2021 Sidewalk Assessment

How to Develop an ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan

- Required of all entities
  - Rehabilitation Act of 1973
    - USDOT Implementing Regulations (49 CFR 27)
  - Americans w/Disabilities Act of 1990
    - DOJ Implementing Regulations (28 CFR 35)

Self Assessment

- Purpose & Opportunity
  - Identify barriers that prevents persons with disabilities from access (includes evaluation of policies/practices)
  - Key – provide equivalent access to the maximum extent feasible

What are Barriers?





Emergency Point Repairs



Transition Plan

- Developing the Evaluation
  - Agency commitment
    - Resources
    - Funding
    - Staff resources (i.e., survey/maintenance staff, interns)
    - Or contract with knowledgeable consultants

Sidewalk Assessment





Transition Plan

- Purpose & Scope
  - Set forth steps necessary to complete modifications identified through evaluation
  - self-evaluation (those areas not covered in a previously developed plan)
  - Provide a schedule for completing modifications
  - DOJ reference to Program Access Plan

Transitions Plan

- Content (at a minimum)
  - Identify physical obstacles
  - Describe the methods to make facilities accessible
  - Specify the schedule for achieving completion (if longer than 1 year, identify steps to be taken each year but as expeditiously as possible)

Transition Plan

- Content (cont.)
  - Identify official responsible for implementation of plan
  - Estimated Cost of each modification
  - Status column to record completion date

Transition Plan

- Important things to remember
  - Prioritize modifications (using same criteria as self-evaluation)
  - Coordinate/integrate schedule of modifications with planned alterations (paving, building, utility work)
  - Inform/educate persons with authority over budget/prioritizing projects

Accessibility Issue



Accessibility Issue



Accessibility Issue



Accessibility Issue



Transition Plan

- Important things to remember
  - Transition Plan is a living document – evolving planning & monitoring tool
  - As boundaries grow, so does the need to incorporate acquired facilities into Self-Evaluation/Transition Plan process
  - Special Requests/Complaints & Transition Plan schedule

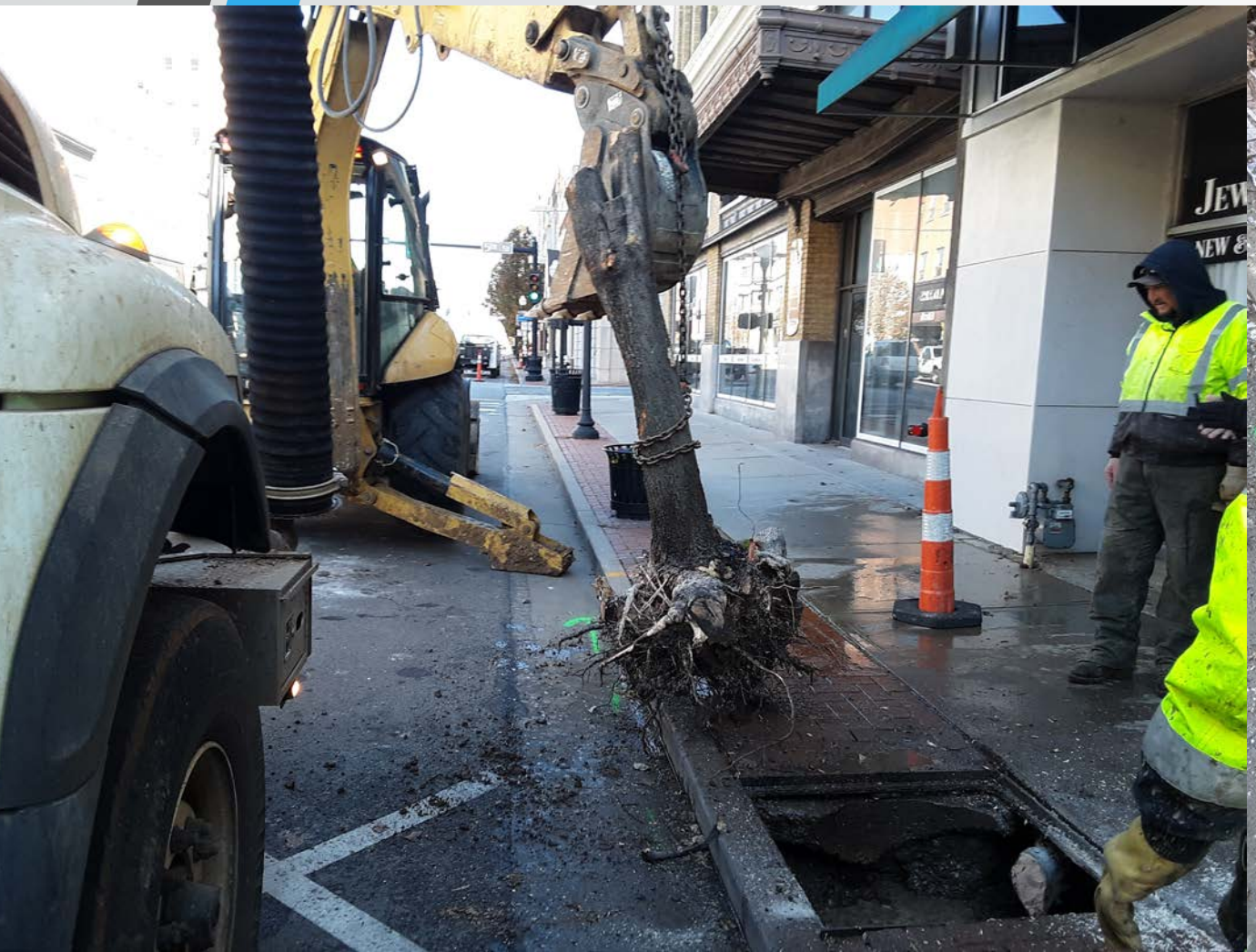
Transition Plan

- Complaints & Priorities
  - Analyze & Identify Complaints
  - Evaluate Area (those areas not covered in a previously developed plan)
  - Provide a schedule for completing modifications and receive public feedback
  - Improve Accessibility

Emergency Point Repair

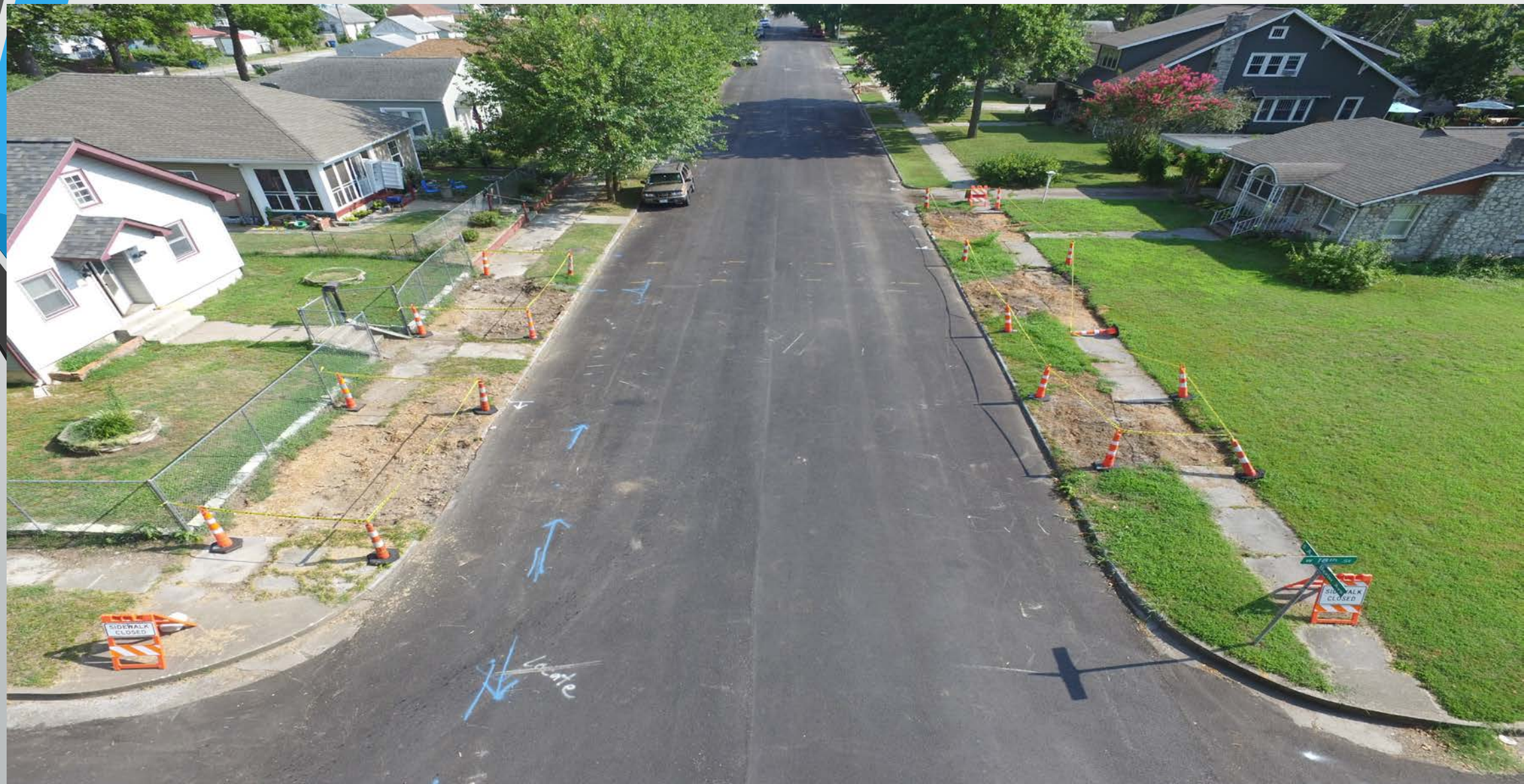


Accessibility Issue





Accessibility Issue



Transition Plan & Self Assessment

Ramp Project

Review Map

ADA Map

Joplin's Sidewalk History

- At the turn of the last Century, like many City's, Joplin included sidewalks on both sides of the street for new subdivisions. The subdivisions generally had higher population density and followed a pedestrian centric plan.



Joplin's Sidewalk History

With the popularity of automobiles, the public began to move toward lower density 'open" residential developments that were planned in a more automobile centric way. In the 1960's sidewalks were dropped as a requirement in residential plats.



Joplin's Sidewalk History

In the 1990's Joplin added a requirement for sidewalk on one side of the street for all new residential subdivisions.

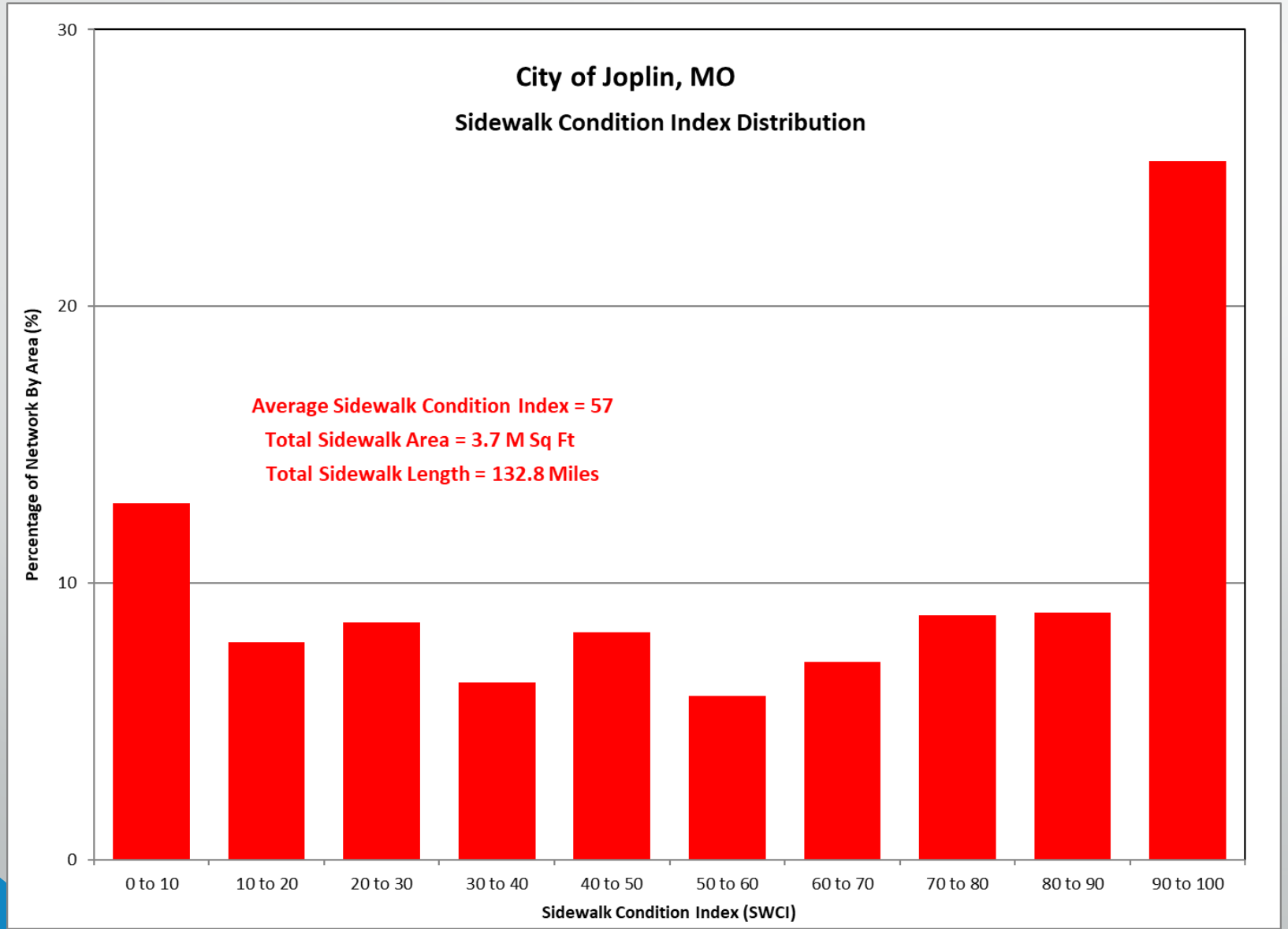


2020-21 Sidewalk Assessment Project

- In 2019, the City contracted with Olsson and IMS to provide a city-wide sidewalk analysis.
- Data was gathered using an ATV with various mounted instruments including LIDAR, GPS, and HD video.
- Using the data gathered, a sidewalk inventory was created that includes material and type of sidewalk, grade, cross-slope, types of deficiencies, pictures of the sidewalks, and much more.



Results of the Sidewalk Assessment



Rehabilitation Methods

- Mudjacking – Process in which material composed of cement, sand, and soil is injected under the sidewalk to lift sunken panels.



- Grinding – Any uneven ledges in the sidewalk are ground down to provide a flush surface.



Rehabilitation Methods

- Local Rehabilitation – Localized patching or replacing in areas of isolated damage or non-compliance.



Rehabilitation Methods

- Remove and Replace – The complete removal and reconstruction of areas of sidewalk. This includes any necessary tree removal, driveway reconstruction, ADA ramp additions, etc.



Program Options for Sidewalk Repairs & Replacement

- Option 1 – Full repair/replacement of infrastructure. This option would follow the style of the Disaster Recovery projects. Fixing damages to sidewalk, ADA ramps, curb and gutter, roadway, etc. and adding ADA ramps where they are not present.



Program Options for Sidewalk Repairs & Replacement

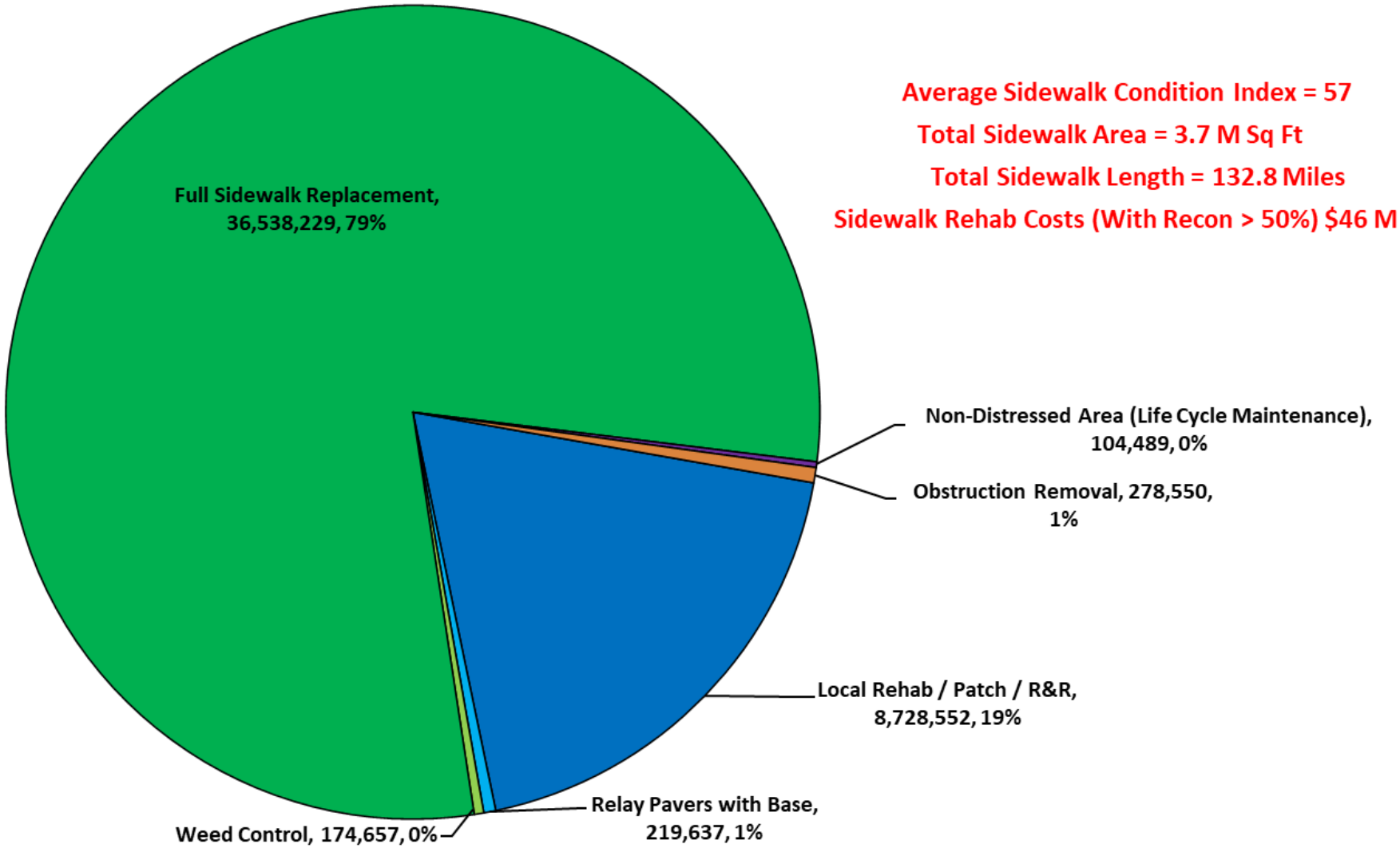
- Option 2 – Perform local rehabilitation where feasible and full removal and replacement where it is not. This includes tree removals, driveway reconstruction, and construction of new ADA ramps where necessary.



City of Joplin, MO

Sidewalk Rehab Actions By Cost

(Rehab Cost $K, % of Total Cost)



Average Sidewalk Condition Index = 57

Total Sidewalk Area = 3.7 M Sq Ft

Total Sidewalk Length = 132.8 Miles

Sidewalk Rehab Costs (With Recon > 50%) $46 M

Trees and Sidewalks

- City of Joplin became a member of Tree City USA in 2007.
- The Council adopted a new tree ordinance in 2011 that included appropriate tree varieties, safe spacing, and correct maintenance for trees in the right of way.



Tree Removal With Sidewalk Replacement

- This tree was heaving the sidewalk, the curb & gutter, and posed a danger to the public.





Pavers and Limestone Slab Sidewalks

- Sidewalks composed of brick pavers or limestone slabs are not ADA compliant in most cases.
- More maintenance is required for brick pavers to keep a smooth surface.
- Pavers and stone slabs require a different approach for utility work and repairs.



Pavers and Limestone Slab Sidewalks

- The limestone slab and paver sidewalks are often only part of a block with sections of concrete sidewalk on the same block.



Next Steps

- Include a policy for trees and a way to develop a tree inventory for public right of way.
- Research Best Practices of other Communities
- Continue evaluation cost
- Prioritize
- Reconsider Property owners to maintain

QUESTIONS????