



October 28th, 2009

Dear Sherry,

I'm pleased to be able to recommend the use of TripStop to any municipality or road agency in the United States. The sidewalk trip hazard is the bane of maintenance bureaus everywhere. And of the variety, none can prove more frustrating than those caused by tree roots. In the City of Springfield, Missouri, that situation is no different. Compounding the trouble caused by trip hazards is the unsuitability of the repair options. Springfield sidewalk crews finally found the repair option that affords the longest life with the best performance features with the introduction of Trip Stop.


As the first city in the United States to import and use TripStop, I can vouch for its usefulness. Introduced to it at the World of Concrete in 2005, we made it an early and important part of our sidewalk repair toolkit.

Trip Stop is a novel approach to preventing joint faults. When placed in the walk at regular jointing intervals, the PVC extrusion forms a double keyed joint, allowing the sidewalk to articulate around the Trip Stop. As tree roots recover from the root pruning in subsequent years and resume their upward push on the sidewalk panel, the keyed joints allow the sidewalk panels to move without faulting at the joints. The Trip Stop extrusion is matched to the depth of the sidewalk and is easily installed with supplied stakes. As the extrusion comes to the surface of the sidewalk, it also eliminates the need to tool the joint, saving some time and effort.

Although we are still early in the expected lifecycle of the product, it has matched all of our expectations thus far and I anticipate that it will continue to far outlive the repairs we might have otherwise made. Preserving trees and neighborhood character without sacrificing the care and maintenance of vital infrastructure is an important part of the balancing of Public Works and the public interest.

When facing the inevitable mantra of "do more with less" tight budget times, Springfield maintenance crews have instead opted to "do less" by doing it better the first time. Armed with this repair tool, the sidewalks of our fair city are protected from repeat repairs that waste tax dollars and frustrate pedestrians and property owners.

Sincerely,



Jonathan A. Gano, P.E.
Superintendent of Streets

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

840 Boonville Avenue, P.O. Box 8368 Springfield, Missouri 65801-8368
phone: (417) 864-1965

homepage: <http://www.springfieldmogov.org> e-mail: city@ci.springfield.mo.us