

TOWN OF SUDBURY COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

**PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM**

Submitter: Jody Kablack

Submission Date: 10/15/07

Group or Committee Affiliation (if any): Planning and Community Development Dept.

Submitter's address and phone number:

Purpose (please select all that apply):

278 Old Sudbury Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776  
978-639-3387

Open Space  
Community Housing  
Historic  
XX Recreation

Submitter's email address: kablackj@sudbury.ma.us

Project Name: Town-wide Walkways

Project Description: See attached

Costs:

Fiscal Year	Total Project Cost	CPC Funds Requested	Other Funding Sources (amount and source)
2009	\$200,000	\$200,000	
2010			
2011	\$200,000	\$200,000	
2012			
2013	\$200,000	\$200,000	
Total	\$600,000	\$600,000	

How does this project meet the General Criteria and Category Specific Criteria for CPC projects (see attached)? See attached

Does this project fall within the jurisdiction or interest of other Town Boards, Committees or Departments? If so, please list the boards, committees or departments, whether applications and/or presentations have been made, and what input or recommendations have been given.

For Community Preservation Committee Use:

Form Received on: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Presented to CPC on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Determination: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Project Description:**

Request \$200,000 in FY09 for engineering, design and construction of priority walkways townwide.

The Comprehensive Walkway Program seeks to provide a network of walkways throughout Sudbury. This walkway network will:

- a. Provide safe, accessible paved surfaces for pedestrians and other users which are separated from the roadway pavement used by motorized vehicles.
- b. Provide access to public areas such as schools, recreation centers, shopping centers, churches, etc.
- c. Link up Sudbury conservation land, parks and other public areas of surrounding towns. Some of these towns have walkways terminating at the Sudbury line (e.g., Concord's walkway on Dakin Road); and
- d. Increase the flexibility of school programs by freeing them from the restriction imposed by bus schedules and possibly resulting in bus fleet reductions.

## **Justification and Need:**

- a. Risk to public safety: Most pedestrian-vehicular accidents in Town can be attributed to the lack of separate thoroughfares for vehicles and pedestrians. As town population increases, the volume of traffic on roads increases; which in turn increases the potential for pedestrian/vehicle collisions.
- b. Equitable provision of services: Some of the oldest streets in town have walkways along them, and others do not. These old streets are typically narrow and curvy, and do not allow safe pedestrian usage. Funds should be earmarked to expand the walkway network along the older streets in town.
- c. Funding Sources outside taxation: The walkway program currently funded in Sudbury utilizes public funds from Town Meeting appropriation and private contributions from developers and private citizens. These private contributions have increased in amount over the past several years due to the progress made in constructing walkways. Disruption of the program will diminish outside private contributions.
- d. Provide additional, vitally needed modes of recreation and transportation, i.e., walking, jogging and bicycling.
- e. Provide safe routes to and from schools and bus stops for students.

## **Benefit:**

The benefits of the entire walkway program are enumerated in the Report of the Sudbury Walkway Committee, February 2000, and in the Project Description and Justification and Need sections of this document (available on the Town's website at [www.town.sudbury.ma.us](http://www.town.sudbury.ma.us) under Committees/Planning Board).

The Town Meeting appropriation of \$300,000 in FY01/FY02 and for the construction of walkways allowed the Department of Public Works to construct approximately 1.8 miles of

walkways (see list below). Allocations from the Community Preservation Fund in FY05 and FY07 in the amount of \$100,000 each year has been used to construct various walkway segments, including walkways on Willis Road, Raymond Road, Peakham Road, Concord Road, and Dakin Road, with a small amount remaining and earmarked for an additional section of walkway on either Willis Road or Peakham Road. After the construction of these walkways, the present funds will be fully expended.

It is the intent of this capital request to plan for the construction of walkways listed in the Walkway Committee report within a realistic time frame set up annually by the DPW Director. Appropriating funds on an annual or semi-annual basis will allow the town to utilize DPW staff to complete segments of work, thereby lowering the final cost of construction.

### **Alternatives Considered and Reasons for Rejection:**

It had been previously requested, and defeated, at the 2000 Annual Town Meeting to approve a Proposition 2 ½ override for the construction of the comprehensive list of walkways. Town Meeting has favored annual appropriations for walkway construction within the levy limit. It is believed that under the direction of the DPW Director, more efficient use of the funds will be managed this way, with the overall effect of costing the taxpayers less. The requested funds will be expended in the Dept. of Public Works budget, utilizing as much town staff time as possible given work schedules and expertise. The alternative is to contract out the entire job at significantly higher costs. As planned, dividing tasks between town departments and private contractors will produce the lowest construction costs.

A second alternative is to apply for Community Preservation funds for the construction of walkways, which application will be filed for FY09 funding.

### **Consequences of Not Implementing**

Due to the state policy requiring a 2-mile radius walker-system for grades K-6, funding walkway development is crucial for the safety of the Town's children, as well as all pedestrians. With an increase in the volume of traffic on Town roadways due to new development, the potential for fatalities becomes an increasing reality. School children and town residents cannot walk safely along Town roads due to their narrow width, winding curves and lack of suitable shoulders. Addressing this safety issue should not be delayed until AFTER a crisis occurs

### **Other Background Information:**

Many opportunities to expand the Town walkway system at minimum cost to the Town have been explored. The Town regularly accepts gifts from developers, through subdivision and site plan approval, to be placed in a general walkway engineering and construction fund, expended under the direction of the DPW Director. All developers are asked to consider the off-site impacts of development, as well as the marketability of providing amenities in developments. The Planning Board continues to expand the walkway system through the subdivision approval process, and the Board of Selectmen continues to request commercial development proposals to provide walkways along crucial segments of Route 20 and its adjacent streets.

In 2007 a new initiative was started to involve residents in the planning and prioritization of walkways. This initiative requires neighborhood support and assistance in order to receive funding. This relieves town staff of persuading hesitant homeowners to agree to easements, and involves the residents to discuss the needs of the neighborhood and the benefits of walkways with reluctant homeowners. To date the initiative has been very successful, reducing the amount of pre-planning staff time significantly for the construction of the Raymond Road walkway.

Walkways have benefited from the support of Town Meeting, the Planning Board, the Board of Selectmen, the Capital Improvement Planning Committee and the Community Preservation Committee in past years. We hope to gain the full support of the Park and Recreation Commission with this proposal.

An annual amount of \$10,000 is included in the Department of Public Works budget for maintenance of existing walkways. It is requested that this line item be funded in the Public Works Department budget every year to adequately maintain these important Town resources.

Walkways Constructed with FY01/FY02; FY05/07 CPA Appropriated Funds and Developer Contributed Walkway Funds:

	<u>Length</u>
Landham Road – Coolidge Lane to Route 20/Eddy Street to Framingham Town line	.36 miles
Maynard Road – Fairbank Road almost to Hudson Road	1.3 miles
Route 20 – King Philip Road to Green Hill Road	.8 miles
Raymond Road – Feeley Field to Route 20	.125 miles
Warren Road to Cider Mill Road	.25 miles
Horse Pond Road – State Police Crime Lab to Route 20	.11 miles
Peakham Road – Robert Best Road to Robert Best Road	.38 miles
66 Mossman Road	.13 miles
Concord Road - Thompson Road to Lincoln Road	.25 miles
Willis Road – Kendra to Ford Road	.8 miles
Dakin Road – Blacksmith Dr to Philomen Whale Rd	.3 miles
 TOTAL	 4.70 miles

Walkways Proposed/Completed by Developers:

- Dakin Road
  - LEAP School to Blacksmith Drive - Completed
- Route 20
  - Nobscot Road to Union Avenue (south side of Route 20) – Completed
  - Mill Village to Sudbury Crossing Plaza (south side of Route 20) - Proposed
  - Shaw’s Plaza to Nobscot Road (south side of Route 20) - Proposed

Haynes Road

In front of Willow Hill School to Puffer Lane – Completed

Hudson Road

Spruce Lane to Ronald Road - Completed

Maynard Road

Opposite Cutting property to Wyman Drive – Completed

North Road

Mossman Road to Longfellow Road – Completed

Old County Road

Villages at Old County Rd development to Route 20 – Proposed

## **TOWN OF SUDBURY CPC Criteria**

### **General Criteria**

- This project is eligible for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding according to the requirements described in the CPA legislation.
- This project is consistent with the town's Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, and 2000 Report of the Walkway Committee, all of which have received wide scrutiny and input and have been adopted by the town.
- This proposal has received endorsement by other municipal boards or departments (Planning Board, Board of Selectmen). We hope to receive Park and Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission support in the near future.
- This proposal preserves the essential character of the town as described in the Master Plan. Walkways are built to meander around trees and other site features in order to maintain the existing streetscape to the extent possible.
- This proposal serves a currently under-served population. Many neighborhoods in town do not have pedestrian walkways.
- This proposal demonstrates practicality and feasibility. The Town has successfully constructed walkways within budget.
- It has previously been demonstrated that the project can be implemented expeditiously and within budget;
- Demonstrate that project alternatives, and alternative funding mechanisms, have been fully explored. Similar proposals have been requested out of the Town budget, but have not been successful.

### **Recreation Criteria**

- Support multiple recreation uses. Walkways are multi-use paths which allow walkers, joggers, bikers, skateboarders, and roller bladders to safely recreate.
- Serve a significant number of residents. Each walkway segment links to other walkways in Town, creating opportunities across several neighborhoods.
- Expand the range of recreational opportunities available to Sudbury residents of all ages. Walkways are used by youth and older residents.
- Promote the creative use of railway and other corridors to create safe and healthful non-motorized transportation opportunities.