

# The Journal

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## Heated sidewalks tested

By David Hotle



*Federation Bank President Dale Torpey shows off the new heated sidewalk outside along East Main Street in Washington. As he was showing the sidewalk, people were shoveling snow off the sidewalks all around.*

Several businesses in Washington are exploring the future of snow shoveling, and it doesn't involve any back-breaking scooping or damaging salt applications.

As the Downtown Enhancement Project was under way last fall, Federation Bank and Washington State Bank took the opportunity to install heated sidewalks. On Tuesday, people visiting the banks had the opportunity to see how well the sidewalks worked, as no snow remained on the sidewalks in front of the two banks, with no shovel lines, snow piles or stuck-on clumps.

"We put it to the test a little early this year, but it's really worked out well," said Federation Bank President Dale Torpey. "The sidewalk is dry and clean."

While the sidewalks were torn out and the new curbs were being installed, the two banks had contracted with a private company to have the electric sidewalks installed.


Washington State Bank President Keith Lazar explained the system can either be turned on by heat or moisture sensors or manually if inclement weather is predicted. He said there is a series of coils under the sidewalks that heat the concrete, causing snow and ice on the sidewalk to melt.

"It's not so much the cost as the safety to our customers," Lazar said. "We have a lot of older customers and this helps assure footing a little bit."

Lazar said the idea of putting in a heated sidewalk had been considered, but in the past had been considered cost-prohibitive. When the project began, City of Washington inspector David Bruns had discovered the SnowClear system from EverClear Radiant Systems of Dardenne Prairie, Mo. The company offered a more reasonable system. He expects the bank will save money on snow removal and on damage to carpeting in the bank from salt tracked in. He declined comment on the cost of the system.

For the full story, see the Dec. 10 edition of The Washington Evening Journal

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