-way and reduce the impacts to front yards, Bidwell Street is proposed to be narrowed to a 32-foot street width. The Minnesota Department of Transportation Municipal State Aid Street (MSAS) Standards do not allow parking on both sides of a street narrower than 36-feet. Bidwell Street is a MSAS route and requires no parking to be posted on the east side of Bidwell Street. On-street parking will remain along the west side of Bidwell Street.

4. Will there be any assessments?

The City received Safe Routes to School Federal funding for the project. There will be no assessments to adjacent property owners with the project.

5. Who is responsible for clearing snow on the sidewalk?

The City will be responsible for snow clearing of sidewalk as a requirement of the Safe Route to School funding received.

6. How will my driveway and front yard be restored?

All driveways will receive a new concrete driveway apron between the sidewalk and street. Behind the sidewalk, any disturbed driveway will be restored in-kind. Turf disturbed with the project will be replaced with new topsoil and sod.

7. When will I hear more about construction?

Design and bidding of the project are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2022. Construction is planned for Spring and Summer of 2023. Additional information regarding construction will be sent to the neighborhood in the Spring of 2023.

