

# Walkability Checklist

## How walkable is your community?

Before a walk-to-school program can be implemented, volunteers need to assess the safety and accessibility of the built environment surrounding the school and nearby neighborhoods. Going on a walk is the best way to discover your community's strengths and weaknesses that impact walkability.

Use the checklist on the next page as a starting point to help you decide if your neighborhood is ready to support a walking program or if some changes need to be implemented before children can safely walk.

## Members of the community to include on your walk

School administrators, parents, city planners, traffic engineers, park officials, law enforcement, mayor, council members, local/nearby business owners, and neighborhood association representatives.

## Work together to improve walkability

Meet with everyone who attended the walk and compare notes. If you had an overall positive experience walking from your neighborhood to the school, you can move forward with your walking program. If you noticed areas that need improvement, identify the best people who can help fix the problem.

## Solve problems

If you experienced problems with cars speeding down a street, report it to local law enforcement and work with traffic engineers to install traffic calming measures. If sidewalks vanish between neighborhoods, work with city planners to improve connectivity. Some issues can be easily addressed, while others may require a more strategic approach or policy change.

## Stay the course

A walkable community does not happen by accident. It requires the involvement of many local leaders and citizens who are dedicated to ensuring that their children live in an active and healthy place. This checklist is your first step in identifying areas that you should be proud of and places that could still use some attention.

### Additional Resources

- More walkability checklists and resources for long term solutions: [www.walkbiketoschool.org/sites/default/files/walkability\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/sites/default/files/walkability_checklist.pdf)
- Partnership for a Walkable America
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

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## Sidewalks

- Is the sidewalk wide enough for wheelchairs or strollers?
- Are there continuous sidewalks, pathways or bike lanes?
- Are sidewalks blocked by plants, signs, poles or cars?
- Is there enough space between traffic and the sidewalk?
- Is there on street parking to buffer you from traffic?
- Are the sidewalks in good condition or are there large cracks or dips that could use repair?

## Crosswalks

- Are there crosswalks? If so, are they clearly marked or raised and easily seen by drivers?
- Is there a crossing signal? Did the signal give you enough time to cross the street?
- Did parked cars or plants limit your ability to see oncoming traffic?

## Traffic

- Is there busy traffic on the road?
- Do drivers respect pedestrians?
- Is speeding an issue?

## Overall surroundings

- Did you feel safe?
- Did you encounter any loose dogs or intimidating people?
- Was there adequate street lighting?
- Did you notice litter or trash?
- Are there street trees that provide shade?

## Notes

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