

# CD4PA: Inclusive Community Movability Audits



Group audit  
Petersburg VA REACH

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## Show of hands: What is your experience w/ walk-movability audits? (Select closest answer.)

1. New to me; I'd never heard of walk/movability audits before joining this undertaking.
2. I have heard of walk/movability audits, but know little about them.
3. I am familiar with, but never participated in a walk/movability audit.
4. I have participated in but never led a walk/movability audit.
5. I have led or co-facilitated a movability audit.
6. I have helped plan, organize, & execute a walk/movability audit



- Fundamental ideas for successful audits.
- GET OUT THERE!
- 3P exercise.
- Questions, discussion.
- (Virtual audit PhotoVoice)
- (Example audit; resources)





## What is a movability audit?

- Facilitated group walk/roll/ride to explore an area's support for active transportation (equity, economics, nutrition, etc.)
- Best when combined with a feedback & planning session to develop recommendations for action.
- Effective tool for education, inspiration, & practical planning.
- An act of **shared discovery** & **shared problem solving**!



## I2Audits: Inclusive, Interdisciplinary Walk/Move Audits

- **Inclusive:** Across abilities & disabilities, of different ages, incomes, races, backgrounds as decision-makers in the planning, implementation, & evaluation of an audit.
- **Interdisciplinary:** Public works, planning, health & safety, engineering, economic development, social services, parks & rec., commerce, transit, schools, housing, . . .



# When?

- During comprehensive & project planning, **public input & comment**.
- **Policy review**: zoning, design guidelines, schools.
- Introducing **infrastructure**; roundabouts, road diets, back-in parking; trails.
- **Events**: festivals, pop-ups, open streets, cyclovia, walk & bike to school/work days.





# Who? Connect local experts & non-traditional partners.



**Youth:** Schools, Scouts,  
YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs ...

Community church;  
(San Bernadino CA)



Independent  
Living Centers  
(Helena MT)

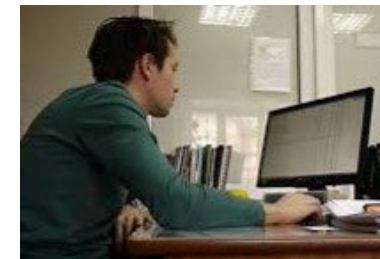


“Main Street” Okmulgee OK





We should be physically active.



But mostly we aren't.



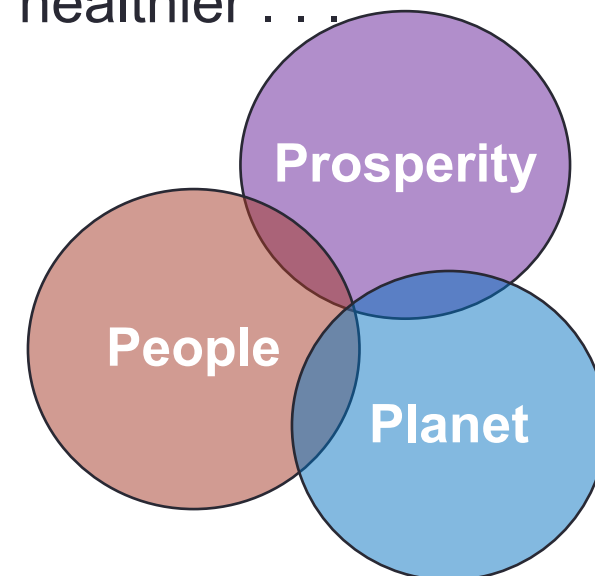
Just telling people isn't enough.



Why?

Creating supportive settings helps.

And it leads to healthier . . .





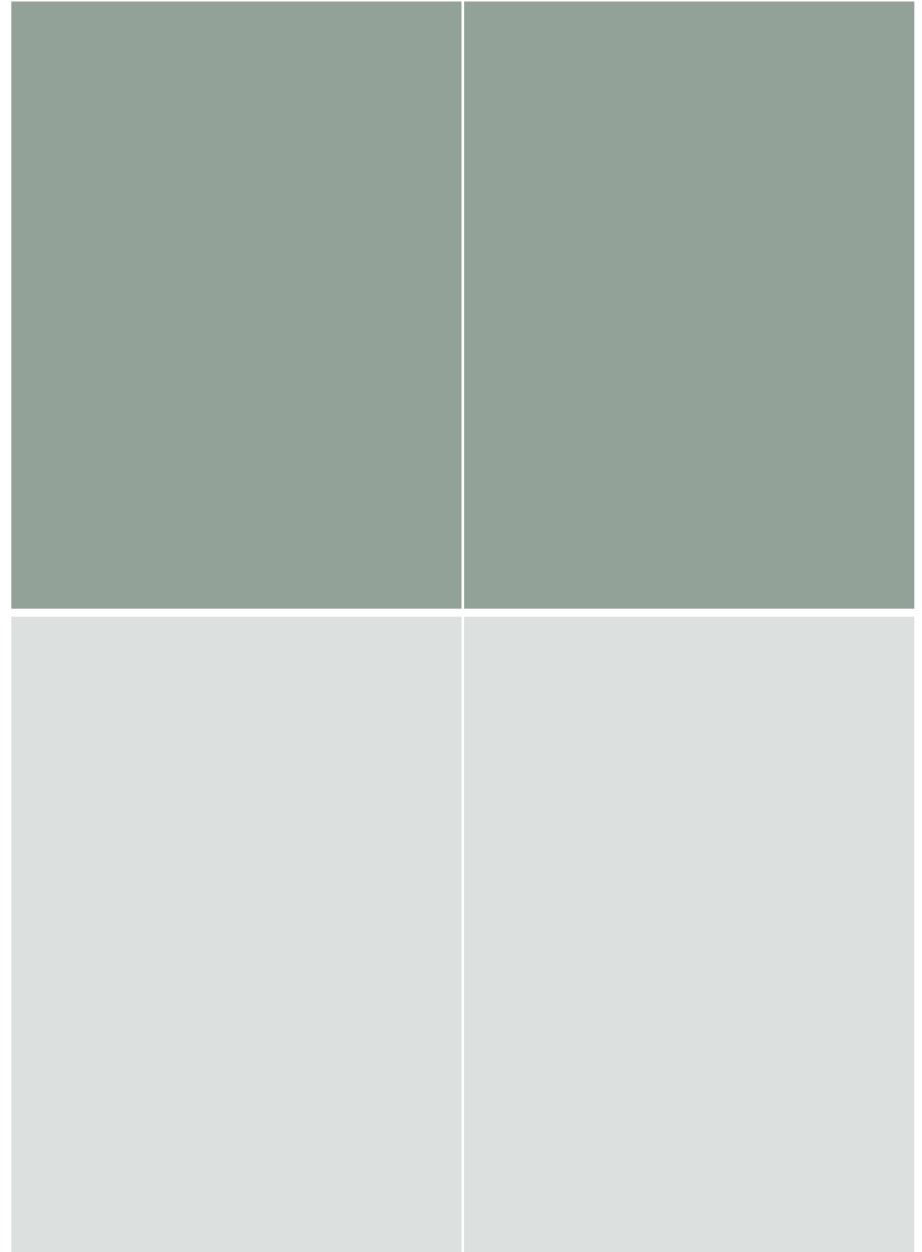
# Three phases:

- I. **Learn**. Overview of tools, language, possibilities.
- II. **Walk/Move**. Experience together what is working & what can be better.
- III. **Discuss**. 3P solutions:
  - Process change
  - Physical Projects
  - Policies



## Flip chart start:

What makes it  
easy and inviting  
to walk, roll, bike,  
& take transit?





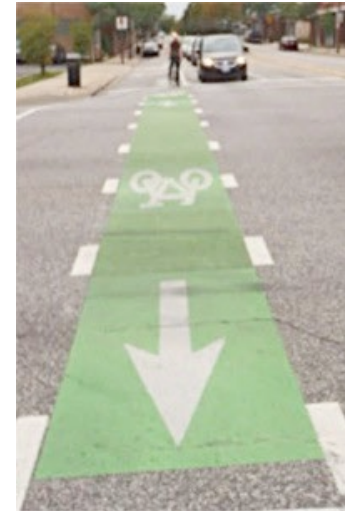
# I. Four elements for active design.



Land Use Mix



Network



Site Design



Safety & Access





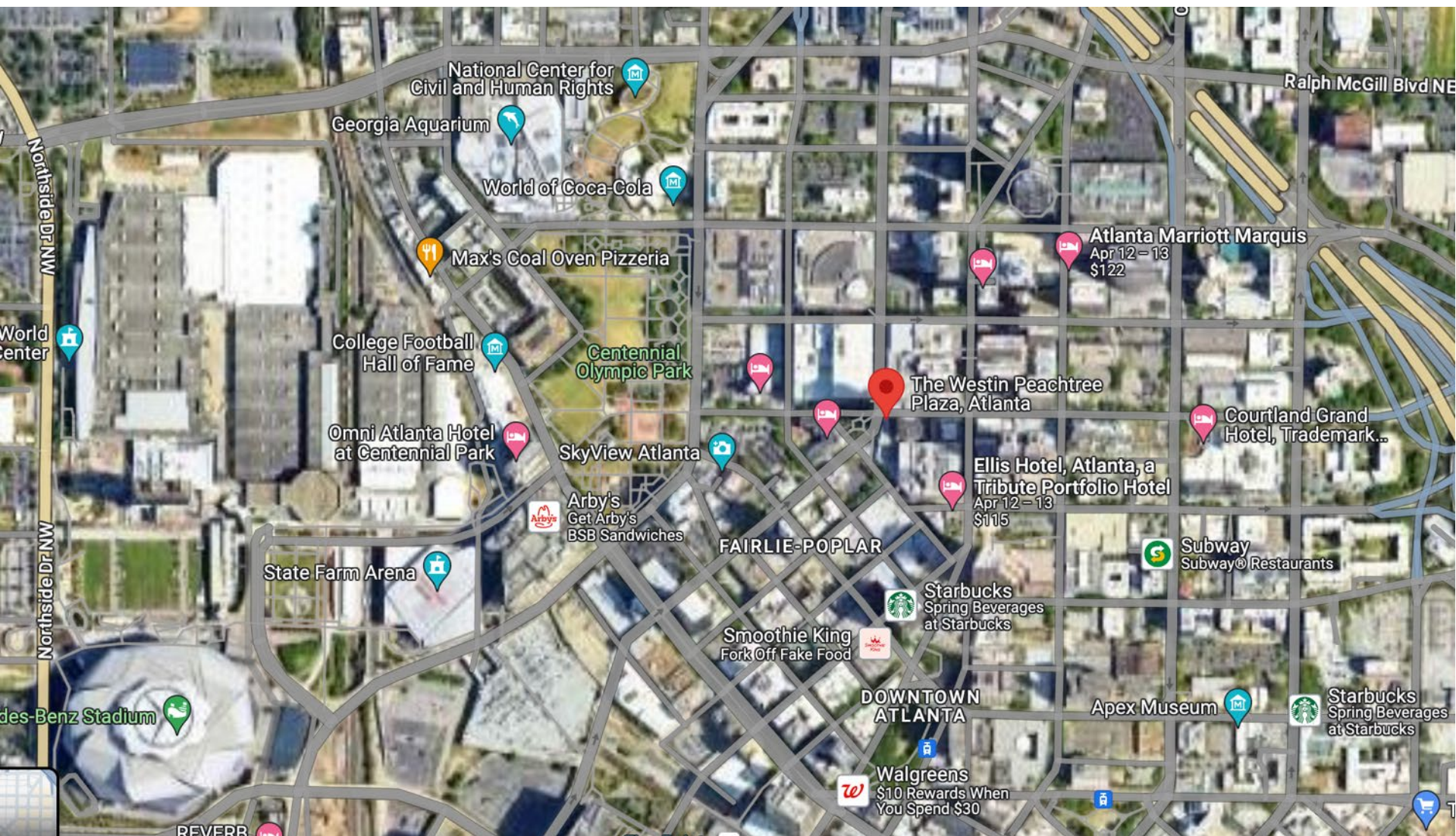
## II. Typical audits: 1.0-1.5 miles, about 1 hour.

- Plan stop locations, teachable moments, human demos.
- Scout for representative challenges & opportunities.
- Experience both supportive & challenging conditions.
- All weather and times of day are relevant (if not unsafe).
- Walk to real destinations; local guides or hosts to select routes.



Human curb extension





1. Destinations? 2. Network? 3. Place making? 4. Safe & accessible?



# Three rules during the walk:

- **Be careful.** Watch for traffic, each other.
- Consider **all possible users**; all disabilities, ages, incomes, races, backgrounds . . .
- **Score 0 to 10 for the active modes.** 0 if no support for active transportation; 10 for very encouraging.





# Ask for 0-10 Score on Four Elements:

1. **Land Use:** Different types of destinations; live, work, shop, play, learn, pray?
2. **Network of Facilities:** Quality sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, transit, connected?
3. **Site Design:** Buildings at sidewalk or set back; bike parking and street furnishings; inviting and functional?
4. **Safety and Access:** ADA access, crossings, traffic behavior and calming (too much, near, fast); other concerns?





# Bike audit to *experience* the differences. Columbus OH







Transit Audit  
E.g. Bus one-way,  
walk the other.

Wichita KS





# Common questions:

Weather?



Anchorage

Darkness?



Philadelphia



“Bad”  
area?





Seek “teachable”  
moments, settings.

“But no one walks  
here anyway.”



Discovering pedestrian  
demand w/ a goat trail.  
Woodbridge NJ

### III. “Stand-up Brain Dump” (Right after the walk)

- **Poll the group.** Everyone is ‘requested’ to give an idea.
- First time easier, quicker ideas; second time bigger long-term ideas.
- If they’re struggling, ask for **“wild ideas.”** (E.g. it would never get done but would definitely get more kids walking & bicycling.)





## During sit-down group work & discussion:

- **Mix disciplines in the groups.** Don't let all planners or business owners or engineers or advocates or developers or health people sit together.
- **Make sure everyone contributes.** Consider having big maps & pens for all.
- **Require ideas from all 3 Ps.** It assures that everyone has a role in implementation.



Encourage  
easier short  
term & more  
challenging  
long-term ideas.

	Short term, low cost	Longer term, more costly
Process		
Projects		
Policies		



## EASIER SHORT TERM

MURAL MAP  
& WAYFINDING →

\* TALK TO RETAIL  
ADOPT-A-SPOT,  
A " " TRAIL

DOWNTOWN AWNINGS  
- PLANTERS ("ADOPT")  
- "BACK IN FOR SAFETY"  
CAMPAIGN

- XWALK OSBORNE AT TRAIL  
- NONDAY MILE @ TRAIL  
- PAINTED PATH TO TRAIL  
DOWNTOWN RESIDENTIAL  
MARKETING

## LONGER TERM

\* LANE REDUCTION  
ON LOOP ROAD

SWINGS, PICNIC BEN  
@ DAM / BRIDGE

TRAIL HOST / AMBASSADORS

↓ FOOD TRUCK @ TRAIL

STREET SCULPTURE

\* URBAN FORESTRY

- STREET TREES  
- POLICY...  
- PARTNER w/ SUNY

- TRY SOME TRAFFIC  
CALMING

## Capture participant input & ideas:

- **Process:** Events, outreach, data collection, awareness, plans, demonstrations.
- **Projects:** Improve the infrastructure for walking, bicycling, & transit.
- **Policies:** Ordinances, practices, procedures, rules to support active transportation.

E.g. provide maps to focus work, locate suggestions & specific P's; encourage drawing & creativity . . .



< Encourage groups to share their ideas.





# Keys to success:

- **Interdisciplinary** participation. E.g. health, planning, DPW, disability expertise, park & rec, engineering, economic development, housing, transit, banks/developers, . . .
- **Pre-scout routes.** Typical good *and* bad conditions; seek teachable moments.
- Best is a process of **shared discovery** (not experts declaring or advocates demanding).
- Must be a process of **shared solutions**.
- Include simple, low-cost options!
- Target long-term **policy change**.



# Be thinking of post-walk recommendations.

- **Process:** Events, outreach, education, awareness, plans, demonstrations, **data collection** for citizen scientists.
- **Projects:** Improve the infrastructure for walking, rolling, bicycling, & transit.
- **Policies:** Ordinances, practices, procedures, to support inclusive active transportation.





# Let's go explore ...



# Post-walk small group work.

- **Process:** Events, outreach, education, awareness, plans, demonstrations, **data collection** for citizen scientists.
- **Projects:** Improve the infrastructure for walking, rolling, bicycling, & transit.
- **Policies:** Ordinances, practices, procedures, to support inclusive active transportation.





## Lightning brain dump.

1. Small group work 10 min.; at least one idea per box.
2. One idea must be a quick build project.
3. Discuss how you might evaluate; what data could “citizen scientists” collect?

Prepare to share:

- Your best **policy** idea.
- A quick build **project**.
- **Process**: data you’d collect.

	Short term, low cost	Longer term, more costly
Process		
Projects		
Policies		

## Example sharing:

- Your best **policy** idea.
- A quick build **project**.
- **Process**: data you'd collect

E.g.

- **Policy**: No right turn on red allowed at XYZ intersection
- **Quick build**: Curb extension at that intersection (paint, flexible delineators)
- **Process** data: How many cars yield to crossing pedestrians at that crosswalk (before & after these changes)?

	Short term, low cost	Longer term, more costly
Process		
Projects		
Policies		



# Summary: My big lessons learned (1)

- **Safety first:** Vision Zero, Safe Streets for All, 20 is Plenty, Complete Streets – this resonates.
- **Champion(s):** It's got to be someone's job, ideally on the 'inside:' school official, parent, city staff, advocate ... dedicated to seeing the process through.
- **Not about the cars.** The only real solution to bad traffic is fewer vehicles. Don't focus on "fixing" drop-off & pick-up; generally *slower is better!*
- **Infrastructure drives behavior:** Best practice pedestrian & bicycle design can be low-cost *and* high-impact! Focus especially on "quick-builds."

## Summary: My big lessons learned (2)

- **Shared discovery, solutions:** Focus is on collective perspective & action; not expert 'intervention.'
- **Collaborative facilitation:** Interdisciplinary team; no time for blame, what won't work here; focus on the vision & concrete feasible steps toward that vision, and *who will take those steps & when*.
- **Collect objective data:** *Evidence*, not opinions, must drive conclusions, decisions, designs, & policies.
- **Citizen scientists are effective:** Advocates, parents, especially students can collect and share evidence & data, pre- & post intervention.



Quick tips on “virtual auditing.”  
(If the discussion goes to this topic or  
time allows.)

## If not able to convene, consider *PhotoVoice*.

- **5-10 Photos:** What makes it easy or hard to walk, roll, bike, or take transit here? (A *short* caption w/ each – why you took it.)
  - **2-4 supports;** What is encouraging active transportation?
  - **2-4 challenges;** What is discouraging active transportation?
  - **A surprise or two;** unexpected settings, uses, activities..

Kids on a nice sidewalk.



Scary traffic, too close.



Bikes in parking space.





# Photo voice of conditions for “active transportation”

Supports & challenges to walking, bicycling, & transit

Example:  
SCITUATE, MA  
Mark Fenton  
Planning Board Member

## Encouraging

Crossing guard and high visibility crosswalk at Jenikins Elementary.



Satellite drop-off at St. Mary's church, 1/3 mile from school.



Walkable downtown: grocery, pharmacy, banks, and hardware store, movie theater, and 2<sup>nd</sup> story residential over many shops.







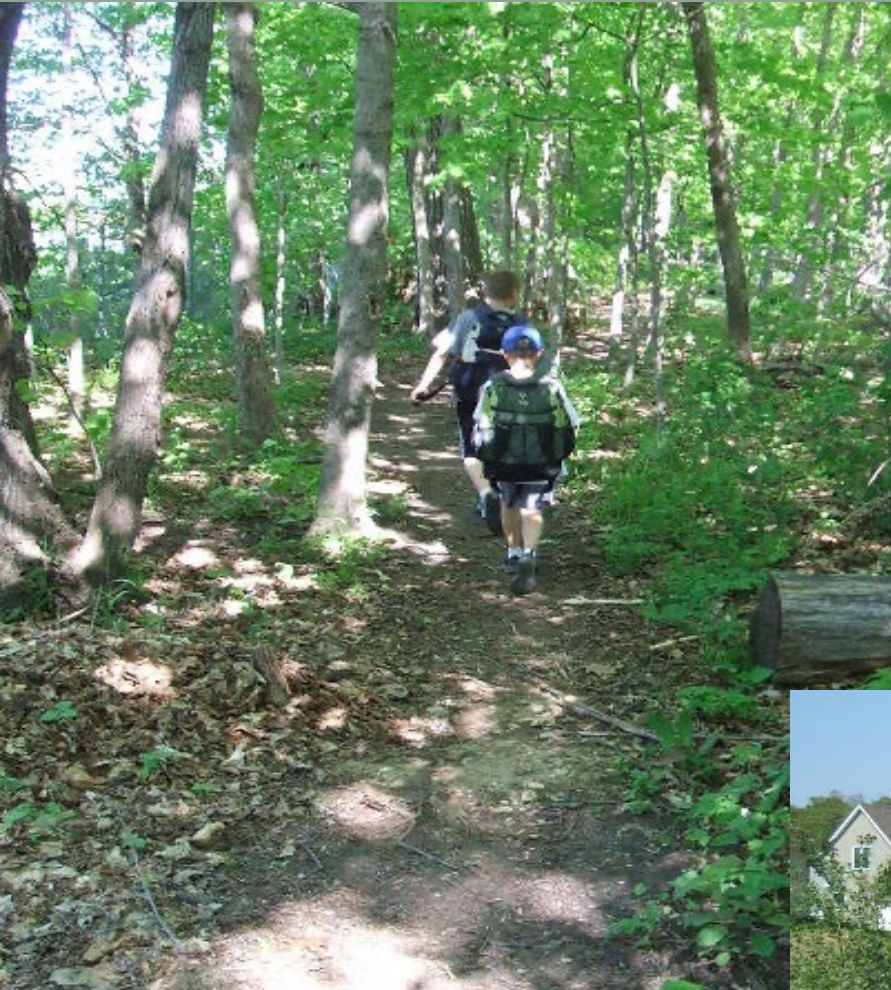
## Discouraging

No facility for bicyclists on First Parish Rd.

Car traffic at the Jenkins school at arrival and dismissal backs out into the street.







## Surprise

Informal trail (goat path) from behind school to housing subdivision.





# Photo tip 1: People in photos





# Photo tip 2: Representative images



E.g. typical residential, retail





# Photo tip 3: Routes to real destinations



Shopping



Parks,  
open  
space,  
trails.



Schools



Transit

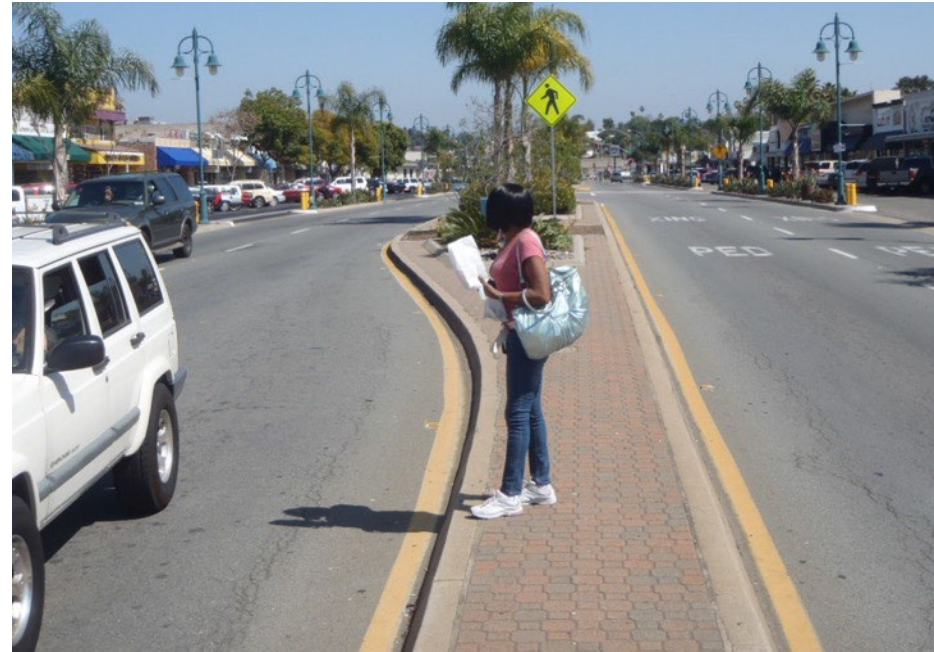


# Photo tip 4: Change perspective, explore.



**Get a bit higher.**

***Behind the mall.***



**Look *in* the median.**



# Community Audit Example

(If discussion goes to this topic or  
time allows.)



# Main St. example: Pop-up curb extensions

Enosburg Falls, VT















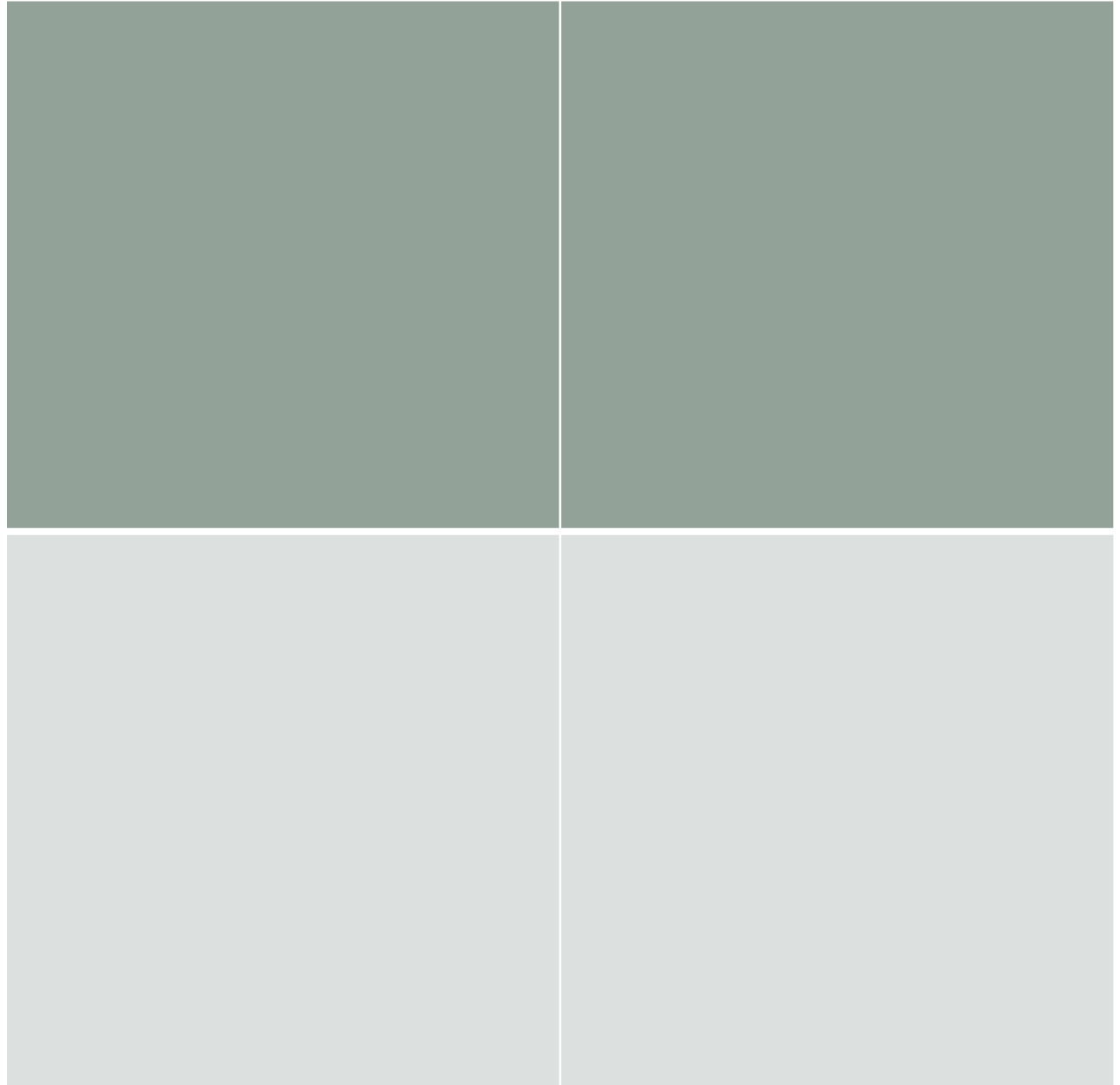
- “It will slow traffic.”
- “It will make pedestrians trying to cross more visible.”
- “Drivers who can’t handle it shouldn’t be driving.”



# Mark's Tips & Resources

## Flip chart start:

What makes  
it easy and  
inviting to  
walk, bike, &  
take transit?





**Flip chart  
start:**  
What makes  
it easy and  
inviting to  
walk, bike, &  
take transit?

Neighborhood schools  
Nearby stores  
Parks & playgrounds  
Bus stops  
Jobs

Sidewalks  
Trails  
Bike lanes  
Transit stops  
Frequent transit

Safety  
Lights  
Other people  
Slow traffic  
Separation from cars  
Wheelchair ramps

Trees, plantings  
Benches, seating  
Water fountain  
Bike racks  
Buildings near sidewalk  
Public art

**Flip chart  
start:**  
What makes  
it easy and  
inviting to  
walk, bike, &  
take transit?

**Destinations  
(mix of land uses)**

Neighborhood schools  
Nearby stores  
Parks & playgrounds  
Bus stops  
Jobs

**Network  
(for walk, bike, transit)**

Sidewalks  
Trails  
Bike lanes  
Transit stops  
Frequent transit

**Safety & access for *all***

Safety  
Lights  
Other people  
Slow traffic  
Separation from cars  
Wheelchair ramps

**Functional, inviting**

Trees, plantings  
Benches, seating  
Water fountain  
Bike racks  
Buildings near sidewalk  
Public art



## Scouting tips . . .

- Pre-walk & time route.
- Plan stop locations: when conditions change, at teachable opportunities.
- Identify key points you want to share; have leading questions ready.
- Prepare pop-up & low-cost solution recommendations.
- Have short-cut option(s).
- Consider a demonstration.



Rainy walk = teachable conditions!



## Be the ringmaster . . .

- Set the tempo & tone of inclusive engagement.
- Be the “herder:” outside voice, compact group.
- Welcome all views.
- Minimize accusations, blame; keep focus on environment, relevant policies, possible solutions.
- Energetic & active; be ready to demonstrate if safe.





If you are planning a pop-up demonstration  
or a quick-build improvement consider  
these questions:

1. What is the location & issue(s)?
2. What are the goals of the pop-up?  
Why do it, what will be tested?
3. What is the specific design?
4. Who are key partners and roles?
5. What is the timeline?
6. What is the evaluation plan?
7. What resources will be required:  
materials, TA, or funds?



# Walk Audit Tool Kit

A self-service guide for assessing a community's walkability



Worksheets available at  
[AARP.org/WalkAudit](https://www.aarp.org/WalkAudit)



## Walk Audit Tool Kit

A self-service guide for assessing a community's walkability



Pedestrian and Cyclist Crosswalks  
Washington, D.C.



Road Diet, Bulb-Outs, Curb Ramps and more  
Cape May, New Jersey



Dedicated Bike Lane  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**In too many communities**, people can't safely walk to where they need or want to go due to a lack of sidewalks, crosswalks or other safety features that make streets safe for pedestrians *and* drivers.

**A walk audit is a simple activity** in which an individual or a team observes and evaluates the walkability of a location to document how and if pedestrians can safely travel along a street, navigate an intersection and get from point A to B, C and so on.

**Who can conduct a walk audit?** Anyone!

The **AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit** can be used by local leaders, advocates, community organizations and residents to ...

- enable people to get around without having to drive
- help reduce traffic congestion and pollution
- inspire the development of pedestrian-friendly streets
- increase exercise opportunities for people of all ages
- gather input about community infrastructure needs
- educate residents about street design elements that support safety
- encourage social interactions among neighbors
- give a boost to property values
- empower community leaders and residents to be the agents of needed change

The **AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit** is free and available for download or order.

Visit [AARP.org/WalkAudit](https://www.aarp.org/WalkAudit).



[www.tacticalurbanismguide.com](http://www.tacticalurbanismguide.com)



## The **Pop-Up** Placemaking Tool Kit

Projects that inspire change — and improve communities for people of all ages



PROTECTED BIKE LANES



OUTDOOR SEATING



PUBLIC ART ... AND MORE!

POP-UP SHOPS

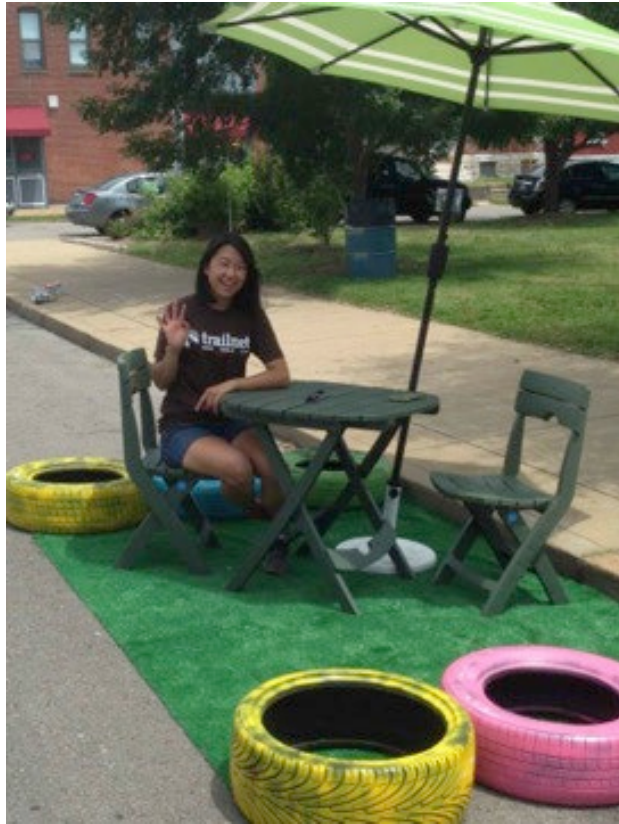


[aarp.org/livable-communities/](http://aarp.org/livable-communities/)

# SLOW YOUR STREET

A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR POP-UP TRAFFIC CALMING

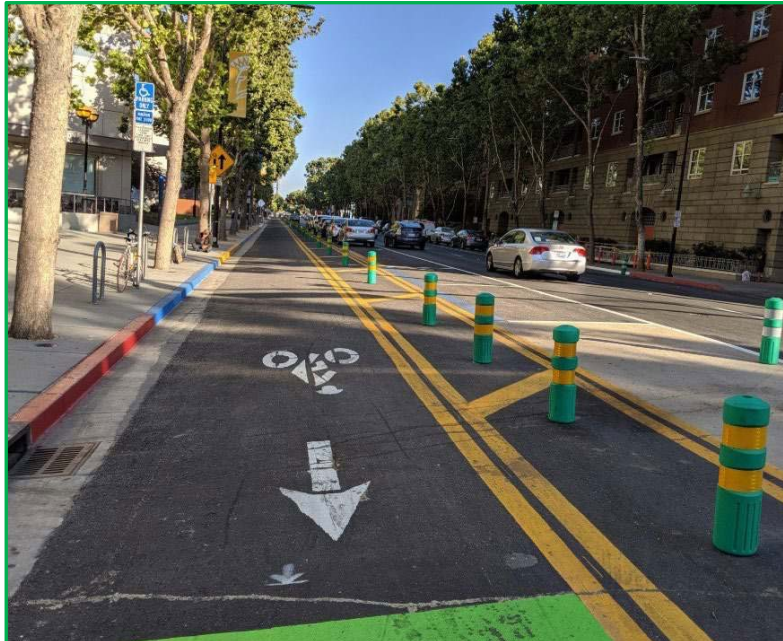
Trailnet, St. Louis MO



<https://trailnet.org/tag/plan4health/>



# “Quick-Build” Resources



2020

## QUICK-BUILD GUIDE

*How to Build Safer Streets Quickly and Affordably*

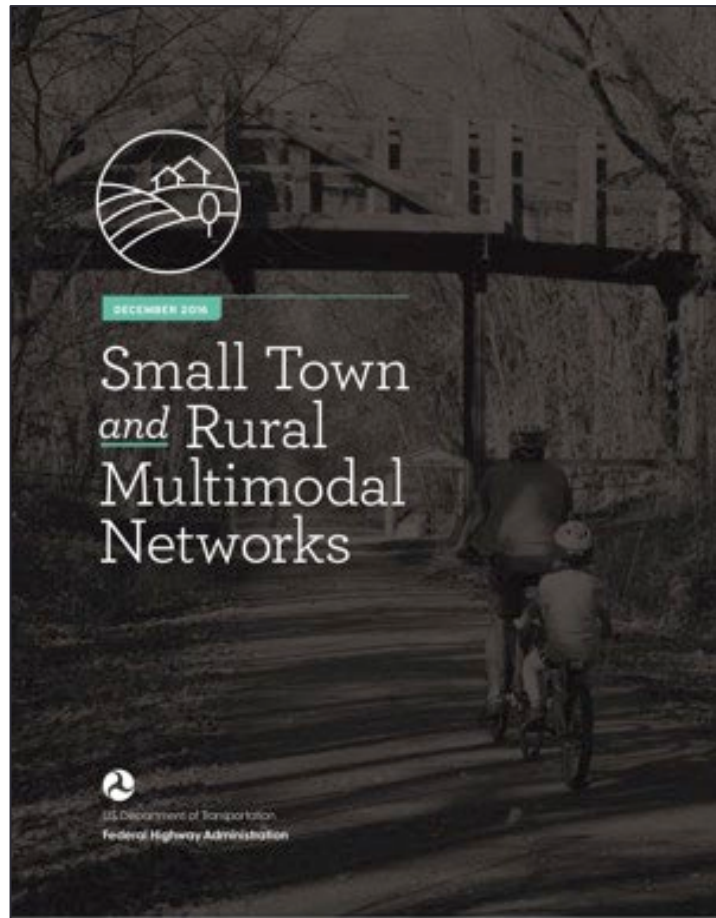
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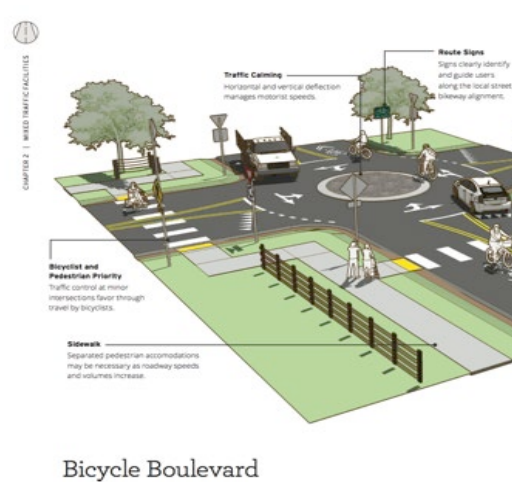
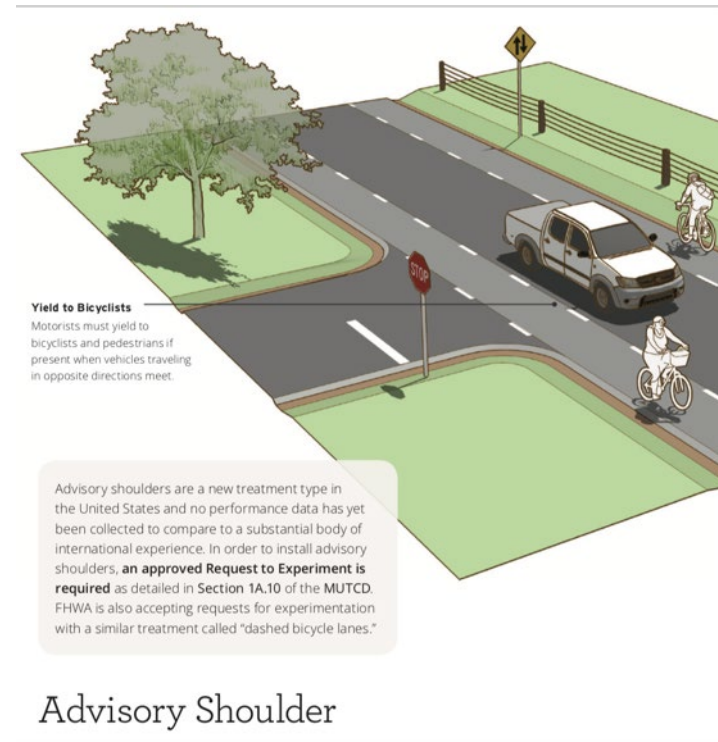
Speed Table Rochester NY

[altago.com/resources/quick-build-guide/](https://altago.com/resources/quick-build-guide/)

# Design & performance guidance

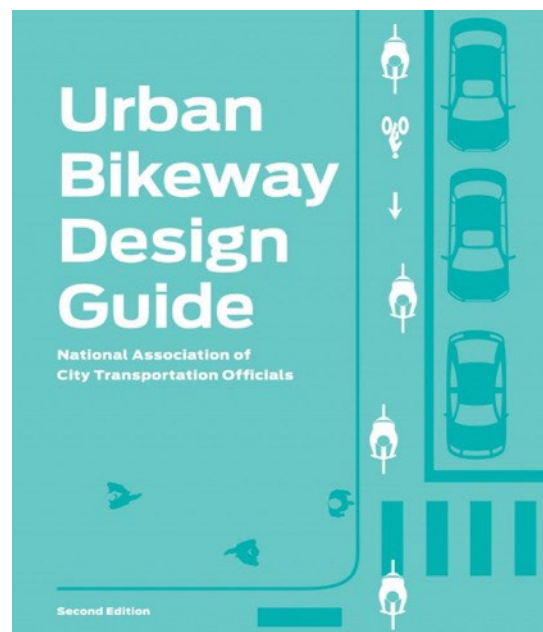
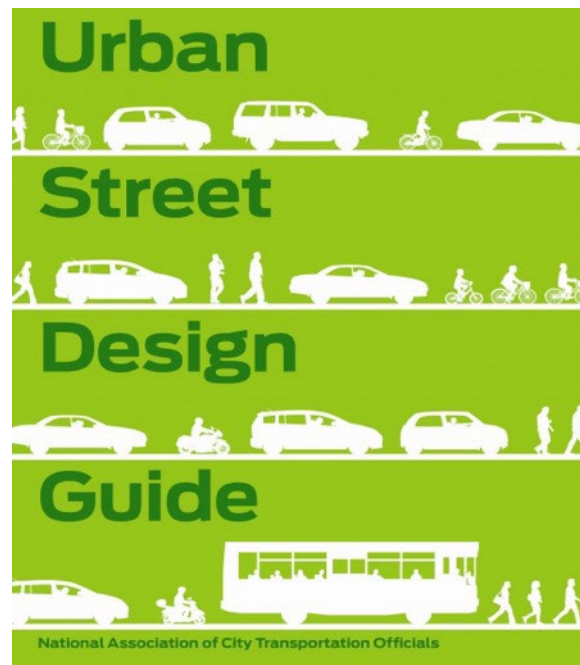


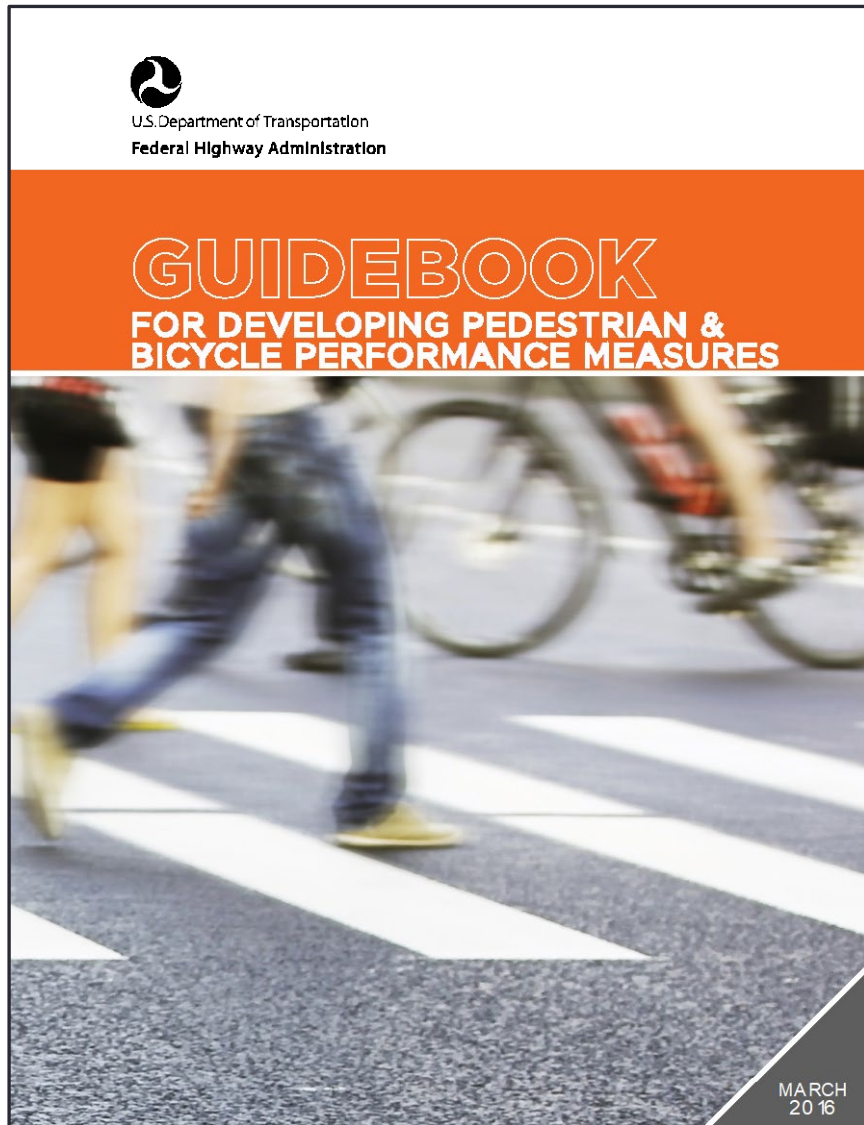
ruraldesignguide.com





# National Association of City Transportation Officials. nacto.org





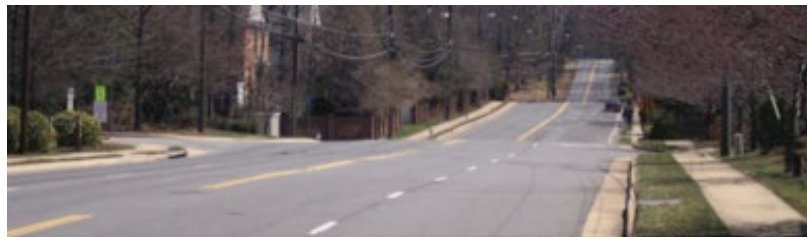
[www.fhwa.gov](http://www.fhwa.gov)

## Over 30 potential performance measures

- **Transport:** VMT; LOS; Avg. travel time, trip length; mode split; person throughput.
- **Economic:** Access to jobs; job creation; land value; retail improvement.
- **Health & equity:** Physical activity; crashes; population served (e.g. age, income, disability, car ownership).
- Infrastructure, land use, connectivity . . .



# Routine accommodation



**Incorporating  
On-Road Bicycle Networks  
into Resurfacing Projects**





# Examples & evidence . . .



## RETHINKING STREETS

An Evidence-Based Guide to 25 Complete Street Transformations



rethinkingstreets.com

NCHRP Web-Only Document 211

## CLOSE TO HOME



A Handbook for Transportation-Efficient Growth in Small Communities and Rural Areas

Prepared for NCHRP Project No. 25-36 | Transportation Research Board of the National Academies

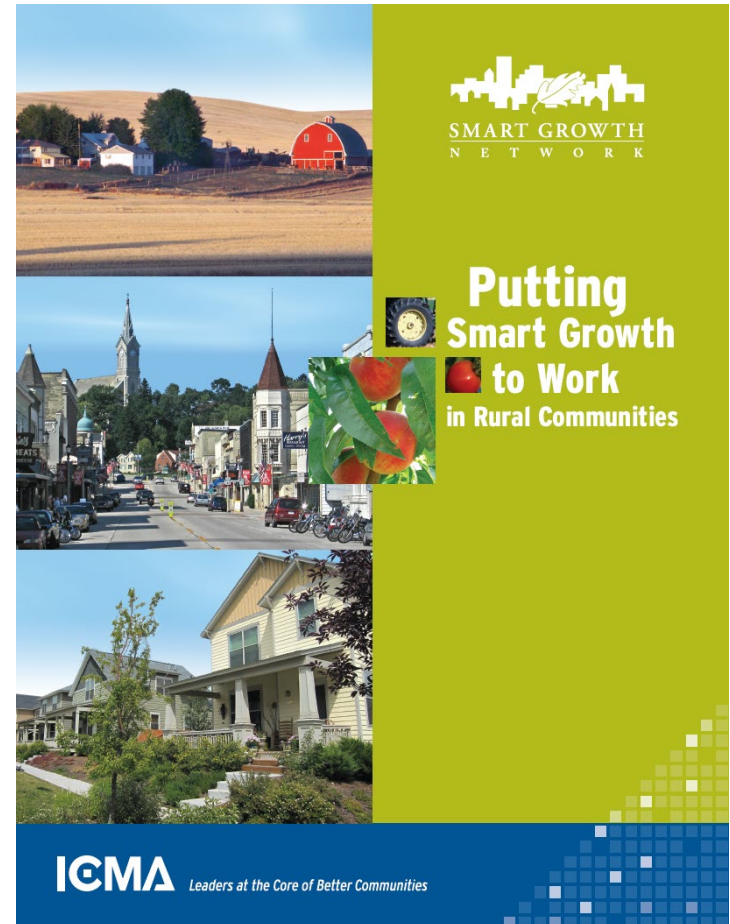
Brian J. Morton<sup>1</sup>, Joseph Huegy<sup>2</sup>, and John Poros<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Center for Urban and Regional Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Transportation Research and Education, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

<sup>3</sup> Carl Small Town Center, College of Architecture, Art, and Design, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS

SUBMITTED - SEPTEMBER 2014

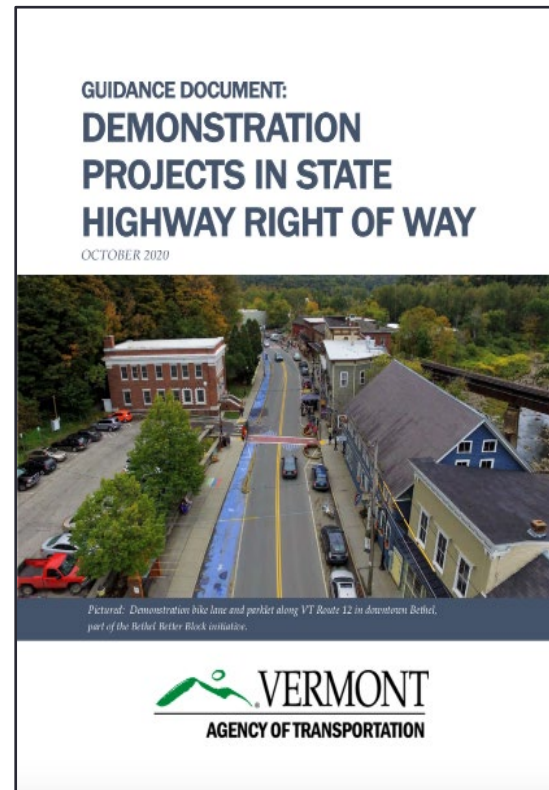


epa.gov/smartgrowth

trb.org/Main/Blurbs/172109.aspx



# State Guides for Demonstration Projects



Vermont Dept. of Transportation



Minnesota Dept. of Transportation

**TOOLE**  
 DESIGN

RESOURCE  
 GUIDE // Vol 03

## Ensuring an Equitable Approach to Rebalancing Streets

14 Strategies to Manage Change with Ethics, Equity, and Empathy




Figure 3. The City of Denver initiated a Shared Street program in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

TOOLEDESIGN.COM February 2021

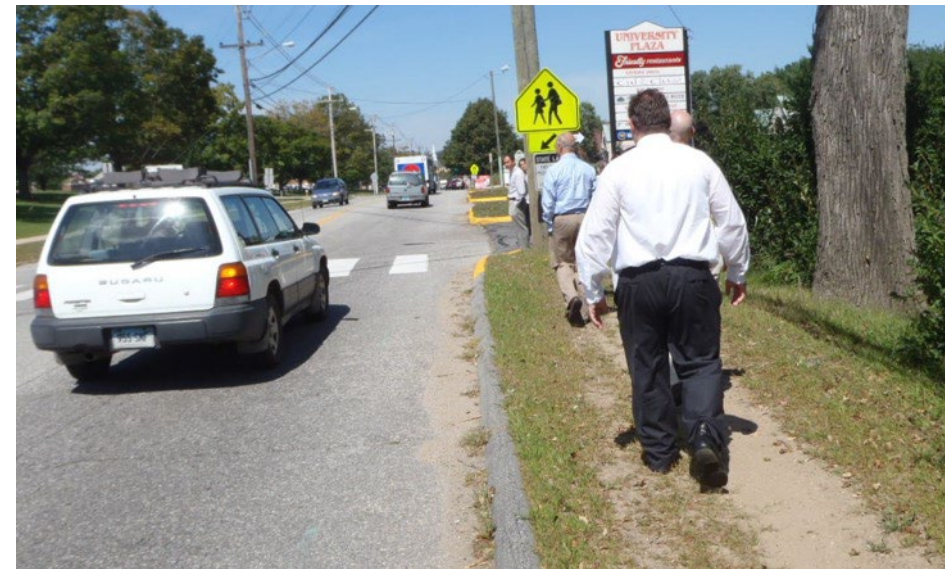


Equity

Empathy



Ethics





[epa.gov/smartgrowth](http://epa.gov/smartgrowth)



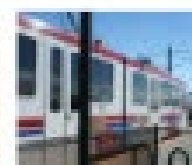
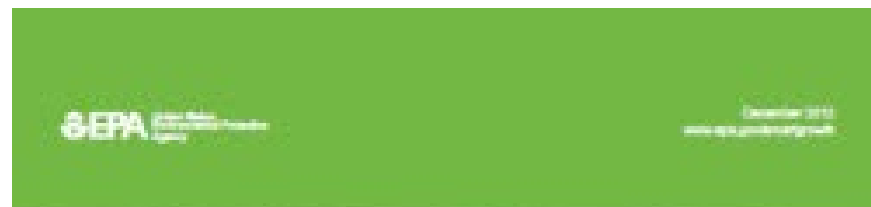
National Complete  
Streets Coalition

## SAFER STREETS, STRONGER ECONOMIES

Complete Streets project outcomes  
from across the country



MARCH 2015



SMART GROWTH AND ECONOMIC SUCCESS:  
BENEFITS FOR REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS, INVESTORS,  
BUSINESSES, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Office of Sustainable Communities  
Smart Growth Program

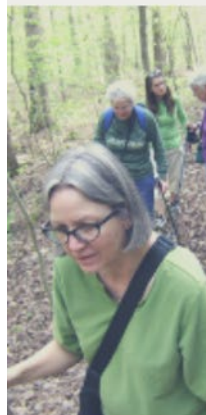
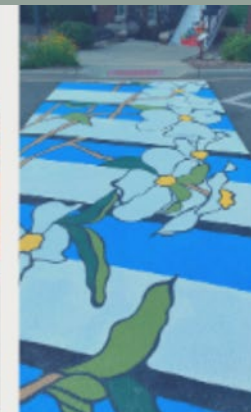
[completestreets.org](http://completestreets.org)

# America Walks



## EXAMPLES OF PAST FUNDED PROJECTS

Previous America Walks'  
Community Change Grantees



## EXAMPLES OF FUNDED COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

*From photos top to bottom, left to right:*

1. Shinnecock Indian Nation Church Street Crosswalk Project
2. Verde's Latina Led Community Foot Patrol/Walking Group
3. Mathews Cultural Arts District Crosswalk Mural
4. Shoals Walk Across Alabama 10-Week Walking Challenge
5. Walking Program in the Jackson Medical Mall
6. Camden Salvation Army Kroc Center Walking School Bus After-School Program
7. Cupertino Safe Routes Student Led Walk/Bike Pop-Up
8. Camden Salvation Army Kroc Center Walking School Bus Cleanup Program

[americawalks.org/community-change-grants/](https://americawalks.org/community-change-grants/)



# AARP Livable Communities



[www.aarp.org/livable-communities/](http://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/)  
[www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/](http://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/)

# National Association of Realtors

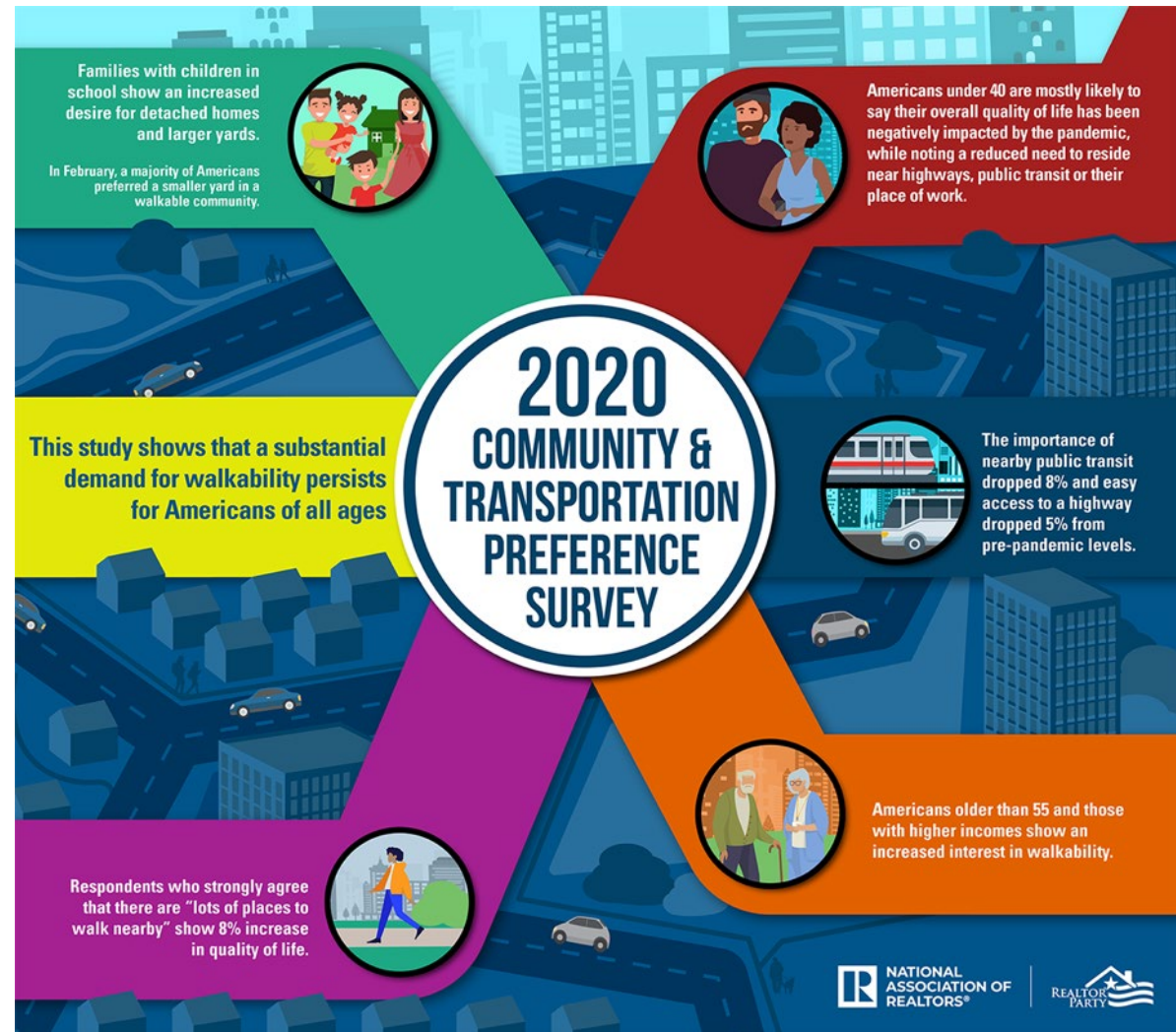


NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION of  
REALTORS®



Annual community surveys to explore home-buyers' preferences show a growing desire for walkable, livable communities.

National Association of Realtors Smart Growth Grants are designed to support local community change efforts.



[realtorparty.realtor/community-outreach/smart-growth](https://realtorparty.realtor/community-outreach/smart-growth)