

PennDOT Policy on Sidewalk Construction, Maintenance, and Funding

The complete policy can be found in PennDOT Publication 13M (DM-2), Chapter 6 and Attachments. Below are several points that the District would like to call attention to for any current and future projects that involve the construction of sidewalks in a municipality.

Two main points to take away...

1. The standard maintenance agreement must be used;
2. A local 20% funding commitment is required.

Construction of Sidewalk Facilities

PennDOT Pub 13M, Chapter 6, Section 6.6, Sidewalks states the following:

The Department may construct new sidewalks when pedestrian needs have been evaluated and the needs of pedestrians have been determined as follows:

1. A sidewalk has been programmed as a project or project component through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process.
2. A municipality requests the inclusion of sidewalks to be installed as part of the programmed (post TIP) Department project. The municipality has agreed to fund the sidewalk construction and any additional right-of-way costs.
3. The Department may replace sidewalks when an existing sidewalk is removed, relocated or altered, as a result of the Department project.
4. The need to accommodate critical pedestrian safety needs has been identified within the limits of a Department project. (i.e., Pedestrians are forced to walk in traffic lanes between pedestrian generators with an existing or potential crash history.)

Maintenance of Sidewalk Facilities

In all of the above scenarios, the municipality is responsible for future sidewalk maintenance. The standard PennDOT maintenance agreement must be executed. If a municipality refuses to accept ownership and maintenance responsibilities for a proposed sidewalk, then that sidewalk will be deleted from the scope of work. If practical, grade the area adjacent to the shoulder to facilitate future sidewalk installation.

A letter of commitment on the Municipality's letterhead is required after the project scoping if sidewalks are incorporated into the project. The standard maintenance agreement will then be signed by the Municipality after project scoping, but early in the preliminary design process, or the sidewalk construction will be removed from the project scope.

The standard PennDOT sidewalk maintenance agreement can be found in PennDOT Publication 13M, Chapter 6, Appendix C–Reimbursement and Maintenance Agreement, page 6C-15.

Funding of Sidewalk Facilities

District 1-0 requires a match of 20% of the sidewalk costs to construct new sidewalk facilities on PennDOT projects. There are various funding sources to consider for the municipal match and a flow chart for PennDOT/Municipal Funding Scenarios can be found in PennDOT Publication 13M, Chapter 6, Appendix C – Reimbursement and Maintenance Agreement, page 6C-20.

In addition, PennDOT awards both federal and state funds through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Multimodal Program that allow for the construction of sidewalk facilities. The TAP program is federally funded for construction only with the municipality responsible for all preconstruction activities and the Multimodal award is state funded with a 30% municipal match requirement. Information on both of these programs can be found on the PennDOT website (www.penndot.gov) and then searching for Multimodal or TAP.