City of Los Angeles

Sidewalk Repair Program
Sidewalk Repair Program

**Willits Settlement**

**Willits v. City of Los Angeles** - The City of Los Angeles violated the Americans with Disabilities Act by failing to maintain sidewalks in an accessible condition.

Settlement Agreement was approved by the City on April 3, 2015 to ensure that accessible sidewalks comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act

- **$31 million** per year (average) will be spent by the City on sidewalk repair
- **30 years** of implementation, totaling $1.4 billion
- **10,000 miles** of sidewalk in the City of Los Angeles
- **40%** of sidewalks in the City are estimated to be damaged
Sidewalk Repair Program

Priority Locations

1. City of Los Angeles government offices and facilities (first two years)
2. Transportation corridors
3. Hospitals, medical facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar
4. Places of public accommodation (commercial or business zones)
5. Facilities containing employers (job centers)
6. Residential neighborhoods and other areas

Note: 20% is set-aside each year for complaint driven access repairs.
Sidewalk Repair Program

Policy Issue: Who pays? Who is responsible?

1911 California Streets and Highways Code - cities have authority to require property owners to effect repairs to sidewalks abutting their property

1973 Los Angeles Municipal Code - City assumed responsibility for fixing sidewalk damage caused by street tree growth

2015 CAO Recommendations:

Residential Property: “Fix and Release” returning responsibility back to adjacent property owner after repairs

Commercial Property: Obligated to repair sidewalks under ADA and State law; City waits one year before issuing Notices to Repair Sidewalks to commercial property owners

Currently undergoing public hearings in South LA, East LA, West LA, and the Valley
Sidewalk Repair Program

*Interim Process*

**Who:**
- Board of Public Works: Oversees, manages, and coordinates program
- Combination of BOE contracts and BSS staff making repairs.
- BCA and GSD involved in inspection and quality control
- ADA Coordinator: Consult on Pedestrian Rights-of-Way and report progress
- All tree removals are subject to existing 2:1 replacement policy
- Removal of more than 2 street trees requires a Board of Public Works hearing
Sidewalk Repair Program

Current Status

• 235 City facilities are in need of sidewalk repair
• 45 City facility sites have been repaired to date

Vermont Square Library
Lake Street Community Center
Sherman Oaks Library
Sidewalk Repair Program

Street Tree Challenges & Opportunities

• 80% of sidewalk damage is due to tree roots
• 70% of our Street Tree Population is over 50 years old
• Sidewalk Repair funds are eligible to be used for street tree replacement