

**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: April 9, 2010

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Priority Sidewalk Assurance Act of 2010”

REFERENCE: Bill 18-191, Draft Committee Print Shared with OCFO on 4/2/2010

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2010 through FY 2013 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. The proposed legislation does not have an impact on the District’s budget and financial plan.

Background

The proposed legislation would require the District to prioritize and install sidewalks on roadways to ensure a safe and accessible environment for pedestrians and persons with disabilities. During road reconstruction or curb and gutter replacement projects on a roadway that lacks a sidewalk, the District would install a sidewalk on at least one side of the street. When a roadway lacks a sidewalk, the District would be required to prioritize sidewalk installation for routes that provide access to schools, parks and recreational facilities, transit stops, and locations where substantial safety risks exist, as well as areas where District residents submit a petition to request a sidewalk.

In addition, the proposed legislation would require the Mayor to notify residents with property abutting the road under construction, the affected Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and affected Councilmembers at least 30 days before construction begins. The notification would include a statement of intent to design and construct a new sidewalk, information about how to provide public comment on the sidewalk, and the construction schedule.

Finally, the proposed legislation would give the Director of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) the authority to issue written findings when the physical site conditions

would make it unduly expensive to construct the sidewalk, the sidewalk would not be used by pedestrians, or if the DDOT Chief Engineer certifies that pedestrian travel can be safely accommodated without sidewalks.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2010 through FY 2013 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation, as the proposed legislation would prioritize the use of already budgeted funds. Many of the sidewalks slated for construction under the "Repair and Maintain Curbs and Sidewalks" DDOT project address Americans with Disabilities Act standards and requirements, are in locations where there are safety concerns, or no sidewalk currently exists. The DDOT budget allocates \$1.35 million annually between FY 2010 through FY 2013, for a total of \$5.40 million for the Repair and Maintain Curbs and Sidewalks project.