

Transportation and Utilities Policy

Brick Paver Policy

Effective: May 1, 2021

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the City of Lincoln's pedestrian network system including design, construction, inspection, and maintenance. This policy ensures that our pedestrian network system meets national standards set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and follows the recommendations of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG).

Clear pedestrian paths are necessary in the City of Lincoln and are of particular importance as walking is a part of every trip. Streets and sidewalks should be accessible for everyone. This policy is intended to ensure that the pedestrian network system is constructed to provide a safe walking surface and to meet City of Lincoln standards. The installation of traditional brick pavers may result in uneven surfaces after settlement if not properly installed or maintained. The use of brick pavers in the pedestrian network system also requires increased oversight of installation and long-term inspection and maintenance compared to the concrete pedestrian network system, which results in greater costs to the City.

Definitions

"Pedestrian network system" shall include all sidewalks, sidewalk ramps, and crosswalks in the public right-of-way.

"Pedestrian access route" shall refer to any surface where the primary function is to provide pedestrian access. This shall include sidewalks, shared use paths, off-street trails, ramp areas, and crosswalks.

"Reconstruction" shall refer to rebuilding of infrastructure (roadway, sidewalk, bridge and culvert, utilities, traffic signals and lighting) along an existing corridor. Reconstruction work normally involves a substantial construction effort to rebuild the existing facility, and where design deficiencies and functional obsolescence of the infrastructure may be addressed.

"Repair" shall refer to routine or typical maintenance needed to address localized issues.

Policy

For new projects within the pedestrian network system, brick pavers may only be installed where there is a permanent maintenance and liability agreement in effect between the City and the responsible adjacent property owner that provides for their maintenance. Agreements shall also require the responsible adjacent property owner that installs the pavers to post a surety to guarantee continued maintenance and repair of the pavers. If no agreement is in place, brick pavers shall not be utilized in the pedestrian access route in the City of Lincoln.

For repair or reconstruction of brick pedestrian network systems existing prior to adoption of this policy and for which no maintenance agreement is in place, several factors will need to be considered when determining the best repair approach. In order to justify repair of existing paver surfaces in lieu of replacement according to City of Lincoln Standards, the existing pavers must meet the following requirements:

- Existing pavers must have a surface that is not substantially worn compared to when they were initially installed. Any chipping, gouging, or polishing of the surface that may cause hazards such as uneven or slippery walking surfaces will not be approved for repair.
- The joint width between pavers must be less than ¼ inch. Polymeric sand must be used to fill the joints of any paver repair locations.
- There must be a concrete base underneath the pavers, ideally at least 4 inches thick, to minimize the chance for future vertical displacement.
- Paver style must be readily available for purchase to ensure future maintenance.

Depending on project aesthetic treatments and proposals, brick pavers may still be used adjacent to primary access route, at corners, planter areas, as edge treatments or decorative elements, etc.; however, the use of brick pavers should be carefully evaluated.

REFERENCES

City Charter Art. VIII, Sec.19 <http://online.encodeplus.com/regs/lincoln-ne-cc/doc-viewer.aspx#secid-858>

LTU Standard Plans for sidewalk ramps
<https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/ltu/transportation/standard/lsp/#s>

FHWA Accessible Sidewalks and Street Crossings
http://www.bikewalk.org/pdfs/sopada_fhwa.pdf

ADA Standards for Accessible Design
<https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADAstandards.htm>

Nebraska Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards
<https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/5593/nac-428-rules-regs-nbcs.pdf>

(Proposed) Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines
<https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/>

Approved:


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Date