



Rob Barron – Ward 1 City Council Candidate Survey Responses

5. Sidewalk Gaps

The City’s Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget sets aside \$2 million out of \$209 million (less than 1%) for filling sidewalk gaps near schools and in high-priority areas. At this pace, gaps may not be fully addressed until the 2040s.

How would you prioritize funding for sidewalk gaps within the City’s overall CIP budget?

As a council member I would be an advocate to be more aggressive with the plan, but I accept that there will be cost constraints and challenges with completing the work in a timely manner. Des Moines Public Schools was a major influence in crafting Move DSM when I was on the board. An equitable distribution of sidewalks with a priority on kids’ routes to school is a high priority of mine and necessary if we want Des Moines to be a community that is the best place in the world to raise a child.

What criteria should guide where and when sidewalk gaps are filled?

Other criteria I would favor would be access points to major thoroughfares with DART routes and access to shopping and amenities within neighborhoods.