



**Town of Cary
Sidewalk Request Program
Frequently Asked Questions**

What is the Sidewalk Request Program?

The Sidewalk Request Program was established by Town Council to create an opportunity for Cary residents to request sidewalk facilities within Cary Town limits where they see a need exists. Sidewalk requests are collected throughout the year and ranked based on the following criteria: traffic volumes; pedestrian use; proximity to schools, parks, shopping centers, greenways, existing sidewalks, mass transit; as well as ease of construction. Each fall, Town Council reviews the sidewalk request list and funds the top ranked projects within the allocated budget.

When is a petition required?

Requests for sidewalks in residential neighborhoods must be accompanied by a petition of support signed by at least **70 percent** of homeowners within the area of influence. The Transportation and Facilities Department will provide a map and addresses defining the area of influence. If applicable, the Homeowner's Association should also be notified. Only one valid signature per household is necessary. A valid signature may include a property owner or spouse.

How long does the process take?

The annual sidewalk request list is approved by the Town Council annually. Survey, design and construction of a project typically take a minimum of 2 years. Requested projects that do not receive funding are automatically moved to the next year's list for future consideration.

How is the location of the sidewalk determined?

The petitioner may indicate a preferred location for consideration, however, the Town's Transportation and Facilities staff reserves the right to determine final sidewalk location based on design constraints. These could include, but are not limited to, utility conflicts, right-of-way, topography, landscaping and safety. By signing the petition, a homeowner is indicating support of the project regardless of the ultimate location. Curb and gutter is required on both sides of the street for a sidewalk project to be considered.

What will the sidewalk look like?

The Town's standard specifications require a 5 foot concrete sidewalk with a 5 foot grassed utility strip between the sidewalk and curb. Specifications may be altered due to ease of construction and/or safety considerations.

Will I have to pay for the sidewalk?

No, the Town of Cary provides funding for the sidewalk construction and maintenance through the Town's Capital Improvements Budget.

What is the difference between Right of Way and Easement?

The "**Right of Way**" is the area of land that encompasses public streets, sidewalks and grassed utility strips and allows the Town of Cary to conduct and make occasional and necessary improvements for the welfare of the general public. An **Easement** is an interest in land beyond the "right of way" owned by a property owner that entitles its holder to a specific use. For example: a "sidewalk easement" may be necessary to allow the Town of Cary to access and maintain sidewalk beyond the right of way for 1 foot where the footprint of the sidewalk exceeds the right of way.

Who do I contact to receive a petition or ask a question?

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