



CeCe Ibson – Ward 1 City Council Candidate Survey Responses

5. Sidewalk Gaps

The City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget sets aside \$2 million out of \$209 million (less than 1%) for filling sidewalk gaps near schools and in high-priority areas. At this pace, gaps may not be fully addressed until the 2040s.

- **How would you prioritize funding for sidewalk gaps within the City's overall CIP budget?**
- **What criteria should guide where and when sidewalk gaps are filled?**

I obviously was not involved in the City budgeting process, but I have worked on budgets personally and professionally (as a business owner and on behalf of clients) for many years, so I appreciate the competing interests that are brought to bear. When the City adopted the Plan in 218, it calculated 667 miles of sidewalk gaps at that time. Some of the planned projects in Ward 1 have been completed, but others have not.

As I have been out knocking doors over the past 8 weeks, I have gained a new appreciation for the woeful condition of sidewalks in areas of the City, if they even exist. In the Hoover neighborhood, there are streets with sidewalks on one side only and some with no sidewalks at all. In other areas of Ward 1, sidewalks are brick, gravel or cobbled together concrete pads. Excepting well-maintained historical brick, these all present hazards, particularly for the elderly, physically challenged and children. If we can fund studies analyzing motor vehicle traffic patterns, we can do the same regarding sidewalks. Sidewalks and other protected pedestrian pathways near schools must be priority number one. Parking should be prohibited on streets (or the side of the street, depending) without sidewalks in the perimeter of schools and bus stops (if any).