

Major sidewalk construction planned

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Sidewalks are expected to become an increasing part of the Farmington Hills scene.

With Farmington Hills City Council approval, city administrators and staff will begin designing a network of sidewalks.

In late August, council asked administrators to expand the sidewalk construction program. Administrators, in turn, presented council with a list of projects and estimated costs.

All of the suggested projects would cost more than an estimated \$500,000. City Manager William Costick told council he believes that \$240,000-\$250,000 will be available for sidewalk construction as the result of surplus money from the 1985-86 budget.

The exact amount of money available won't be determined, however, until an audit of the 1985-86 financial year is completed sometime in late October, Costick said.

"The idea was to come up with a list of projects and let them (council members) choose," said Director of Public Services Thomas Blasell.

RATHER THAN determining which projects they consider priorities, council members Monday asked Costick to begin engineering designs on those listed so construction bid specifications could be prepared.

When Costick is certain how much money will be available for sidewalks, council is expected to determine which projects should be considered priorities, Blasell said.

The city's policy has been to install sidewalks as part of develop-

'The idea was to come up with a list of (sidewalk construction) projects and let them (city council members) choose.'

— Thomas Blasell, director,
Department of Public Services
Farmington Hills

ment as it occurs along the major mile roads. Sidewalks are required on all site plans and subdivision developments.

In addition to these sidewalks, council members over the last few years have considered other areas in need of sidewalks. Council has used capital improvements money (approximately \$50,000-\$100,000 has been budgeted annually) or federal Community Development Block Grant money.

Some of the projects that were completed at council request included the north side of Colfax from Flanders, west to Gill, and the south side of 13 Mile, from Baptist Manor, west to Orchard Lake Road.

NEW PLANS represent a marked expansion of the sidewalk construction program, including filling in the gaps to form a complete walkway network.

Administrators have developed a list of possible projects, with costs based on an estimated \$15 a foot. The following is a list of those sidewalks that would total an estimated \$244,000:

- On the south side of 13 Mile, from Farmington to Orchard Lake

- roads. It would provide access from the Kendallwood/Westbrook subdivisions to North Farmington High School and shopping areas along 12 Mile (\$78,000).
- On the west side of Farmington Road, from 13 Mile to Old Timber. This would connect nearby subdivisions to a planned athletic park at the corner of 12 Mile and Farmington roads (\$16,500).
- On the south side of 14 Mile, from Briarcrest to Warner Middle School. This would provide access from Franklin Knolls subdivision to the middle school (\$12,300).
- On the west side of Middlebelt, from Hemlock to 11 Mile. This would provide access to shopping at 11 Mile and Middlebelt, as well as Mercy High School and East Middle School (\$23,250).
- On the west side of Middlebelt, south of Kiltartan to 11 Mile. This project was added by council this week. The cost has not yet been estimated.

- On the north side of 13 Mile, from Farmington to Orchard Lake roads (\$34,500).
- On the north and south sides of 12 Mile, from Orchard Lake to Farmington roads. This project would consist primarily of filling gaps that were not completed when the roadway was widened (\$21,300).
- On the north side of 12 Mile, from Middlebelt to Orchard Lake roads. Development along this area has been largely responsible for the completion of sidewalks. This project would fill in the gaps (\$8,250).
- On the west side of Drake road, from Old Homestead to Grand River. This sidewalk would allow access from the Independent Commons subdivision to shopping areas along Grand River (\$12,000).
- On the west side of Farmington Road, from 12 to 13 Mile. This would complete a mile of sidewalk where there is almost no sidewalk access

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es the issue of whether sidewalks should be completed in concrete or asphalt, Blasell said.

Administrators would prefer to complete existing sidewalks in concrete, especially along major mile roads. Concrete sidewalks are initially more expensive, but are longer lasting, require less maintenance and are easier to replace than asphalt walkways, Blasell said.

Asphalt is more conducive to bike paths, which are not the rule in

Farmington Hills. A study completed by Department of Special Services staff in 1980 recommended a bike path network throughout the city. As with sidewalks, bike paths should be completed according to a plan, particularly designating which roads would have bike paths rather than sidewalks, Blasell said.

Before any bike path network is pursued, the 1980 study would have to be reevaluated and updated, he said.

Administrators offered suggestions for other sidewalk needs not included on the list of projects under the \$244,000 price tag. They suggested sidewalk construction on the north side of 11 Mile, from Skye Drive to Mercy Center at an estimated cost of \$9,000. Also listed was a sidewalk on the west side of Farmington Road, from 10 Mile to Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge at an estimated \$129,000.

Two remaining projects include walkways along the north side of 13 Mile, from Drake to Farmington Road for an estimated \$48,000, and on the north side of 11 Mile, from Orchard Lake to Middlebelt for an estimated \$75,000.

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Earl Hecker is chief of surgery

Dr. Earl Hecker, attending thoracic surgeon at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, has been appointed chief of surgery.

Hecker finished his undergraduate work at Wayne State University and earned his doctor of osteopathy degree from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1964.

He finished his residency in general surgery at Ziegler/Botsford Hospitals in 1969.

Hecker then earned a fellowship in thoracic surgery at Bispebjerg Hospital in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 1969 to 1971 and a fellowship in pulmonary disease at the State University of New York in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1971.

Hecker is board certified in both general and thoracic surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Chest Surgeons.



Earl Hecker
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