Walking Workshops
Dan Burden and Kelly Morphy leading community walking audits
Walkability Audits

Introduction

When you are leading a walkability audit, you are teaching yourself and your entire group how to see better, more completely and with understanding. You are learning to see what is good, what is not so good, and what is a virtual nightmare.

As a fast paced people we have tended to overlook the hundreds of conditions that make walking a challenge. We have made the most natural and time honored way to move -- walking -- un-natural. By breaking down walking environment features into basic components, crossings, sidewalks, buffers, parking, driveways, shade, ADA curb ramps, and other features, we can better evaluate any given block. We laid out this tool to also teach you about the vital role each of these elements -- it is meant to be a walking classroom.

Use this "photo audit" guide to help you pick numbers that most closely represent the level of care of a particular block or 4-5 block area.

Although this guide is meant to cover the basics, later, more complete and tested versions will get into many other details that are critical to walking. Consider this a start to unlock the mysteries and discoveries of how you and your associates can one day again, make walking a pleasant, and eventually, a walker’s paradise.

Most of all, have fun in your discoveries. Learn much!

Discuss your point count as a group. Remember, as you look at these photos, they are only a general guide -- and you are ONLY evaluating the condition described by the title. For example, ignore the aesthetics of a treatment if you are measuring the width of a crossing.
Fluorescent cap

30 foot FAT MAX

Mustache

Optional

Digital Camera to record details

Bright Vest

9 Feet
Walking Audit Feedback, Include Children’s Insights
Bus Audits

At times it is possible to use a city bus or mid-size shuttle bus to handle 15-40 walking audit participants.

In this setting three sister cities of Redmond, Kirkland and Bellevue, Washington did a combination bus and walking workshop.

Key issues for all three communities were arrived at in a short period of time. The fire chief centered in the bottom photo realized he did not need cul-de-sacs, once he stood at one and heard why they were not good for the community.
Walking Audit Feedback, Include Children’s Insights
Five keys to Success of Place

Security
Convenience
Efficiency
Comfort
Welcome
Density with Design

1980s & 90s: Density, but…
Density with Design

In New Projects: Maintain the Relationship of Building and the Street

Dover Kohl & Partners
Density with Design

In New Projects: Make the Streets Good Neighbors
Density with Design

In New Projects: Promote the Street as an Amenity, and Inspire Investment
West Lafayette, Indiana
(Home of Purdue University)