

After-Action Report

Emergency Sidewalk Tests

November 13, 2019

Executive Summary

Emergency responders must navigate the inner core of the A-State campus using sidewalks established as emergency access routes in order to get help to buildings and individuals as quickly as possible. These routes were identified eight years ago, and the campus layout has changed significantly since then. These changes, their impact to emergency response and recommended solutions are provided in the sections below.

On August 15 and 16, 2019, University Safety & Emergency Management (USEM) guided tours of the emergency sidewalks to six Jonesboro Fire Department engine companies. No damage to sidewalks or grounds were reported. While even the largest ladder truck was able to navigate the paths, there were five university and/or contractor vehicles that had to be moved over the two days in order to allow the emergency vehicles to pass, which took as long as 15 minutes to accomplish.

Changes to Campus that Impact Emergency Response

Change: Quapaw Street was closed two years ago in order to increase pedestrian safety at the University Loop East/Quapaw intersection. This change was necessary.

Impact: Two emergency sidewalks were named Quapaw Way and Quapaw Trail and buildings were addressed off of these designations with the idea that responders would use Quapaw St. to approach the sidewalks. Barricades currently in place prevent this approach, and emergency vehicles are navigating large parking lots to reach the emergency paths.

Solutions:

- The intersection at Quapaw St. and University Loop East will be cut off to everyday traffic with the expansion of the multi-use trail next year.
- Emergency access will be provided at this point with mountable curbs on both sides of the multi-use path. This will eliminate the Quapaw Street designation, and the designation of Quapaw Way will be extended to University Loop East.
- Additional emergency access will be provided with the reopening of Driver St. in conjunction with the Windgate Center for 3D Design project

Change: The lot west of the Administration Building was restriped, and the shallower angle of the spaces has decreased the area between the vehicle rows

Impact: Jonesboro Fire Department's fire engines and ladder trucks cannot access the Griffin College of Business

Solutions:

- In the short term, emergency responders should utilize the gate to contract lot SW-4 near the library to access Administration Annex and Griffin COB.
- In the long term, the sidewalk running east/west on the north side of Griffin COB will be upgraded, and will be widened to allow emergency access.
- Provide direct sidewalk access to Griffin CoB and Administration Annex via mountable curb off of Marion Berry Parkway that ties into widened sidewalk north of Griffin COB.
- Re-addresses Griffin CoB and Administration Annex to designations off of Marion Berry Parkway

Emergency Route Deficiencies

While testing fire engines and ladder trucks on Quapaw Way, tours encountered five vehicles over the two days that had to be moved so that the emergency vehicles could pass. Two were university vehicles, two were contractor vehicles and one was a large mobile grill hitched to a pick-up truck. Moving the vehicles took approximately 15 minutes in each instance, which would increase response time severely in a real emergency. On numerous occasions campus safety officials have reported unauthorized parking along all emergency access sidewalks.

Solution:

- Provide markings at appropriate points along emergency access sidewalks that identify them as emergency routes.
- Markings will be in the form of bricks set into the sidewalks with lettering sandblasted into the brick