

Sidewalks, Bridges & Structures

Program Description & Goals

The Sidewalks, Bridges, and Structures program consists of PBOT Maintenance Operations activities that inspect, maintain, and repair the City’s sidewalks, curbs, corners, guardrails, fences, bridges, stairways and retaining walls, work that is essential to providing public safety, mobility and accessibility.

This program is responsible for ensuring the City’s corners and sidewalks adhere to federal Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards through posting sidewalks that are out of compliance and by improving or installing ADA-compliant curb ramps. In addition to meeting federal and state requirements around asset condition, this program maximizes the City’s lifetime commitment and investment by preserving existing assets, preventing deterioration, and avoiding costly repairs and loss of asset use.

Performance measures for this program include:

Percentage of PBOT-owned bridges in non-distressed condition. Success is 80% or more of bridges in non-distressed condition and PBOT has exceeded this level over the past several years.

Number of ADA curb ramps improved or constructed. PBOT has been working to increase the number of ADA-compliant curb ramps installed. Performance in this area is trending upwards to meet the Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center (CREEC) settlement agreement and PBOT anticipates improving or constructing over 1,500 curb ramps in this budget year.

Measure Title	PM 2016-17 Actuals	PM 2017-18 Actuals	PM 2018-19 Target	PM 2019-20 Target	Strategic Target
Percentage of PBOT-owned bridges in non-distressed condition	85%	84%	85%	85%	0
Number of corners improved or constructed to meet ADA compliance	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,500	0

Explanation of Services

Portland's sidewalk system is made up of sidewalks, corners, and curbs. The system provides pedestrians with a safe way to access transit, neighborhood businesses, parks, and schools. Curbs not only mark the edge of the pedestrian network, but also channel water to the drainage system, which helps preserve street pavement. This program maintains sidewalks and corners, including installation of ADA-compliant corner ramps. These activities make travel easier and safer for people with disabilities and the elderly.

Structural maintenance activities include retaining wall and tunnel repair, bridge and vaulted walk maintenance, installation and repair of roadside barriers (guardrails and attenuators) that are a key component of roadway safety, structural inspections and design, and installation and repair of stairways, fences and bike racks. These activities ensure that these assets are available and functioning properly and remain a safe and viable part of the transportation system for vehicles and pedestrians.

Community members provide input to this program by reporting assets, such as sidewalks, that are hazardous and in need of repair and by requesting the installation of new assets, such as corner curb ramps to improve mobility.

Equity Impacts

This program supports PBOT's 5-year Racial Equity Plan through its efforts to address the following goals:

- 1) Provide equitable services to all residents: PBOT proposes using its equity matrix to prioritize ADA-compliant curb ramp installations, together with other factors including location and number of requests. ADA-compliant corners are also installed as part of pavement improvements and other capital projects led by utilities, TriMet, the County, and the State. Where possible, PBOT Maintenance Operations partners with other agencies to deliver compliant curb ramps as part of other capital projects.
- 2) Shift the culture of the bureau; end disparities in city government: Maintenance of structures, including sidewalk inspections, will be evaluated as part of the bureau's Strategic Asset Management Plan which is in development. This plan intends to prioritize racial equity and inclusion in identifying maintenance priorities and will rely heavily on the Bureau Equity Committee and bureau-wide understanding of racial equity and inclusion.
- 3) Use racial equity best practices to increase access for communities of color and immigrant and refugee communities: Continue to use the racial equity matrix to identify Priority Maintenance Actions.

Further, this program supports disability equity through its work improving corners to meet federal ADA standards. Sidewalk connectivity is also prioritized as part of new construction, including wider sidewalks which are better able to accommodate persons with mobility disabilities.

Changes to Program

To meet the workload demands of completing ADA corner ramp installations, Fixing Our Streets projects and ongoing sidewalk maintenance, three positions have been added to the Sidewalks program in FY 2019-20. There are no other changes to the program's organizational structure, staffing or activities in FY 2019-20. Budgeted program resources and expenditures will be increased in the Sidewalks program to fund the new positions but otherwise, resources and expenditures will be similar to FY 2018-19.

The primary funding source for this program is General Transportation Revenue (GTR) which will increase to cover the new positions and inflation in FY 2019-20.

The 2018 CREEC (Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center) lawsuit settlement requires the City to make accessibility improvements by installing or fixing an average of 1,500 accessible curb ramps each calendar year for the next 12 years starting in 2018, including curb ramps requested by persons with mobility disabilities. Some of this work will be done through capital improvement and permit projects that are part of other PBOT program offers. However, starting in FY 2018-19, 600 ramps per calendar year on average will be completed by the Maintenance Operations Sidewalks section, an increase in the number of ramps done in prior years.

Program Budget

	FY 2016-17 Actuals	2017-18 Actuals	2018-19 Revised	2019-20 Adopted
Bureau Expense				
Capital Outlay	9,973	0	0	0
External Materials and Services	2,060,174	2,205,267	3,013,497	3,001,976
Internal Materials and Services	1,095,428	2,351,587	1,056,992	288,817
Personnel	3,240,534	3,784,717	5,290,947	4,460,529
Fund Expense				
Contingency	0	0	-372,995	5,344,813
Fund Transfers - Expense	0	0	15,000	0
Sum:	6,406,109	8,341,571	9,003,441	13,096,135
FTE	53	62	62.4	65.4

Resources: This program is supported primarily by General Transportation Revenue (GTR) which will increase in FY 2019-20 to cover the cost of adding new positions and capacity to the Sidewalks program and to cover inflation. The program also receives \$1.5 million from the Build Portland Program City Council created in 2017 to finance upgrades to critical city infrastructure, including transportation improvements. Other funding comes from interagency services provided to other City bureaus, from TriMet for the installation of concrete pads in streets at bus stop locations, sidewalk repair/inspection fees paid by citizens and contractors, and reimbursement from property owners for sidewalk repairs done by the City.

These resources have been steady in recent years and are anticipated to remain so in the future. The sidewalk posting fees charged to the public are set to recover program costs and are not deemed to impact the ability of citizens to access services.

Expenses: The primary expenses of the program are personnel costs, which are fixed, predictable and essential to delivering program services. Other major expenses are fleet and equipment operating costs, and operating materials such as cement and materials to fix guardrails and other structures, all of which are critical to providing services and meeting program goals.

Historical expense and FTE figures may show large discrepancies due to recent changes in the bureau's program structure in response to the City's transition to program offer budgeting.

Staffing: The Sidewalks, Bridges and Structures Program includes 65 positions, including field staff (utility workers, welders, carpenters, painters, concrete finishers, inspectors, technicians and equipment operators) and supervisors.

Assets and Liabilities: There are 3,155 miles of sidewalks, 38,231 corners, and 3,150 miles of curbs in the city. In addition, there are 152 bridges, 190 stairways, 23 miles of guardrails, 590 retaining walls and almost a mile of harbor wall in the City. The estimated funding required to improve the condition of these assets to target levels is \$73.0 million. This does not include the cost of improving sidewalks, as adjacent property owners are financially responsible for repairing sidewalks.

Program Information

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