

# Sunset & Newport Sidewalk Design – Community Input Survey

**43**  
Responses

**11:59**  
Average time to complete

**Active**  
Status

1. Do you have any general concerns about the proposed sidewalk installation along Newport? (a separate question is available for feedback about Sunset)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> No	22
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Yes	13
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Undecided or Other	7



2. Please share your general concerns about the proposed sidewalk installation along Newport.

**12**  
Responses

Latest Responses

*"There is no need to cut down trees for a sidewalk along Newport"*

*"The amount of trees that need to be cut down. Can you relocate them..."*

3. Do you have any general concerns about the proposed sidewalk installation along Sunset?

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> No	7
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Yes	30
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Undecided or Other	5



4. Please share your general concerns about the proposed sidewalk installation along Sunset.

29  
Responses

Latest Responses

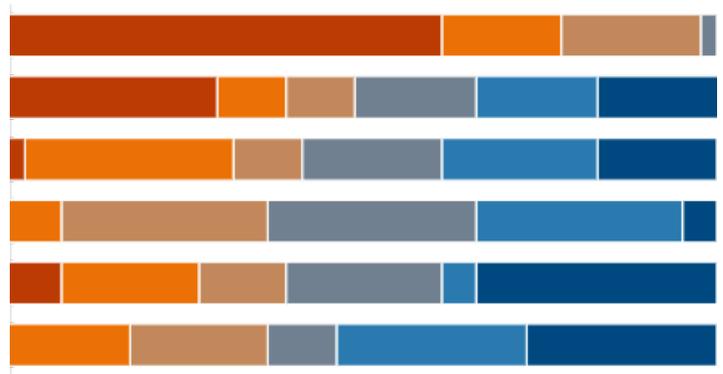
"There is no need to cut down trees on the north side of Sunset for a si..."  
 "While I am in favor of adding sidewalks to improve walkability within..."  
 "I don't agree that Sunset needs a side walk. It's not that busy neither ..."

5. There are several factors to consider in determining the most ideal alignment for the sidewalk, and various competing interests to balance. Please help inform the design staff by ranking your personal values for each of the following. Which is most important to you? (1= highest priority, 6= lowest priority):

Rank Options

Rank	Options
1	Preserving trees, vegetation a...
2	Adequate buffer zone (paved ...
3	Avoiding the need for retainin...
4	Avoiding temporary grading e...
5	Maintaining on-street parking
6	Adequate distance between m...

First choice Last choice



6. If applicable, please identify any other factors staff should consider when determining the best location for the proposed sidewalk:

26  
Responses

Latest Responses

"Consider how many people will be using the sidewalk and where they..."  
 "I attended the August 11th public meeting and was surprised to learn..."

7. Do you own or currently reside on any property directly adjacent to the proposed sidewalk limits? (This includes the east side of Newport Road from Down Up Circle to Sunset Rd., and the north side of Sunset Rd. from Newport Rd. to Brooks St.)

No	21
Yes	21



8. Please provide your property address. The following questions are specific to the property where you reside, within the project area. Your responses will help staff understand your perspectives related to the section of sidewalk directly adjacent to your property.

20

Responses

Latest Responses

9. If you have any specific concerns about existing trees, vegetation, mail boxes, or landscaping in front of the property where you reside, please provide details here:

17

Responses

Latest Responses

10. Staff are available to discuss your particular concerns and interests in detail. If you would like to meet with the project team to discuss specific impacts adjacent to your property, please provide (1) preferred time(s) of day, (2) preferred day(s) of week, and (3) contact information for follow-up (phone or email). Project team staff will follow-up to schedule a meeting.

13

Responses

Latest Responses

11. Would you be willing to grant a grading easement to protect a tree or avoid the need for a retaining wall adjacent to your property? Note: Regardless of survey responses, detailed easement discussions with property owners would follow before any decisions are made. This response is not a commitment to provide an easement.

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> No	8
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Yes	0
<span style="color: green;">●</span> I need more information to an...	11
<span style="color: red;">●</span> Not applicable - e.g., I am not ...	2



The following tables summarize the written answers provided for specific questions asked in the feedback survey.

**Please share your general concerns about the proposed sidewalk installation along Newport:**

<p>Snowplows burying sidewalks</p>
<p>The side of Bird Hills Nature Park is better without an additional concrete sidewalk that will remove the vegetation there that works better for the animals crossing between Riverwood Nature Park and Bird Hills Nature Park. That's a further and unnecessary human encroachment on nature that is undesirable.</p>
<p>The City does a very poor job of clearing the bridge on Newport road over M14 during winter - for children having to walk to school - and we owners on Newport who have cleared our sidewalk, have to do it again repeatedly when the snow trucks plow all that snow back from the road onto the sidewalk. Our suggestion is that you shift the plow to push the snow onto the other side of the road - where people do not walk. And a snow plower said that. And that suggestion to push snow to the east side of Newport takes no effort. And has not been heeded. We still have to clear snow doubly. Now that a new sidewalk on the east side will be made "WHO" is going to clear that?! The existing sidewalk on Newport is more than enough headache for the City and the residents having to clear after its trucks. To create another sidewalk will double the mess.</p>
<p>Retaining wall for properties and a lot of grading to make it suitable for a sidewalk. It is already narrow bridge at an intersection that sees a lot of traffic during school hours and people don't stop at the four way stop. Adding another sidewalk would only make the corridor even more confusing if people are now walking on both sides and drivers not understanding how to use the crosswalks and stopping when no one is in the road. Additional sidewalk will see people crossing all over the road</p>
<p>My neighbors on Newport, as well as myself (on sunset) view this as an unnecessary sidewalk considering that there is already an underutilized sidewalk on the opposite side of the street, and most vehemently because it will destroy numerous old mature trees along that corridor.</p>
<p>Not necessary. There is insufficient foot traffic benefit to incur such environmental and aesthetic cost.</p>
<p>1. Several mature trees would need to be removed from my yard. 2. I would no longer have the privacy created by the mature trees 3. Looking out from my home would go from viewing mature trees to viewing cement, building, and vehicles. 4. One of the reasons I purchased this particular home is because it didn't have sidewalks. I am a single mother and work full-time. I do not have the time or health to shovel the sidewalks in the winter. I also do not have the disposable income to pay for the sidewalks to be shoveled. 5. The landscaping in my front and back yards will be destroyed and not replaced. I say this because four mature trees have already been removed from my property by the City and power company and I am left with tree stumps and patchy grass/dirt. 6. When work is completed near my home, since I am a corner lot, companies love to leave their equipment and portable toilets on my home's easement and park their work vehicles/equipment next to my home. It is a major nuisance to me. 7. Workers also love to cut the corner by crossing through the middle of my yard when completing work on Sunset/Newport. I'm not a fan of the disrespect.</p>
<p>A sidewalk already exists on the West side. However, a cross walk, perhaps with flashing lights, connecting that sidewalk to the Bird Hills trails would be helpful.</p>
<p>do not want any trees removed. while it makes some sense to add sidewalk directly near Bird Hills park entrance and near the M-14 overpass, I oppose any sidewalk that results in tree removal</p>

I have lived in this Newport area for 60 years; and attended Forsythe and Wines schools when it was common practice for children/students to walk to school. This was the highest walking traffic Newport Rd ever had in my opinion and the current sidewalk situation worked fine then. Now, in 2021, I just don't see enough walking traffic on these sidewalks to justify this project and expensive and inconvenience to property owners, since you rarely see children walking to school anymore.

The amount of trees that need to be cut down. Can you relocate them to other locations? But I agree that Newport needs a side walk. I don't feel safe riding or walking.

There is no need to cut down trees for a sidewalk along Newport

**Please share your general concerns about the proposed sidewalk installation along Sunset:**

Driveway is on a hill, the farther from the road the sidewalk is the more impact on my driveway and the steeper it will be. Plus you'll be killing all the flowers/bushes we planted next to the curb.

We do not need an sidewalk. Too many beautiful old trees will have to be removed to make room for the concrete.

Will this reduce the width of the road? Already seems tight to drive down

Our concerns that introducing more infrastructure will require constant upkeep and repair with little/no benefit to anyone. There are very few people who walk on the south side of Sunset - we've observed this while working from home during the last 16 months. The current sidewalk capacity is completely sufficient. This does not address any safety concerns for students (if indeed there are any-provide further proof of incident) or any benefit to residents living on the street. The entire character of the street will be unnecessarily changed, as we feel it represents the edge of town and the woods surrounding our homes. Numerous trees will be cut resulting in negative environmental impact. We are adamantly against having a sidewalk built on the northside of Sunset.

The neighborhood is tree shaded by old trees. It's one of the things that adds value to the neighborhood. Plus one of the reasons we bought here is because of the rustic feel that installing sidewalks will destroy. There are walks that have been successfully used for 30 years. There is no need for sidewalks on the north side of the street.

The proposed rationale for the sidewalk along sunset is to provide a constant walkway from bird hills park to the park entrance at Brooks and sunset. However, in order for the city to create the space for this sidewalk, unless they are proposing to narrow sunset, would necessitate seizing private property while also cutting down many old trees that already exist. Not to mention requiring a large number of properties to be regraded as many have a +/- 30 degree within two feet of the road. There is no need for this sidewalk to be created when there is a sidewalk across the street, and marked crosswalks at the Brooks/Sunset intersection. This is a solution in search of a problem, and wholly unnecessary.

Sunset has large trucks for the water treatment plant that need to get in and out of the plant. Adding a sidewalk will make this worse when a truck is trying to maneuver and has to deal with pedestrians on both sides. North side of sunset is not flat so the cost to flatten every houses right of way isn't worth it. Residents have spent years cultivating and beautifying the right of way and the city wants to add more concrete for more runoff to cause more floods. North side of sunset has so many trees where is the city going to replace them? This road only got popular for people to walk bc of the pandemic. Focus and spend the money on streets that have 0 sidewalks. Those who live here don't need to have more pedestrians walking closer to our homes. Will affect the amount of street parking

There is no need for additional sidewalks along Sunset. adding sidewalks will require removing trees and destroying the character and beauty of the street. Also, It will add a lot of expense for the homeowners.

1. Destruction of mature growth trees within the easement, which at a cursory count is possibly up to 30 mature trees that provide habitat, canopy, and sound mitigation from m-14. 2. There is already a sidewalk on the south side of sunset, that is underutilized. 3. There are widely warming elevation changes along the south side of the road, which will affect runoff for some and require retaining walls for other areas. 4. The area near sunset and brooks intersection, specifically near 902 sunset, already has a flooding problem where the sewer drain is located (also on a low elevation area) and adding a sidewalk will just exacerbate the periodic flooding which often reaches midway into the road and on occasion stretches from curb to curb after heavy rains.

The addition of any non permeable surfaces starting at the top of this hill and the removal of any trees in any Ann Arbor community seems to be the opposite of everything the town stands for.

Waste of money when there is already a good sidewalk that is not overly used. Destruction of mature hardwoods and existing natural retaining walls, loss of natural privacy screens (trees, bushes, slopes), loss in property values. Would rather the funds be used to install sidewalks in areas that don't have any. The project essentially says the city thinks people are too lazy and/or stupid to cross the street to get to the park entrance on Newport (I was told the project is so there will be a sidewalk directly to the park with no need to cross Newport)

Not necessary. There is insufficient foot traffic benefit to incur such environmental and aesthetic cost.

There is currently a sidewalk on Sunset. I believe the \$'s could be better spent on areas that have no sidewalks.

I think this is a ridiculous idea to take out beautiful old healthy trees along Sunset to put in concrete at a very high cost to the city (aka our tax dollars)! This will also cause erosion issues for some of the homes along Sunset. Asking homeowners to pay for and maintain a retaining wall is also a terrible plan. There is a perfectly good sidewalk on the other side of Sunset that people can use and if you are concerned about people crossing the residential street, then put in a stop light at Sunset and Newport Rd

Myself and my neighbors would lose many many full grown trees along our property lines that create the whole feel of our neighborhood. Also, a sidewalk already exists on the opposite side of the street and it is not in any way overcrowded. My two young girls are more than safe using that sidewalk that already exists. My property would lose an entire mini-grove of trees across from the Water Treatment Plant. Those trees were one of the main factors that sold us as we purchased the house two years ago.

No reason for this W of Hunt Park — lots of trees. Far better ways to slow the road.

It is unnecessary and expensive. This is a waste of taxpayer dollars. People can just walk on the south side of the road. Sorry but this project is just a waste of money!

1. Several mature trees would need to be removed from my yard. 2. I would no longer have the privacy created by the mature trees 3. Looking out from my home would go from viewing mature trees to viewing cement, building, and vehicles. 4. One of the reasons I purchased this particular home is because it didn't have sidewalks. I am a single mother and work full-time. I do not have the time or health to shovel the sidewalks in the winter. I also do not have the disposable income to pay for the sidewalks to be shoveled. 5. The landscaping in my front and back yards will be destroyed and not nicely replaced. I say this because four mature trees have already been removed from my property by the City and power company and I am left with tree stumps and patchy grass/dirt. 6. When work is completed near my home, companies love to leave their equipment and portable toilets on my home's easement and park their work vehicles/equipment next to my home. It is a major nuisance to me. 7. Workers also love to cut the corner by crossing through the middle of my yard when completing work on Sunset/Newport. I'm not a fan of the disrespect.

Better places on sunset for sidewalk. Hunt Park and Wildt gaps are much more acute

I don't want it

A sidewalk already exists on the West side. However, a cross walk, perhaps with some tree/brush trimming to expose the signage on the North side, connecting that sidewalk to the Sunset/Brooks nature area would be helpful.

I hope the existing road can be used to make space for the sidewalk (vs. expanding the asphalt footprint).

Hi there, thanks for sending out a survey. I am sorry to have missed the meeting last night, I was at work and not available. It is my understanding that the new sidewalk is considered because there are funds to the city that are ONLY available for use for NEW sidewalks. If that is true, I would like the city to consider whether or not expanding / redoing the south side sidewalk in a significant way could meet those rules and be a good compromise for all involved. Adding a wider sidewalk, and perhaps adding a bike lane to the south side would add more value for walkers/bikers/bus takers, with far less impact on the nature and actual physical infrastructure of the street.

There is already a sidewalk on the south side of Sunset. I walk on Sunset daily and have never had any problems with having the sidewalk only on the South side. The high cost of putting a sidewalk there is simply not a good use of sidewalk millage money. A far better use of sidewalk millage money is to add a Sidewalk where it is totally missing on parts of Sunset to the east of Spring street. The blind corner of Sunset and Wildt is crazily dangerous for pedestrians and has no sidewalk at all!!! This is a part of Sunset that needs attention, and right now!

We do not need a sidewalk added to Sunset. There is adequate sidewalk space. Strongly opposed to this, particularly as trees will be removed.

I have lived in this Newport area for 60 years; attended Forsyth and Wines schools when it was common practice for children/students to walk to school. This was the highest walking traffic Sunset Rd ever had in my opinion and the current sidewalk situation worked fine then. Now, in 2021, I just don't see enough walking traffic on these sidewalks to justify this project and expensive and inconvenience to property owners, since you rarely see children walking to school anymore.

I don't agree that Sunset needs a side walk. It's not that busy neither pedestrians nor cars. We have been able to navigate around each other just fine. It is not worth killing trees over. Plus the new side walk will need additional responsibility to be plowed by Snow Buddy

While I am in favor of adding sidewalks to improve walkability within the city, I don't understand the need for adding this sidewalk. I live in the neighborhood and regularly walk the path that would be filled by this new sidewalk. I do so on the other side of the street where the sidewalk already exists. Not once have I ever wished that there was a sidewalk on the other side. However, I have thought that a crosswalk at the park entrance to make crossing Newport more visible would improve pedestrian safety. There are other areas in the neighborhood where a sidewalk on at least one side of the street would improve walkability. For example, the section of Brooks St. between Robin and Sunset.

There is no need to cut down trees on the north side of Sunset for a sidewalk when there's already a sidewalk on the south side

**If applicable, please identify any other factors staff should consider when determining the best location for the proposed sidewalk:**

Lowest environmental impact, cost effective and easy to maintain

There's a sidewalk on the other side of the street and crossing a 25 mph residential street with minimal traffic is simple and straightforward. You could narrow the road and add sidewalk to the north side; on-street parking is currently available on Sunset on both sides and is not greatly utilized (residential area w/plenty of room in driveways/garages).

WE DO NOT WANT A SIDEWALK!

North side Sunset sidewalk is definitely needed. South side is adjacent to street so pedestrians have to walk in street to pass one another and cars speed like mad on Sunset due to no speed bumps and inconsiderate drivers. Cars have actually jumped the curb (distracted driving?) and almost killed my mom and in a separate incident, my neighbor. Something HAS to be done. Thank-you.

Keeping sidewalks clear in winter

No further sidewalk on Newport. Limit it only to Sunset.

I see no need for one at all.

The least amount of damage to natural plant life already growing in the proposed areas

Don't put one at my expense.

What do the residents who live on the north side of sunset think? People bought houses on this side for a reason (no sidewalk no shoveling etc) their opinions should matter more because they live here as opposed to the people who just use our road to exercise. People DRIVE and PARK on our street just to walk on this street why can't they walk at a park where it's meant for that?

No sidewalk is the best option. The residents here do not want this and view it as a waste of our tax dollars.

Prove there is a real need for additional sidewalks, use case, pedestrian numbers accident data , and proof of the perceived need.

Put it on another street, we don't need a second sidewalk

Environmental Impact to "tree city" outdoor spaces. This has all the earmarks of a pork barrel project. There is no real justification. Complete waste of taxpayer dollars for minuscule benefit to anyone and tremendous detriment to the homeowners.

It will not slow the road - what's the point? Easy to walk on now.

Consider that there is a perfectly fine sidewalk on the other side of the street and the north side is better used for bikers who regularly use it. Put a bike lane in!

It would be great if this project would continue down the sidewalk gap on Sunset from Brooks to Fountain.

The sidewalks currently on Sunset and Newport are underutilized. There is no real benefit to creating additional sidewalks on these two roads.

Please don't put it in. Use the money to put in a wall along 14 to minimize noise pollution

Just continue with the existing sidewalk and add necessary crosswalks and maybe improve drainage.
Please consider using funds to properly expand the south sidewalk and maintain it. Adding a bike lane to south side would enhance this even more.
No sidewalk on north side of Sunset
No tree removal. No sidewalk needed
There is a sidewalk on south side, this is not needed and a waste of money when we have areas all over with no sidewalks at all!
I attended the August 11th public meeting and was surprised to learn that the ranking system to determine where sidewalk fill-in is most needed does not appear to include three key metrics: 1) if there is already a sidewalk on the other side of the street, 2) whether the residents in the area are asking for the sidewalk, and 3) a cost vs. benefit analysis. If these metrics were added, I would be curious to know if the sidewalk extension along Sunset would rank as high as it currently does.
Consider how many people will be using the sidewalk and where they're coming from. Fewer people live north of Sunset

***If you have any specific concerns about existing trees, vegetation, mail boxes, or landscaping in front of the property where you reside, please provide details here:***

Mailbox can be moved, but we have flower beds the length of the property up against the curb that I don't want to lose.
Yes - we have many concerns about our existing trees, vegetation and landscaping. We don't need any more concrete in this neighborhood - unless you'd like to build a concrete sound wall on M14.
Last Winter mailbox broken from velocity of snow being plowed from street. Multiple clearing of sidewalks per each snowfall due to plowing problem
I am most concerned about the foliage - existing trees and vegetation buffering Bird Hills Park.
My concern is about the trees on other properties around my residence.
All of my plants and native plants will have to be moved, where are you going to move them to? Where are you going to move the mailbox to and what about the length of my driveway now that it might have a sidewalk going across it? What are you going to do to avoid all the water runoff from a sidewalk flooding our property?

<p>I have every concern. Existing sidewalks are adequate. A new sidewalk will disturb the driveways and necessitate destroying large trees that shelter my property from the street noise and the noise from and the view of the water treatment plant. The result will be quite ugly, and it is bad enough that we have to deal with the increased noise since the repairs were mad on M14. The increased cost to us (the property owners) for the maintenance is uncalled for. Not to mention the Installation cost to us (the taxpayers}. The current arrangement is completely adequate.</p>
<p>Yes! Concerned about mature trees near the road, mailbox placement, and most especially elevation changes and the absolute need for retaining walls to be added if this project moves forward. The project as a whole seems ill-advised, with no resident/homeowner support, and will only exacerbate a pre-existing runoff problem near the sewer drain on sunset.</p>
<p>I will absolutely expect a retaining wall to be constructed, I have a heart condition I can't shovel snow and that was a factor when I purchased this property.</p>
<p>I have a lot of mature hardwoods and natural privacy screens from bushes/small trees that will be lost, the city drain runs through my property and could be made even worse than it already is</p>
<p>Thirt five year old trees will have root system destroyed and potentially die.</p>
<p>I have almost more trees in the very front of my property than anyone. I am extremely committed to them not being disturbed.</p>
<p>Yes, many. My front yard will erode into street, will no longer be safe for kids, and will kill at least 8 trees on my property.</p>
<p>Yes - our property would be in danger of severe erosion if this project goes through.</p>
<p>Several mature trees would be removed essentially eliminating the privacy created by them and natural beauty of the property. This would likely also lower the value of my home.</p>
<p>I don't want my trees or mailbox removed</p>
<p>We have several large trees that would be taken down, it would destroy our canopy and the character of our neighborhood. We have extensive landscaping that would be lost and we would see much more of the water treatment plant which is already unpleasant to look at. We have a very large water main in front of our home right where the sidewalk would go. The city would also need to put in a very large retaining wall doe to the severe grade. We would not give a gradual grading easement.</p>