



James Johnson
City of Long Beach
Councilmember, Seventh District

Date: May 7, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember James Johnson, Seventh District
Councilmember Gerrie Shipske, Fifth District *GS*
Vice Mayor Robert Garcia, First District *RG*

Subject: Alternative Techniques to Maintain Sidewalks

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer consideration of alternative sidewalk maintenance techniques, such as saw cutting, to the City Council's Infrastructure Committee.

DISCUSSION

Sidewalks are a vital part of the City's infrastructure, as they are part of the "complete streets" that help move residents throughout our communities. Properly maintained sidewalks also support the safety of our community by reducing trips and falls caused by uplifted sidewalks, which are particularly hazardous for our elderly and disabled residents.

Currently sidewalk repairs consist of two discrete programs: sidewalk replacement, in which the damaged sections of sidewalk are completely replaced, and sidewalk maintenance, in which asphalt is typically used to eliminate the hazard posed by uplifted sidewalks. Both sidewalk maintenance and repair is needed; while sidewalk replacement is a more permanent and aesthetically pleasing solution, it is also much more expensive than asphalt patching. The Public Works Director has indicated that saw cutting may be a cost-efficient alternative to asphalt patching for some sidewalks, and that it may be wise to redirect some of our citywide sidewalk maintenance (versus repair) dollars to that activity. (Note that some council districts have already used sidewalk repair funds for saw cutting.) Thus, we request that the Infrastructure Committee consider this option as a cost-effective way to maintain our sidewalks in a manner that enhances neighborhood quality of life.

FISCAL IMPACT

The costs and benefit of saw cutting, as compared to asphalt patching, of sidewalks would be discussed at the Infrastructure Committee as part of their consideration.