



Tool: Walkability Workshop/Audit

Provider: Smart Growth America and Walkable and Livable Communities Institute

Summary:

The Walkability Workshop/Audit is a one-day assessment and training workshop that includes a technical presentation, a walkability audit, partnership-building activities, visioning exercises, a short design session, and the creation of a working group. The workshop can be developed to accommodate local needs and contexts, and has been effectively used in all regulatory environments. A community-wide or stakeholder presentation by the team can be made in the evening.

Description:

The Walkability Workshop has been delivered for over 20 years in hundreds of communities throughout North America. It is continually being refined in order to remain effective as planning and engineering environments change, and in the presence of new technology and communications tools.

The workshop will begin with a walkability audit, followed by a technical presentation on context-specific solutions for issues of transportation design and livability. Over the course of the day, participants will learn:

- how best to design healthy roadways and streets for all modes of transportation
- the role of aesthetics in creating healthy, harmonious, livable communities
- what is required to lead walkability audits for other community organizations

After the technical presentations, workshop participants will break into small groups to identify design challenges in the community, collaborate on potential solutions, and present their ideas to the larger group. The ideas that result from these conversations are often implemented in later projects. To ensure that the lessons from the workshop can be effectively translated into tangible change, the WALC Institute team will continue to work with participants after the day's activities. The team will:

- prepare and deliver a technical memo that summarizes findings and observations from the workshop and audit
- lay out a series of next steps the working group and community should undertake to become more walkable and livable
- offer descriptions of best practices that will aid in the implementation of next steps

