

**Testimony in favor of sidewalks on neighborhood streets
Turner Ave. (& Tompkins Dr.)**

April 21, 2015

My name is Mary Bean. I have lived at 404 Tompkins Dr. since 1961 - for 54 years. When we arrived we were the youngest couple on the block and now are the oldest.

I grew up in Rockford IL a city with sidewalks, but experienced boardwalks when visiting at my grandparents' village home and have lived without sidewalks on Tompkins here in Madison. I prefer having sidewalks.

Turner Ave., a Madison Metro Bus route #16 street, and Tompkins Dr. as a collector street, have a great deal of vehicle traffic which, in my opinion, require the separation of pedestrians onto sidewalks and if possible bicycles onto bike lanes as well.

Having the level surface of sidewalks makes it much easier to push strollers & wheel chairs or walk with a cane or crutches. Before I had a total knee replacement, I found it very difficult to walk along the uneven and often muddy edge of our "crowned" streets.

At the fall annual meeting of the Glendale Neighborhood Association, we heard from a local realtor about the need to take a look at our aging neighborhood for ways to attract young families to the area. One item he mentioned they look for - is sidewalks. Not only for pushing babies in strollers but also as a safe way for their children to walk to neighboring playmates as they grow up and to walk to and from our local schools. We are fortunate to have Glendale Elementary, Sennett Middle and La Follette High schools clustered within walking distance for much of the neighborhood.

Another positive aspect of sidewalks is that they afford owners with periodic exercise - shoveling snow; spreading sand/cat litter, etc on ice; sweeping or raking off leaves - and the opportunity to chat with each other in the process.

At ages 83 & 79 my husband and I still hand shovel our own 75 foot drive way & parts of the neighbors sections of the path for the letter carriers who save steps by staying near the homes as they walk the length of our block.

I anticipate appreciating our younger neighbors occasionally using their snow blowers on our new sidewalk, as they have helped us with the drive way when the snow is really deep or heavy.

One additional positive is that we live in Madison where I think it is the Streets Dept. which checks for and repairs broken places or squares lifted by tree roots.

Thank you for listening attentively.