

Walking Audits

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At Your Table

- Introduce Yourself: Name, Where You're From, Affiliation
- Describe a recent walk you took
- What made the walk memorable?



Today's Agenda

Walking Audits – An Overview

The Basics of Planning and Executing a Walking Audit

Do's, Don'ts, and Bewares of Walking Audits

Walking Audits An Overview

The Why

- 6,000+ pedestrians die on our streets every year
- Too often, the voices of community members have been discounted in planning
- We need more opportunities to come together
- Walking advocacy can be done by anyone!



The What

- Walks intended to capture information, perspectives, and reaction
- Can be done in any type or size of community
- Provides an opportunity for community members to give voice to concerns and provide feedback to local elected officials
- Can be the first step in larger advocacy efforts



Some Useful Resources

- AARP's "Walking Audit Toolkit"
- Every Body Walk! "Getting Started" Guide
- Safe Routes Partnership "Get to Know Your Neighborhood" Guide
- Mark Fenton's "Tips for a Walking Audit"



The Basics of Planning and Executing a Walking Audit

Before the Audit

- Select a route that allows for positive and negative observations
- Plan for safety and accessibility
- Ask yourself- who's at the table?



The Audit

- Keep groups small and manageable
- Have clear meeting points and times
- Provide checklists and note-taking materials



Things to Look for

- Crossing signals
- Overhead traffic lights
- Turning lanes
- Curb cuts
- Sidewalks
- Crosswalk lines and vehicle stop lines
- Important signage

Ratings to Apply

- Excellent: The area is very pedestrian-friendly and safe
- Good: The area is moderately pedestrian-friendly and safe
- Fair: The area is somewhat pedestrian-friendly and safe
- Poor: The area is not pedestrian-friendly or safe

After the Audit

- Bring people back together to share observations
- Identify an individual or group of individuals to prepare a report
- Who should receive the report?
- Let this be the first step!



Possible Follow Up

1. Contact city officials and others who offered assistance at the workshop or sent staff.
2. Hold a meeting with transportation or planning officials to consider how best to make improvements and whether plans for road design or development can be created or modified.
3. Compile data, maps and photos from the walk audits into a report to present to the appropriate body (e.g., the city council or agency boards) that can take action.
4. Work with local leaders to push for needed changes, articulate desires and draft and adopt a plan for community improvements such as sidewalks or bike lanes.
5. Seek to develop new (or strengthen existing) Complete Streets policies for decision makers and agencies to consider so all road users will be accommodated in future plans. (The National Complete Streets Coalition — completestreets.org — offers workshops on how to more effectively balance the needs of all users and routinely create and maintain complete streets.)
6. Work with local and regional committees that can promote the implementation of identified improvements. Examples of committees include transportation, aging and disabilities commissions and citizen advisory committees to the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) or local government.
7. Form a committee to determine a comprehensive approach to improving walkability, including considerations about land use and redevelopment.
8. Stay in touch with workshop participants to keep the momentum moving forward. Use the workshop sign-in sheet and invitation list to keep supporters engaged and connected.
9. Continue outreach efforts to the rest of the community.

We Can Help!

Do's, Don'ts, and Bewares of Walking Audits

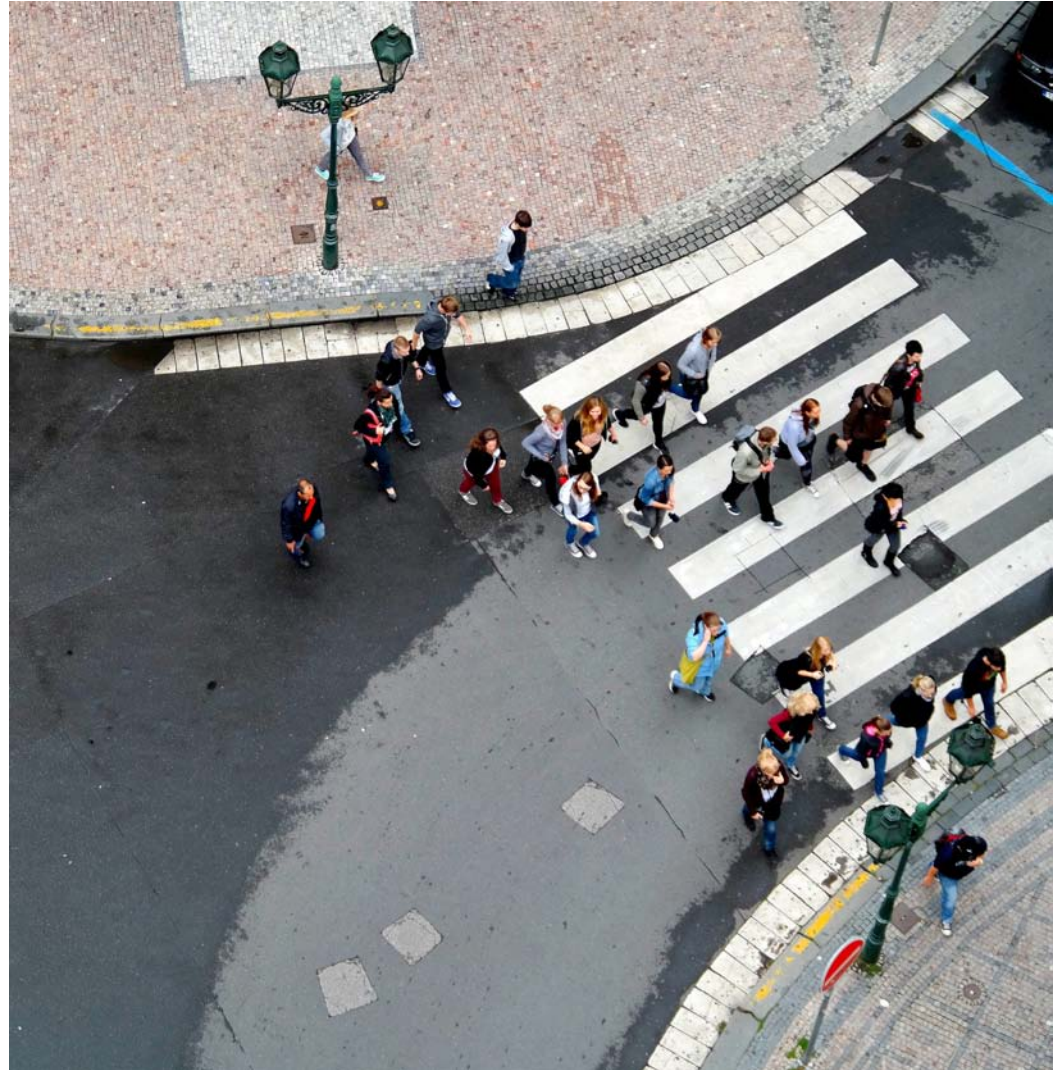
Dos

- Make it a community event
- Build new partnerships
- Include people of all ages and abilities
- Invite local elected officials and other decision-makers



Don'ts

- Don't forget to prepare people ahead of leaving on the walk
- Don't make assumptions on knowledge of the route or the issues
- Don't go in with an outcome in mind



Things to Consider

- Who else could be at the table?
- Plan for weather, time of day, and other variables
- What else is going on in that area at that time?
- Be inclusive and accessible in your route, materials, and engagement





Let's Practice!





1st St

STOP

NO
MOTOR
VEHICLES









It's not all bad!









Contact Us

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