



MARKHAM'S SIDEWALK COMPLETION PROGRAM

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



**Sidewalks keep our
residents safe**



WHY DOES MARKHAM HAVE A SIDEWALK COMPLETION PROGRAM?

Markham's resident and working population will continue to increase significantly over the next 20 years, and in turn, an increase in travel demand is expected. It is not sustainable, nor physically possible, to accommodate the increasing travel demand focusing on personal vehicles as the only mode of transportation. It will only increase congestion and travel times experienced in our communities. Other transportation options - such as walking, cycling and transit - are vital in moving people more efficiently between places and in sustaining the health and economy of our community.

A sidewalk network is a unifying infrastructure where every trip begins and ends with walking, whether it is by automobile, transit, or bicycle. In order to meet our goal of creating a complete multi-modal transportation system and encourage walking and transit use, we must improve the entire sidewalk network and connect our communities by closing these gaps. Set to run for approximately 10 years, subject to funding, the program will prioritize the sidewalk gaps found in "arterial" and "collector" roads. These roads mostly provide direct links to community amenities, such as, schools, parks, community centres, etc.

At the end of 2019 there were about 108 kilometres of sidewalk gaps on arterial and collector roads of which 65 kilometres are identified as part of the Sidewalk Completion Program. An additional 21 kilometres will be built through development construction or larger capital projects. You may view these areas by visiting markham.ca/sidewalkprogram.

Community and health benefits

Sidewalks are a critical component of healthy and sustainable communities as they:

- Increase mobility and accessibility options for pedestrians, transit users, and cyclists. People of all ages and abilities benefit from being able to travel safely and easily within our city.
- Promoting active, healthy lifestyle by encouraging active and safe travel for children, youth, seniors, people with disabilities and other members of the community as a whole. Sidewalks provide a place for people to engage with the outdoors such as strolling, learning to ride a bike, playing hopscotch and walking to work, school or a friend's home.
- Facilitate and enhance neighbourhood and community cohesion through better connections to public spaces that provide opportunities for social interactions such as parks, playgrounds, schools and community centres. The trip to our public spaces begins/enhances our experience outdoors.

- Encourage less and slower traffic as an inviting pedestrian environment naturally encourages less driving and more walking. Meanwhile, increased pedestrian activity provides visual cues that draw motorists' attention – leading to a higher sense of awareness and tendencies for cars to slow down.

Did you know?

Why are certain sidewalk gaps not included in the Sidewalk Completion Program?

Prioritization was placed on arterial and collector roads. Some sidewalk projects along arterial and collector roads will be built as part of other planned capital programs or development projects which reduces the overall cost of the project and creates scheduling efficiencies. Other sidewalk projects have been deferred due to constructability issues, or have been deferred as they are outside of developed areas of the city. As such, certain sidewalk gaps are not shown in the Sidewalk Completion Program.

My local residential street does not have a sidewalk – is this covered in the Sidewalk Completion Project?

The Sidewalk Completion Program does not currently include gaps on local residential roads. If a request for a sidewalk on a local residential street is received, and there is local support from





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the majority of residents residing on the street, the project will be scheduled separately. A list of sidewalk projects on local roads (on-going or recently completed) can be found on our website at markham.ca/sidewalkprogram under FAQs.

Will these new sidewalks be located on my private property?

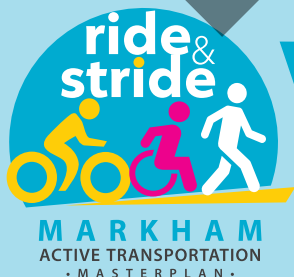
If a sidewalk is being installed in your neighbourhood, be assured it is on the City's Right of Way outside your property. The City Right of Way is the portion of land extending from the curb for approximately 5 metres, or 16 feet, and is owned for the City to be used for laying cables, pipes, streetlights and, in this case, sidewalks.

If you have any above or below ground landscaping (such as gateway

features, paving stones, fencing, curb, sprinkler systems, lighting systems, signage, etc.) within the City Right of Way, please notify the City immediately after receiving construction notice. All private landscaping features within the City's Right of Way that conflicts with the construction work will be removed. Please contact the City immediately if you would like to salvage any of those items.

How do I find out if my street has a new sidewalk planned?

Please check the Construction Program and Project Status section on our website at markham.ca/sidewalkprogram. Residents and businesses directly impacted by a sidewalk project will be informed in advance of any construction proceeding.



Help us improve Markham streets, trails and parks for recreation / travel.

YourVoiceMarkham.ca/WalkingAndCycling