

District 106 and Lyons Township Highway Department Sidewalk Project FAQ's

1. Why are sidewalks being added to areas around the school?

Student safety is our highest priority. Many of our students walk to school. Separating walkers from vehicles protects students. Furthermore, creating safer passage ways to school will encourage more walkers, which has health benefits for children and environmental benefits for all of us.

2. Where will the sidewalks be located?

- *On the southside of 59th Street from Wolf Road extending to the back of Highlands Middle School; and*
- *On the eastside of Laurel Ave from 58th Place to 57th Street.*

3. Why were these locations chosen?

These locations were chosen because they are part of the vehicle queue for dropping off and picking up students. The high concentration of traffic and walkers on these streets make them particularly dangerous for children walking to and from school.

4. How did you decide which side of the street to build the sidewalks?

The project engineers examined the existing infrastructure on these streets and recommended locations that avoid utilities and other encroachments that would make the project more complicated and expensive.

5. What other safety projects are happening in conjunction with the sidewalks?

Solar crosswalk signals are planned on Wolf Road (2) and Plainfield road.

6. Will there be future sidewalk projects planned?

These projects are being funded through a grant authorized by State Representative Jim Durkin. At this time, the school district has no plans for future sidewalk projects.

7. When will the sidewalks be constructed?

The project is expected to be completed by the start of the 2021-22 school year.

8. Who should residents contact with questions or suggestions?

*Kent Hoefling, Highlands District 106
Director of Buildings and Grounds
khoefling@district106.net*

9. Does Cook County need to approve this project?

Cook County does not need to approve this project. It was approved on April 13, 2021 by Lyons Township Highway Department.

10. Why were homeowners not informed of this project earlier?

There are a lot of moving parts with this project. Planning began over the summer of 2020, but the specifics were not “green lighted” until April 2021.

11. Do the homeowners have any “say” in these projects?

The sidewalks will be built on the public easement on 59th Street and Laurel Avenue. Municipal projects can be approved without the residents consent.

12. Will homeowners be expected to clear snow from sidewalks?

Homeowners are not required to clear snow from sidewalks, but we are hoping that school neighbors will do so to help keep these sidewalks clear and safe for our students.

13. Why is this being communicated by D106 and not the township or the county?

This project was initiated by D106 and is directly related to the safety of our students, families and other residents.

14. How many students will use the sidewalks, it appears that only a few kids are walking form this area?

The sidewalks will be used by many families on a daily basis during the school year. This can vary from day to day based on weather conditions. We anticipate that when it is safer for students to walk to school on the sidewalks, that families may choose to allow their kids to do so.

15. Why is the sidewalk on Laurel only planned for one block?

The project was only approved to 57th Street and covers the block with the heaviest amount of vehicle and pedestrian traffic at school arrival and dismissal times.

“So happy to hear that Laurel Avenue is getting a sidewalk. Everyday I worry that a child will get hit by a car because of an impatient parent or a driver not familiar with the school day routine. Walkers and bike riders have no place to go.”

District 106 Crossing Guard