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August 30, 2023

The Honorable City Council  
c/o Holly L. Wolcott, City Clerk  
Office of the City Clerk  
Room 360, City Hall

## **PILOT PEDESTRIAN FACILITY INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT: SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY (C.F. 21-1469)**

### **SUMMARY**

This report responds to the City Council's instruction for the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) and the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) to provide a proposed scope and methodology for the sidewalk inventory and assessment pilot program prior to implementation. This report also recommends reallocating \$500,000 of Sidewalk Repair Program funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Budget to advance this initiative.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

REDESIGNATE \$500,000 of the funding for "Access Request Acceleration" line item in Schedule 51 of the FY 2023-24 Budget to a new line item entitled "Pedestrian Facility Inventory and Assessment [Settlement Ineligible]" within the same Schedule.

### **BACKGROUND**

This report is in response to the City Council's instruction on May 5, 2023 for the BOE and StreetsLA to report to the Public Works Committee prior to implementation of the Pedestrian Facility Inventory and Assessment: Pilot Phase (Pilot Phase) with a proposed scope and methodology, including areas to be prioritized.

On November 17, 2021 the City Controller issued a report on the status of the City's sidewalk programs which determined that *"City does not know how many sidewalk locations need repair and how much the repairs will cost. While such an investment would require funding, other cities have performed sidewalk assessments efficiently and effectively. Without data on sidewalk conditions, the City's approach [to pedestrian facility*



repair] has been scattershot at best. Having an inventory of sidewalk and curb ramp conditions combined with measures of pedestrian traffic volume in Los Angeles would help the City prioritize available funding for the types of repairs at locations that bring the most value.”

The Pilot Phase of the Pedestrian Facility Inventory and Assessment is the City’s next step to developing a comprehensive City-wide Pedestrian Facility Inventory and Assessment. This Pilot phase will allow the City to investigate, understand, and then provide detailed recommendations on the most cost-effective and practical means to accomplish the larger City-wide Inventory and Assessment and then manage and utilize the resulting data within the City’s existing asset management tools.

The City-wide Inventory and Assessment will support coordination between stakeholders and facilitate the creation of a Citywide approach to sidewalk repair - including facilitating the establishment of policies for how the City manages and delegates responsibility among stakeholders for our pedestrian facilities. The data obtained can inform project scope, assist with strengthening grant applications, and most importantly, assist the City in prioritizing its limited resources on the most impactful pedestrian facility maintenance and repairs. It will strengthen and inform financial planning on a strategic, multiple year basis. It will support the City’s efforts to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) legal requirements for a Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan: an inventory and assessment of the policies and pedestrian facilities (sidewalks, curb ramps, etc.) that comprise the City’s pedestrian right of way program and identification of barriers that limit access to individuals with disabilities.

On May 24, 2023, the City Council additionally directed the BOE to report back with recommendations for appropriating the \$28,302,704 for Access Request Acceleration among Willits and other priorities before encumbrance (C.F. 23-0600). Although the Willits’, et. al Settlement (Settlement) does not contain provisions relating to the eligibility nor to the ineligibility of funding a pedestrian facility assessment, legal counsel for the Willits’ Plaintiffs have opined that the Settlement funds cannot be used for a City-wide sidewalk inventory and conditions assessment, as per their March 21, 2022 Communication submitted via CF 21-1469.

This report recommends a portion of the above noted \$28.3M Acceleration fund as an appropriate funding source because the assessment is an early action to support the development of a more comprehensive sidewalk repair program and this funding is available for expenditures above and beyond the City’s minimum Settlement obligation. Per the Council’s direction, the BOE will report with a proposed allocation of the balance of this funding in the near future.

## **SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY**

The BOE, with StreetsLA and consultant support, will conduct the Pilot Phase of the Pedestrian Facility Inventory and Assessment utilizing Consultant Services funding.

The Pilot phase of the City-wide Inventory and Assessment will achieve the following:

- I. RESEARCH available inventory and assessment technologies, assessments completed by other public entities and their outcomes, technical specifications of City's current asset management programs and other sources of available city data;
- II. COORDINATE the request and receipt of input from public and private pedestrian facility stakeholders and various City departments;
- III. IDENTIFY the pedestrian facilities to be inventoried and evaluated as required by federal regulations and recommended by available industry guidance and the best practices of other large municipalities;
- IV. DETERMINE pilot locations throughout the City that are representative of the diverse designs and conditions of the City's pedestrian facilities, which include hillside areas, residential areas, major transit corridors, underimproved areas, etc.
- V. INVENTORY AND ASSESS the pedestrian facilities at identified pilot locations utilizing the information obtained from research in item I. above;
- VI. ANALYZE the data obtained from the inventory and assessment and its compatibility with the City's existing data management systems;
- VII. RECOMMEND a uniform asset condition rating strategy and mechanism for on-going data maintenance; and
- VIII. REPORT back on the scope, schedule, technologies, and estimated cost for the City-wide Inventory and Assessment.

## **DESIRED OUTCOMES AND DELIVERABLES**

One of the key deliverables of the Pilot Program will be to determine the most cost-effective technology application(s) to meet the City's diverse information needs. Existing assessment technology varies and includes smart levels and tape measure [hand assessment], Segway, AI capture via cameras, etc. The data resulting from each assessment method varies widely in the level of detail related to cross slopes, running slopes, uplifts, etc.

Furthermore, the detail for pedestrian facilities that are captured will be key to analyze including: the accessibility and type of pedestrian push buttons and the compliance of crosswalks. The captured detail will finally be vetted for compatibility with existing assessment management systems.

The City has various on-going efforts to capture the location and condition of improvements in the Public Right of Way (PROW). The Pilot phase will ensure that inventory data and output can interface seamlessly with these on-going City asset management efforts. These key existing programs that can be leveraged and/or augmented through this assessment effort include:

- StreetsLA's Asset Management Program - Enterprise Asset Management System (EAMS) to store asset condition data and manage maintenance activities.
- Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) Code the Curb initiative - A digital inventory of LADOT's physical curbside assets and regulations. Pilot

projects include Curb Data Collection, Multimodal Curb Monitoring, and Zero Emission Delivery Zones.

## **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The BOE's recommendation to move \$500,000 in funding from the "Access Request Acceleration" line item to a new line item entitled "Pedestrian Facility Inventory and Assessment [Settlement Ineligible]" within Schedule 51 of the FY 2023-24 Budget will not have any additional fiscal impact to the General Fund.

If you have any questions, please contact Acting Deputy City Engineer Kevin Minne at 213-923-5897 or SRP Manager, Julia Sanchez de la Vega at 213-923-5986.

Respectfully submitted,

 Electronically Signed by Deborah Weintraub  
on 08/30/2023 10:29:49 AM

Ted Allen, P.E.  
City Engineer  
Bureau of Engineering

 for

Keith Mozee  
Executive Director and General Manager  
Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA)

TA/KM; jsdlv;eg

cc: Randall Winston, Office of the Mayor  
Aura Garcia, Board of Public Works  
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