

Dominique & Megan Harris
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August 10th, 2024

Dear, Members Of The Board of Public Works & The Department of Public Infrastructure,

I am writing to express my concerns and opposition regarding the proposed installation of new sidewalks in Royal Oak Subdivision #3 of Manitowoc. While I understand the city's intention to enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility, I believe that the installation of these sidewalks in this specific area is unnecessary and could lead to several negative consequences for the community.

First and foremost, Based on indication there is currently limited pedestrian traffic in this area. The increased foot traffic from the installation of these unnecessary sidewalks could lead to more disruption to residential properties, potential harm to the natural environment, as well as an increased chance of injury on our property resulting in legal strain. Secondly, The city already does a rather poor job at snow removal on our street which results in the road being regularly ice covered throughout winter. This increased foot traffic into this area could lead to more potential harm to individuals on public streets where snow removal is already an issue and increase legal cost for the city. These factors suggest that the benefits of installing sidewalks in this location do not outweigh the associated costs and disruptions to a rather peaceful area.

Additionally, many residents, including myself, believe that these resources could be better allocated to other infrastructure projects within the city that have a more immediate need. Improving existing roads, enhancing public parks, or addressing drainage issues are just a few examples of where these funds could be more effectively utilized.

I respectfully urge the Board of Public Works and Department of Public Infrastructure to reconsider this project and to engage in further discussions with the community to explore alternative solutions that better align with the needs and preferences of Manitowoc's residents.

In conclusion, based on personal canvassing of the area, it is evident that a vocal minority believes these resources would be beneficial to the community. These individuals have already taken it upon themselves to install sidewalks and now seek to have the rest of us follow suit. However, I respectfully request that, given the absence of any local public building or park in this area, the need for sidewalks remain a matter of individual choice. I also ask that the courtesy of choice be extended to the rest of our small neighborhood, as we do not seek to have the currently installed sidewalks removed, but rather to ensure that future installations remain optional, respecting the preferences of each resident.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing your response and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Dominique and Megan Harris