Walkability Audit

BBTA Road Show
Baltimore, MD
January 29, 2015
Part I.

Introduction
Tool Objectives

1. Understand the **value** of walking and the **role** of the built environment in preventing or encouraging it.

2. Identify **improvements** to the built environment that will enhance and encourage walking.

3. Build **relationships** among stakeholders with a variety of interests to improve the environment for walking.
The tool fits if a community…

• is concerned with how the built environment encourages and discourages walking.
• seeks to identify specific improvements to increase the walking as a mode of transportation.
• can identify specific neighborhoods, school zones, districts or corridors where increasing walking is desirable.
• has multiple stakeholders that support – or are likely to support - improvements to the pedestrian environment.
Instructors fit if they...

• understand requirements for pedestrian safety and comfort in the built environment;
• recognize details of the pedestrian environment in real time and explain their in pedestrian safety, convenience and attractiveness; and
• are aware of policies and practices that can be used to improve pedestrian environments in the technical assistance community (TAC).
Tool Elements

1. **Workshop** for large group of stakeholders, may be open to the public, includes:
   - Presentation on the benefits of walkability and directions for walkability audit;
   - Walkability audit to identify barriers walkability in a given area; and
   - Review of audit results.

2. **Next steps memo.**

3. **Briefing** for elected officials or other relevant body, such as a planning commission or neighborhood business association.
Part II.

Technical Substance
Walkability: Making the Case
Walkable and Livable Communities Institute
Walkability: Why?

- Safety
- Health & Well-Being
- Equity & Prosperity
- Sustainability

Walkability
Part I: Principles of Walkability

Part II: Deterrents to Walkability

Part III: Treatments to Encourage Walkability

Understanding Walkability
Walkability:
How comfortable an area is for walking

- How Accessible
- How Welcoming
- How Convenient
- How Safe
How Accessible?

- Arterial

- Arterial
How Accessible?

Which street moves more vehicles per day?
Example of a Complete Street
La Jolla Boulevard, San Diego, CA
How Welcoming?

Openly Hostile

Intolerant
How Welcoming?

Tolerant

Supportive
How Welcoming?

Noteworthy
Part II: Deterrents to Walkability
Incomplete Streets
Improperly Placed Driveways
Missing Sidewalks
Lack of Marked Crossings
Part III: Tools to Encourage Walkability
Pedestrian Refuge Island
Colorized Bike Lanes
Imagine Walkability - Before
Imagine Walkability - After
Walkable OR Not Walkable?
Walkable OR Not Walkable?
Walking Audit Survey Tool
Audit

A “human mini-circle” at the intersection of 1st St. and School St. illustrates one option to calm traffic and create a sense of place.
Intersection Sketch

- Layer in Observations
I felt nervous on this side of the street because the building is vacant and not being maintained. Garbage smells.

Nice mixed use building but some litter; trash cans needed. More people are on this side of the street. Popular coffee shop.
### Survey Legend

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<th>Notes and Observations</th>
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Discussing Audit Results

100-DAY
- MARK THE CROSSINGS
- DROP-OFF EVENT 6/26/11
- REMOVE SIGN
- MID/LONG RANGE
  - COMPLETE SIDEWALK & TRAIN CONSTRUCTIONS
- ROUNDABOUT S.R./5TH/L4

Image of people discussing plans and a map of the area with notes pinned to it.
Part IV.

Your Turn
Intersection Sketch

Location: Mt Vernon & Del Rey Ave
Time and Date: 8:00am, 1/28/15
Weather Conditions: Cold 25°, Clear

Use the intersection sketch to write notes and capture existing conditions at particular locations. Through words or images, document what you see and what you don’t see, as both are of equal importance. In addition, include recommendations for the improvements you would like to see.

Comfort: Does the built environment make me feel that I belong here even if I don’t have a car around me?
Yes, good pedestrian facilities (mostly) and street sweeping.

Safety: Where did I feel safe or unsafe? What made me feel that way?
West crosswalk. Sight lines bad because of illegally parked car. Other traffic backed up because of it.