



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS

Department of Engineering & Construction Management

Charles F. Nipe, Division Director

Yau-Ming (Robert) Shen, P.E., Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 14, 2021

SUBJECT: Christopher's Crossing Road Widening Project
Sidewalk Survey Results

The attendees in the second Christopher Crossing public meeting on December 17, 2020 expressed concerns regarding the maintenance and need for a planned sidewalk on the south side of the project. Subsequent meetings were held with the Cloverhill Association Board of Directors to discuss potential solutions to the sidewalk maintenance issue. Ultimately, the board decided not to support the installation of the planned sidewalk if maintenance was to be the responsibility of the adjoining property owners or the homeowners association. As a result, staff conducted a survey of 1,022 property owners in the Cloverhill community to gauge interest for or against the proposed sidewalk. The survey letters were mailed out March 29, 2021 and the survey was tallied on April 26, 2021. The table below shows the survey results.

Scenario # 1	Scenario # 2	Scenario # 3	Scenario # 4	No Response	Total who responded	Total surveys mailed out	Participation Rate
Build sidewalk, adjacent property owner maintains	Build sidewalk, no preference on who maintains	Do not build sidewalk if adjacent property owner maintains	Do not build sidewalk, no preference on who maintains				
17	43	94	36	832	190	1,022	19%

Not considering maintenance responsibility, eighty-one percent of respondents were in favor of a sidewalk. However, an overwhelming 50% of respondents did not want the sidewalk if the adjacent property owner is required to maintain the sidewalk. Nineteen percent of respondents did not want a sidewalk regardless of maintenance responsibility.

Current County Code places maintenance responsibility on the adjoining property owner. County Council presented and discussed draft legislation at the April 13, 2021 County Council Work Session to modify the current County Code to place maintenance responsibility on the County for new County-constructed sidewalk. It appears that if this proposed legislation is adopted, it will be well after the project design is scheduled to be completed.

Considering the association's decision, survey results, and the status of the proposed sidewalk maintenance bill, staff suggests that the 3,500 feet of proposed sidewalk on the south side of the project be removed. Removing the sidewalk will enable the project design to stay on schedule and construction to begin in early FY 23 pending land acquisition and final project approvals.