

ORDINANCE 1866

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1821 50/50 PUBLIC SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Munster is the municipal legislative body of the unit; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of time various ordinances, codes, procedures of the Town of Munster must be amended; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of time various practices, policies and procedures must be updated; and

WHEREAS, The Town has 116 centerline miles of roadway with 232 miles of public sidewalk. Before 2017, data collection on sidewalk hazards occurred annually by Public Works using a drive-by approach within known substandard areas to identify conditions, allowing many areas to be overlooked.

WHEREAS, a new approach to sidewalk replacement was approved April 3, 2017 by the Town Council when Town Engineers, SEH, Inc., were commissioned to complete a Town-wide Sidewalk Inventory and Assessment using an objective, systematic and comprehensive condition assessment approach on all Town sidewalks. This master sidewalk list is now used as the basis for budgeting decisions and prioritizing scarce resources to improve the Town's sidewalk infrastructure moving forward.

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to formally adopt and ordain a 50/50 Public Sidewalk Replacement Program to provide additional funding and improve the Town's ability to repair or replace substandard public sidewalks within its limited budget.

Now, therefore, be it **ORDAINED** by the Town Council of the Town of Munster, Lake County, Indiana as follows:

The following provisions shall be added to Chapter _____, as follows:

Section One - Eligible Sidewalks.

The 50/50 Public Sidewalk Replacement Program applies only to the replacement of existing substandard sidewalks and does not apply to construction of new sidewalks or to private sidewalks.

Section Two - Identification of Sidewalks for Replacement.

Substandard sidewalks in need of replacement or repair shall be identified in one of two ways: Town-Identified Hazards and/or Resident Requests. Residents may notify the Town of substandard sidewalks and request repair or replacement through Sidewalk Replacement Applications.

Section Three - Inspection and Rating.

- A. Once a substandard sidewalk is identified by either Town-Identified Hazards or Resident Requests, the Town Public Works department shall physically inspect the sidewalk and assign a rating of #1 (worst) to #4 (best). The Town shall utilize and exercise official judgment and discretion when ranking substandard sidewalks in need of repair.
- B. Factors to be considered in ranking substandard sidewalks in need of repair shall include, but are not limited to, the following: budgetary concerns, allocation of scarce resources, proximity to high traffic areas and those within school zones, hospital zones, and other areas targeted for any grant-funded street improvement projects, as well as the weighing of risks and benefits.
- C. Sidewalks with the worst condition ratings will generally be considered as first priority for either replacement or lifting.

Section Four - 50/50 Cost Sharing.

- A. Costs of sidewalks replaced by the Town (except those being replaced due to damage caused by the Town) will be split equally with benefitting property owners, regardless of whether initiated from Town-Identified Hazards or Resident Requests. Residents are required to pay their 50% portion of the repairs to the Town Clerk-Treasurer's office prior to work being performed.
- B. To minimize financial burden on residents, no property owner will be responsible for repairs to more than 75% of the existing sidewalk on their lot. For corner lots with complete sidewalk buildout, this maximum will be 50% of the existing sidewalk length. For the purpose of calculating caps, lot widths will be obtained from the Lake County Surveyor GIS website.

Section Five - Notification.

The Town shall notify owners of any addresses identified by the Town for sidewalk replacement of the 50/50 Sidewalk Program information by mail 30 days prior to work commencing and to alert residents of a forthcoming invoice from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

Section Six - Appeal.

An owner of an address may petition the Town Manager to delay repairs by up to twelve (12) months. Costs associated with the repairs will be at the contracted price for that construction season. The owner shall remain liable for any instance of injury or notice of tort claim resultant of the failed sidewalk.

Section Seven - Contractor.

All sidewalk repairs performed pursuant to the 50/50 Public Sidewalk Replacement Program shall be performed by a contractor selected by the Town.

Section Eight - Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon the date of its publication which shall occur within thirty (30) days after passage.

ORDAINED and ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Munster, Indiana on the ____ day of _____ 2022, by a vote of ____ in favor and ____ opposed.

**TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MUNSTER,
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**

Chuck Gardiner, President

ATTEST:

Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer