



News from

## Interim Mayor Todd Gloria

City of San Diego

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **City Leaders Kick Off Citywide Sidewalk Assessment** *Assessment will be Key to Infrastructure Funding Decisions*

*SAN DIEGO (January 10, 2014)* – Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and City Councilmember Mark Kersey, Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, today kicked off a Citywide sidewalk assessment project. Student workers are performing the assessments and demonstrated the process with the Interim Mayor and the Councilmember in Golden Hill.

**“The assessment will provide an unprecedented evaluation of the conditions of sidewalks throughout San Diego,”** said Interim Mayor Gloria. **“As we continue our efforts to address deferred maintenance and prioritize funding, this information will be critically important.”**

The sidewalk assessment is being performed to determine the current condition of sidewalks and to identify potential locations for new sidewalks. The bulk of the work is being completed by 24 student engineering interns.

**“These assessments are critical to our efforts to fix San Diego’s deteriorating sidewalks,”** said Councilmember Kersey. **“Ultimately, we want to make San Diego a more walkable community with priority on creating safe routes to schools, enhancing ADA accessibility, and improving business frontages.”**

Asset and condition information is gathered using handheld GPS devices configured to enable rapid data entry. Data is uploaded daily. Teams plan their data gathering through a dedicated geo-database, which also validates data and tracks progress. At the conclusion of the project, the information will be integrated into a specialized database to perform risk assessment and determine the Overall Condition Index.

The City of San Diego has approximately 5,000 miles of public sidewalks. It is the City’s responsibility to eliminate tripping hazards, and permanent repairs of sidewalks are the responsibility of abutting property owners, in accordance with the California Streets & Highways Code.

Approximately \$1 million is allocated annually for new and missing sidewalk projects. Further, the City receives about 200 requests for sidewalk repairs monthly, most related to damage caused by tree roots. The City allocates approximately \$400,000 annually for sidewalk repairs and \$100,000 to assist property owners with repairs. In Fiscal Year 2010, \$9.5 million was allocated to help finance the repair of 3,800 tree root-damaged locations.

The citywide sidewalk assessment was funded in the Fiscal Year 2014 budget for up to \$1 million and is expected to take approximately one year to complete.

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