Sidewalk repairs paid by federal grant

Pottstown has 60 miles of borough streets and 10 miles of state roads (like High Street and Charlotte Street). It has about 113 miles of sidewalks.

As in virtually every municipality in Pennsylvania, the adjacent property owner is responsible for the maintenance of sidewalks.

However, thanks to a federal grant for Pottstown’s Walk/Bike project, a PennDOT-approved contractor has replaced deficient sidewalks along High Street and Roland Street at no cost to the property owner. I counted 63 property addresses, below. In all, more than 15,000 square feet of sidewalk were replaced at a total cost of $279,000. No local match was required.

People love to complain about the real and perceived faults of their local government. How many property owners called their council representative to express gratitude for the initiative and effort put into obtaining the grant funding to fix their sidewalk?

Commentary by Tom Hylton

NEW SIDEWALK is installed last November on the 1100 block of High Street. More than 15,000 square feet of sidewalks were replaced with federal Walk/Bike Pottstown grant money.