

Memorandum
City of Lawrence
City Auditor

TO: **Members of the City Commission**

FROM: **Michael Eglinski, City Auditor**

CC: **David L. Corliss, City Manager**
Casey Toomay, Assistant City Manager
Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager
Brandon McGuire, Assistant to the City Manager

Date: **October 21, 2014**

RE: **Information on sidewalk maintenance in Manhattan**

To identify sidewalks that need repair, the City of Manhattan conducts follow-up inspections based on complaints. The Code Services department identifies and marks portions of sidewalks that need repairs.

To repair sidewalks, the City of Manhattan requires adjacent property owners to repair or replace the damaged portion of sidewalk. Manhattan notifies property owners of the requirements and provides them with a time frame for making the repair, typically 30-60 days.

The City of Manhattan does not provide funding to help property owners make required repairs. The city does, however, regularly budget funds for sidewalk projects such as adding sidewalks where there are gaps in the system. Funds for some sidewalk work are from the city-university fund, Community Development Block Grants and a general improvement fund.

The City of Manhattan does not measure the condition of sidewalks and it is not possible to compare the conditions of the sidewalk systems in Manhattan and Lawrence without additional data. Staff with Manhattan noted that the city has had redevelopment and street scape projects that created new sidewalks that would be in good condition. Manhattan's capital assets appear to have a lower age than capital assets in Lawrence based on an analysis of reported accumulated depreciation.

I compiled the information in response to a question at the October 14, 2013, City Commission meeting. At that meeting, I presented *the Performance Audit: 2014 Sidewalk Data*. Commissioner Schumm asked about additional information on the sidewalks in Manhattan. To compile the information, I reviewed the working papers for the performance audit, interviewed staff at the City of Manhattan, reviewed budget

documents and the latest Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Manhattan. The information in this memo is not a performance audit under government auditing standards.

I provided a draft of this memo to the City Manager and Director of Public Works on October 17, 2014.