

# JACKSON COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE

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## MEMO

To: Jackson County Board of Commissioners  
Cc: Don Adams, County Manager  
From: Michael Poston, Planning Director  
Date: October 4, 2017

RE: County sidewalks

Sidewalk infrastructure is a common public facility in the municipalities of Sylva, Dillsboro, and Webster and those municipalities are responsible for the maintenance to those facilities. While it is less common for counties to maintain sidewalk facilities, Jackson County has entered into agreements with NCDOT to maintain segments of sidewalks located outside municipal limits on a project by project basis. The three most prominent are the sidewalk along Frank Allen Road in Cashiers, the sidewalk along US 441 from the entrance to the Qualla Boundary to Catamount Travel Center, and the proposed sidewalk along Old Cullowhee Road from the end of the new bridge north to the Cullowhee Café. The sidewalk segments are located in portions of the County that have a more urban land development pattern where, traditionally, sidewalk infrastructure is more predominant. These areas are also located within the three zoned districts of the County (one in each Cashiers, 441 Gateway, and Cullowhee).

As development in these areas continues, the expansion of sidewalk infrastructure will also increase as the zoning ordinance in all three requires new development or redevelopment to install sidewalks along the existing roadway. NCDOT will allow sidewalk infrastructure in the rights of way as long as there is a governmental agency willing to maintain the sidewalks. This is accomplished through the execution of three party encroachment agreements between NCDOT, the County, and the property owner.

Staff is requesting clarification on the County position regarding acceptance of sidewalks installed by developers and, if deemed appropriate by the Board, to create a sidewalk acceptance and maintenance policy in order to effectively manage sidewalk infrastructure as development continues in these areas.