



City of Dyersville
City Administrator's Office

May 15, 2026

Mayor Jacque and City Council Members
City of Dyersville
Memorial Building
340 1st Avenue East
Dyersville, IA 52040

RE: Adoption of the Sidewalk Policy

Dear Honorable Mayor Jacque and Council Members:

I am submitting the Sidewalk Maintenance and Cost-Share Policy for your review and consideration. This policy aims to provide the City with a clear, fair, and consistent approach to managing sidewalk maintenance throughout the community, while remaining aligned with Iowa law and our city code.

For many years, the City has handled sidewalk issues individually. While this method worked sometimes, it also caused confusion for property owners and led to inconsistency in addressing similar problems. We have not had a single, written framework that clearly defines responsibilities, inspection procedures, cost sharing, or enforcement. This policy fills that gap.

Under Iowa Code and Chapter 136 of the City Code, property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks safe and passable, while the City remains responsible for overall oversight and accessibility. The proposed policy does not alter those legal duties. Instead, it explains how the City will implement them consistently and transparently. It also clarifies where the City assumes full responsibility, including ADA curb ramps, damage caused by the City, and sidewalks adjacent to City-owned property.

A key part of the policy is the cost-share program. The goal is to promote timely repairs by assisting property owners with material costs while keeping labor responsibilities with the owner. This method has been successfully used in other Iowa communities. It supports compliance, enhances safety, and decreases the need for enforcement and special assessments.



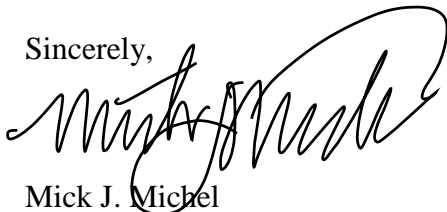
The policy also creates a rotating inspection program to identify sidewalk conditions before they become major safety or liability issues. This shifts the City away from a complaint-only approach and toward a proactive system that consistently treats neighborhoods over time.

From a financial perspective, the policy doesn't establish a fixed spending obligation. Cost-share funding is managed through the yearly budget process, and enforcement is used only as a last resort. Over time, a more predictable sidewalk program should help reduce emergency repairs and liability risks.

Most importantly, this policy provides residents, the Council, and staff with a shared understanding of how sidewalk issues are managed and why. It establishes a single public reference document that clearly explains expectations in plain language and directly references Iowa law and the Dyersville City Code.

I recommend adopting the Sidewalk Maintenance and Cost-Share Policy by resolution and directing staff to implement it in a measured and transparent manner. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mick J. Michel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mick J. Michel
City Administrator