

Re: Safe Routes to School project update
Andy Stewart, Village Administrator, 5/25/22

Mayor and Trustees,

Background:

“Safe Routes to Schools” is a \$5M sidewalk improvement project (includes \$1M village match) focused on the Depew Ave area sidewalks. A presentation can be seen on the village website at <https://www.nyack-ny.gov/news/post/4235/> The scope includes areas shown on this project map below. The project builds ADA compliant sidewalks, ramped corners, and adds a pedestrian signal to Midland/Depew intersection with the goal of making it safer for students walking to and from Nyack Middle School.



Right of Way impacts and property takings = \$184K in possible restoration costs.:

Sidewalk improvement requires removal of amenities (hedges, fences, plantings, retaining walls) on about 50 properties, either because these amenities are located within the village right of way (ROW) or because the ROW must be expanded to allow for new sidewalks. The village is not legally obligated to include restoration of these amenities in the project, but funding guidelines allow the village to do so. Any restorations that take place must be bid as a part of the construction contract (vs simply paying property owners the estimated value) for the costs to be covered by the funder.

Because of the number and diversity of these amenity removals it seems reasonable to consider including their restoration in the project cost. The total value of restorations is approximately \$184K - to safely cover this cost, given the steady escalation in pricing for materials and labor, we would need to find about \$200K in construction costs to eliminate from the project.

Options for Reducing Construction Cost by \$200K

1. \$225K – Short run of sidewalk on Main Street between Midland and Bethel Alliance church. The high cost of this section is due to having to rebuild staircases serving the homes, and the retaining wall on this steep slope. This is a short, expensive sidewalk. Just uphill, new developments are bringing their sidewalks up to code. It is conceivable that future development in this segment of Main St might also at some point in the future upgrade this section of sidewalk as well, although there is no information suggesting any such project is imminent.
2. \$143K - Seven (7) ADA corners on South Franklin at Hudson Ave, Jackson Ave, Burd St, and Main St. With the exception of Hudson Ave, most of these corners are close to code compliant or relatively new. Overall, the sidewalk is in decent condition, relatively speaking.
3. \$49K - Four (4) ADA corners on Main St at Mill St and Washington St. These corners are not code-compliant, but the project does not include improvements to the adjacent sidewalk segments.
4. \$122K - Summit St, sidewalk on east side of street (\$70K from Main St to Depew Ave; \$52K from Depew Ave to Cedar Hill Ave). The project is scoped to include both sides of Summit. The east side is in better condition and could be left out if need be...

Recommendation

The costs of this project will only be known for sure once the project is bid out next year and under contract, at which point further adjustments may be needed. If the trustees wish to fund amenity restoration as a project cost, I would recommend the options above, already rank ordered in a way that may be most cost effective in terms of dollars spent and public benefit achieved.

This decision needs to be made at or before the June 9 village board meeting for the project to stay on schedule. It will take a year to complete the property takings legal process.... I recommend this as an item for the 6/9 agenda for final decision.