



## REASONS TO FIX ATLANTA'S SIDEWALKS NOW

Due to decades of neglect, sidewalks throughout the City are in disrepair and hazardous to pedestrians. The Atlanta Public Works Department recently released the *2010 State of the City's Transportation Infrastructure Report*. It estimates a backlog of \$204M in sidewalk, curb and ADA ramp repairs.

The report recommends the City invest \$20M per year for the next 10 years to eliminate the backlog.

**Good walking conditions are essential to livable communities.** People deserve to enjoy walking without risking hazardous conditions.

**Failing to maintain sidewalks violates the Americans with Disabilities Act.** Broken sidewalks create tripping hazards and block access for people with disabilities. This puts Atlanta at risk of high cost lawsuits.

**Safe walking conditions enable and encourage more people to travel by foot.** One-fourth of all car trips are less than a mile. Walking instead of driving reduces traffic congestion and increases health.

**Sidewalks provide access for people with disabilities, children, seniors and others who do not drive.** Providing safe sidewalks for seniors increases in importance as Atlanta's population ages.





## ...USING PUBLIC FUNDS

**Sidewalks are public right-of-way.** The use of public money to build sidewalks makes them public assets, just like streets.

**The City of Atlanta's policy of making sidewalk repair the responsibility of abutting property owners is unfair, inefficient and ineffective:**

- Maintenance costs for sidewalks vary considerably;
- People with corner lots should not have to pay more;
- Some streets have sidewalks only on one side, but residents of both sides use them;
- Repairing sidewalks in a piecemeal way is far more expensive than on a street-by-street basis;
- Property owners should not bear responsibility for sidewalks broken by events beyond their control, including others parking on the sidewalk;
- Pedestrians should not have to endure hazardous sidewalks wherever property owners cannot afford to fix them.

**TAKE ACTION:**

**Join PEDS in calling on City officials to**



**peds.org**