

## Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Chairperson Arnett and Commission Members

From: Andrew Beyer, Public Works Director

Date: April 9, 2026

Subject: Public Works Commission Meeting of April 14, 2026

[Review and take possible action: Milford Street sidewalk infill from South Street to Grinwald Park](#)

### Background

A request from a city resident was received for infill sidewalk between South Street and Grinwald Park. This request was made due to safety concerns with the speed transition of 25 MPH and 35 MPH through this area. There are existing bike lanes along the roadway. An evaluation of the speed limits in this area was brought to the Public Safety and Welfare committee for consideration and was not pursued at this time. Future development may spur revisiting the speed limit and traffic in this area.

This length of infill sidewalk has three segments, approximately 660', 370' and 200' as shown on the attached site map. The sidewalk would start at the south side of the South Street intersection and end at the north side of the Grinwald Park parcel. The total infill sidewalk length is 1,230' for this area.

This area has a score of 19 as per the infill sidewalk policy evaluation system (attached for reference) from the 2017 citywide evaluation. The top scoring segment was 42. This placed it within an average need for infill sidewalk, but below the top priorities at the time of the evaluation. Given the development since the evaluation, potential future development, and input from stakeholders, this area was identified in the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan as a backbone project (Project C – Milford Street – Western City Limits to South Street – Sidewalk). This portion is approximately 25% of the full backbone project.

### Budget Goal

1. Create a community where all can feel safe and strive for economic success.

## Financial Impact

The cost to construct new sidewalk here would be approximately \$15.85 per square foot, totaling \$97,477.50 for the proposed length. These numbers are based on this year's bid numbers for the sidewalk repair area program and is subject to change. Per the infill sidewalk policy, parcels abutting the new sidewalk would be assessed for two-thirds (2/3) the cost of sidewalk infill across or adjacent to the benefited property with the City bearing the balance one-third (1/3) cost of the sidewalk across or adjacent to the benefited property. The city portion is estimated at \$32,492.50 and would need to be considered in a future year's budget.

## Recommendation

The Engineering Division recommends sidewalk installation along Milford Street between South Street and Grinwald Park considering the City's infill sidewalk policy and the Citywide Bike and Pedestrian Plan. Should the Commission wish to proceed, the project could be programmed for design in 2026, with construction included in a future year of the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.

The initiation of the special assessment process for the parcels along this infill area will be required and will follow Watertown Gen. Ord. s. 25.15 and Wis. Stat. s 66.0701 and 66.0703. This would not guarantee that sidewalk is constructed in the designated area, it would merely start the official process.

Attached:

- Site Map
- Infill Sidewalk Policy