

Walk Audit: Participant handout

Date & time:	Area:
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Agenda:

- **15-30 min** Meet and introductions
- **15 min** Walk audit facilitation
- **60 min** Walk audit
- **30 min** Group discussion of walk and proposed solutions and treatments

Opening instructions.

- **Be careful.** Safety comes first and we are walking in the real world with real hazards. Look out for yourself and others crossing streets, in low lit areas, and on uneven walking surfaces.
- **Think of all users.** Who are the people who have on or through this space everyday? Imagine young children, elderly, those on bikes, transit users, people pushing a stroller or grocery cart, or people with disabilities (e.g. blind, deaf, in a wheelchair).
- **Score the walk on a 0 to 10 scale.** Have participants use a 0-10 scoring system for considering the environment. During scheduled stops have participants state their scores and give examples of their rating (4 “traffic speeds” or 8 “lots of trees.) There are no right or wrong answers, just a device to help all observe and share

Participant observations: Below are elements that support community health and safety.

- **Mixed Use:** Compact development with different types of destinations within walking, cycling, and transit distance. Look for opportunities to live, work, shop, learn, and pray. Food desserts, vacant properties near transit, and lack of business diversity point to unappealing pedestrian conditions.
- **Network:** A comprehensive and connected network of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities, such as sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, and transit service. Gaps in transit access, and sidewalks/trails that dead end are signs of a poor network.
- **Functional site designs:** Destinations are designed to reward, not punish, those who arrive on foot, by bike, and transit. Inviting street elements such as bike parking, garbage cans, benches, awnings, trees, bus shelters, water fountains, and public art. Lack of waiting areas, absent or substandard signage, and poor multimodal transit, pedestrian, and bicycle connections makes destinations difficult to reach.
- **Safety and accessibility for all:** All ages, income, physical abilities and disabilities should be considered. Curb ramps at intersections, painted crosswalks, pedestrian crossing signals with countdown timers, center median islands, bus lanes, and traffic calming measures such as narrower lanes, and bumpouts. Poor lighting, deteriorated

sidewalks, faded crosswalks, high traffic volumes, and speeding vehicles all contribute to unsafe pedestrian environments

- **Comfort and appeal:** Walking/rolling should be easy, intuitive, enjoyable, and encouraged by the surrounding environment. Green spaces, murals, wide unobstructed sidewalks, garbage cans, parklets, places to rest, signalized crossings, and quality street lighting all contribute to safe pedestrian environments. Litter, dumping, neglected properties, long pedestrian crossing wait times, and crime all contribute to unwelcoming pedestrian spaces.

Discussion & Planning

Immediately following a walk is an ideal time to debrief, talk about your findings, gain feedback and organize next steps. Encourage participants to think of their scores throughout the walk and give examples of why they chose those scores. Gaining a consensus about the challenges and opportunities that residents, partners, and advocates identified will allow the opportunity to engage with experts and decision makers on viable solutions. Examples of next steps include requesting pedestrian safety studies and upgrades, organizing a coalition of residents and/or businesses to work for shared goals discovered during the walk audit, creating a shared story of the audit area, identifying a specific problematic intersection to conduct a more detailed audit with decision makers, developing advocacy steps to address access barriers, working to install way-finding signage, and creating exercise walk routes. Reach out to Feet First Philly to learn more about what advocacy tools exist to help you reach your goal, feetfirstphilly@cleanair.org.



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