



PRESS RELEASE

City Exploring Innovative Method For Sidewalk Repair

Bradenton, FL – September 25, 2006 - Large trees can sometimes turn a sidewalk into a tripping hazard when roots grow underneath and force a portion of the sidewalk to rise, and replacing hundreds of concrete slabs along a single sidewalk is costly and time consuming.

But the City of Bradenton Public Works Department may have found a solution that saves time and money, yet leaves the sidewalk looking as good as new.

Public Works officials recently learned about a company that uses a diamond-bladed saw to smooth down the raised portion of a sidewalk, avoiding the need for major repairs. The contractor, Precision Sidewalk Safety, which has an office in Ocala, demonstrated the technique on a stretch of sidewalk along 48th Street Court East in Braden River Lakes.

The blade turns the abrupt raise of the slab into a fine slope that meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, said Carl Taylor, The City's Utility Manager/New Projects Coordinator and Utility Code Enforcement Officer.

"I was impressed," Mr. Taylor said. "It's still a rise, but it's on such a gentle slope that it's not that noticeable."

The City spent fewer than \$3,000 to fix 83 spots along 48th Street Court East. Mr. Taylor estimated the City would have spent three times that amount to replace the slabs, not including labor and equipment. The process took less than a day and a half, compared to several weeks to lay new concrete, he added.

But some portions of the sidewalk need replaced, Mr. Taylor said. In some instances, sidewalks are raised to the point of crumbling or raised high enough that smoothing down the slab would ruin the sidewalk's integrity.

Contractors plan to survey the entire Braden River Lakes neighborhood before bringing Public Works officials a proposal to rehab all its sidewalks. If City officials continue to like what they see, they may use this process to fix sidewalks throughout the entire city.

For more information, please call Carl Taylor at the Public Works Department at 708-6300 ext. 232. Or call Precision Sidewalk Safety at 813-600-3272 or visit www.precisionsidewalksafety.com.

-- Tim W. McCann, Public Information Officer