

To: Amal Elathir, City Manager
From: Courtney Ryan, Engineering Technician
Date: June 29, 2022
Re: 11th Avenue Sidewalk from South D Street to Edmundson Park



The purpose of this memo is in response to concerns presented to Council June 20, 2022, by resident Kelene Simmons, 420 11th Avenue West, regarding placement of sidewalk along her property.

During Community Comments, Ms. Simmons spoke on behalf of herself and her neighbors. Ms. Simmons stated that there would be issues with piping, safety shut off and etc., signs and poles would need to be moved, and that with more rock driveways on the north side it would be a less expensive option for the city in comparison to installation on the south side. Mrs. Simmons stated that school age children were currently being picked up on the north side, that children do not use the south side, and several children in fact just jump in the street.

Each side of the road is a viable alternative for the sidewalk segment between South D Street and South F Street, with the primary difference being the location for the sidewalk crossing 11th Avenue West – either at the location of Ms. Simmons’ residence or at South F Street. There is significant sanitary and storm sewer infrastructure in the area, including an unused intake on the south side. There are other water main and storm sewer utilities in the area which were identified but do not interfere with the construction for either option.

Cost estimates for both options included the expense of abandoning the unused intake on the south side, which accounts for approximately \$8,000. The south side sidewalk installation and intake removal would cost \$41,015 and the north side \$43,662. The difference in cost for the north side is primarily due to more driveway removal and placing new concrete driveways to the existing curb in place of existing gravel approaches.

Upon reviewing the homeowner’s concerns with the new sidewalk placement, staff contacted Oskaloosa Community School District’s Transportation, Building and Grounds Director Bill Almond. Mr. Almond indicated that there is currently a bus stop at the intersection of South D Street and 11th Avenue, however the side of the street the bus picks students up on varies. Mr. Almond stated a sidewalk along the north side of 11th Avenue West would serve children traveling to the bus stop from the north, and that currently children do not travel from the south to this bus stop. Mr. Almond believes the north option for the sidewalk is a safer design for the children utilizing the bus, and he will ensure the bus route travels west for north side pickup if sidewalk is constructed on the north side.

Considerations

- North side is a more expensive option by \$2,647, although within current budget allocations.
- Unused intake on the south side will be addressed regardless of option selected.
- North side placement is viewed as a safer option for bus boarding and pedestrian street crossing.

Staff recommendation is to consider an adjusted plan configuration as show in green on the project map to accommodate safety concerns at minimal additional expense.

