



CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ADMINISTRATION

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Bruce K. Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: William R. Gray, P. E., Public Works Director

DATE: April 10, 2003

RE: *Request to convert brick sidewalks to concrete sidewalks in a major brick walk block*

INTRODUCTION

The City of Urbana has received a signed petition (attached) where by certain property owners have requested that the existing brick sidewalk in front of or adjacent to their homes be removed and replaced with concrete. All the locations (see attached map) in the subject petition are located in the "near east area" and are also located within a "major brick walk block". Per the Code of Ordinances Sec. 20-31 C there is a provision where property owners can petition to the City Council for such a request. The request may be granted by a motion passed by a majority vote of council members present.

City staff has evaluated the entire brick sidewalk in the city. In the locations identified in the petition some of the brick sidewalk condition is poor. See attached photos. For your information this summer the City will have a \$150,000 contract to remove, repair/replace brick sidewalk in those areas where the brick sidewalk condition is worst. The residents that signed the petition are aware that this brick sidewalk is going to be replaced as part of this program perhaps as soon as this year. Notwithstanding this information these residents would like to have concrete sidewalks. Their reasons include the high maintenance of brick, with weed and grass growth and the irregular surface makes it difficult for elderly and disabled individuals to walk on.

FISCAL IMPACTS

It has been discussed before that the costs to remove and replace brick sidewalks is 2 to 3 times as much as the costs to remove the brick and replace with concrete.

Long term a decision to replace the brick sidewalk with concrete would be less costly to the City.

RECOMMENDATION

It is a City Council decision to pass a motion in favor or not in support of this petition based on the evidence and discussion as presented.

WRG:tlh

