Why do we need Minnesota Walks?
What is Minnesota Walks?

- Formerly known as the Statewide Pedestrian System Plan
- A tool for creating communities where walking and rolling are safe, convenient and desirable for ALL

Who is MN Walks for?

- Local agencies
- Regional Organizations
- State Departments
- Advocacy Groups
Goals

- More people walking
- Improving walking for all purposes
- Healthier people
- Improving accessibility and encouraging connections
- Improving safety
- Stronger communities
Current and Future Steps Toward a More Walkable Minnesota

MINNESOTA WALKS
WALKING IS IMPORTANT
Walking Provides Numerous and Diverse Benefits for People in Minnesota

WALKING SHOULD BE EASIER
Environmental Factors – Built, Social and Cultural – Affect Walking in Minnesota

IT’S HARDER FOR SOME PEOPLE TO WALK
Some Populations Have Less Access and Fewer Opportunities to Safely Walk

MINNESOTA IS ON TRACK TO IMPROVE WALKING
Minnesota is Working on Walking in Many Different Ways
Priority Populations

- American Indian
- Children and Youth
- Low Income Urban
- Older Adults
- People with Disabilities
- Small Rural Communities
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPROACH
ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

» Community Engagement Plan
» Communication Plan

Why Develop a Statewide Pedestrian Plan?
Walking is good for HEALTH
- 52% of adults in Minnesota get enough physical activity to improve their health
- 62% of Minnesotans get the physical activity they need to maintain healthy weight

Walking is good for BUSINESS
- Businesses need pedestrian-friendly streets to attract new customers and keep their existing customers

Walking should be EASIER
- Walking is the only option - especially for students, people with disabilities, and low-income communities

What is the Statewide Pedestrian System Plan?
The plan will guide the development of safe, convenient and desirable routes to walk and roll.

Minnesotans are working together
With your input, the Minnesota Department of Transportation is working on a plan to create a connected network of walking and biking paths.

Why is the Public Input Important?
Your thoughts and ideas will help shape the plan's goals and strategies.

We Need to Hear Your Ideas!
Please share your experiences, as a pedestrian, with us! You can help us make walking safer and more convenient for everyone.

Take a survey!
Join a discussion!
Visit us at your community event:
www.minnesotawalks.org
ENGAGEMENT GOALS

HIGH LEVEL INFORMATION
Online Engagement and Community Events

DEEPER INFORMATION
Focus Groups and Walking Workshops

Walk this way!
Walkable streets make happy communities. They’re good for health, for business, and for the environment.
Is your community walkable?
What makes it walkable? How could it be better?
Tell us what you think.
Surveys and discussions are happening online now.
minnesotawalks.org
ENGAGEMENT

» Online Engagement and Social Media

http://minnesotawalks.org
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I AM ABLE TO WALK TO....
1. Review the destinations on the board, and think about the top three most important destinations for you to be able to walk to.
2. Rank your three most important destinations - write a number 1, 2 and 3 by your three most important walking destinations.
3. If there are additional walking destinations that are important to you, please write them down on the poster under “Other Destinations”.

WHICH PICTURE LOOKS THE MOST LIKE WHERE YOU LIVE?
1. Indicate the picture that looks like where you live. You can use the marker pen to vote on the poster.
2. You can also vote for more than one picture if you feel that they are all similar.
3. If you are not sure, please indicate that you are not sure on the poster.

Help Taylor Find Their Way!

Find more information at: www.minnesotastep.org/MDH
Facebook: Minnesota20
60+ & Healthy Foot Clinic

Toenails are trimmed and filed
Blood pressure and pulse screenings
Educational handouts on health topics

$15.00 fee for toenail trim, free BP and pulse screenings and educational handouts
For more information, call 763-682-7456 or 1-800-362-3667 ext. 7456
ENGAGEMENT REACH

- **33** Community gatherings
- **14** Focus groups
- **8** Walking workshops
- **4** Libraries
- **2** Teen workshops

**1,573** Online survey responses
**6,000+** People engaged
Activity #1: It is important that I am able to walk to:

- Grocery store
- Park
- School
- Job
Activity #2 – Hey, that looks like my street!

What makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and uncomfortable?

- Icy/snowy sidewalks
- Poor driver behavior
- Fast car speeds
- Poor sidewalks (or none)
Activity #2 – Hey, that looks like my street!

What makes walking **safe**, **convenient**, and **comfortable**?

- Good sidewalks
- Good snow & ice removal
- There are people around
- Quiet streets/low traffic
DESIGN FOR ALL

- ROADWAY & STREET DESIGN
- LAND USE & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- FOSTERING CREATIVITY & PARTNERSHIPS
- LISTENING & PLANNING
- DEALING WITH MINNESOTA WINTER AND YEAR ROUND UPKEEP
- BUILDING A CULTURE OF WALKING
MN WALKS AND
COMP PLANS:
STRATEGIES TO
CONSIDER
Policies

- Prioritize Pedestrians first in planning
- Increase and prioritize funding on roadway designs that enhance pedestrian safety & comfort
  - Sidewalk buffers, trees, lightening, benches, etc
- Where land use is conducive to walking, reevaluate road design to identify and accommodate lower speeds
- Prioritize pedestrian improvements in projects where priority populations are present
- Identify priority networks for walking based on the locations of everyday destinations and prevalence of people who rely on walking for transportation
Land Use & the Built Environment (p. 24)

Projects

– Encourage development that locates destinations people regularly use within walkable distance of each other

– Consider how students could walk or bike with new school siting and revise school siting policies to support more walkable distances

– Encourage commercial districts to locate parking behind the building to encourage walking
Land Use & the Built Environment

Policies

– Create further restrictions on drive-thru establishments, as well as expanded zoning districts that encourage walkable design

– Develop and adopt parking lot standards that account for pedestrian and transit access

– Support aging in place by identifying locations with high senior populations and developing best practices for design and land use patterns for seniors
Land Use & the Built Environment

Process

– Invest in resources in pedestrian environments near frequent destinations that people walk to, such as schools, grocery stores, parks, residential areas, transit stations, restaurants, and other entertainment

– Invest resources in pedestrian environments in priority population areas where peoples are more likely to rely on walking for transportation and areas where people experience the greatest health inequities and disparities
Foster Creativity and Partnerships (p. 26)

Placemaking

– Implement, support, provide training and encourage placemaking for future transportation projects
– Implement placemaking strategies in neighborhoods that have been impacted by highway development
– Explore use of temporary installations to engage communities around specific projects
– Utilize creative traffic calming methods to slow down the speed of the street
Fostering Creativity and Partnerships

Process

– Recreate the model for Safe Routes to School to include other everyday destinations such as parks and transit stops
Policies and Plans

– Cities and counties should develop and adopt local pedestrian plans or incorporate pedestrian recommendations within master plans, comp plans, or other planning processes
– Cities and counties should adopt complete streets policies
– Include healthy food access as an important component of local governments overall infrastructure and transportation planning
Community Engagement and Partnerships

– Continue to engage and build relationships with priority populations and partners in meaningful conversations about the transportation system, built environment, and health of communities

– Provide meals, child care, and other services at public meetings and open houses

– Use plain language when engaging communities
Community Engagement and Partnerships

- Transportation planners and project managers should bring the meeting to the people, use innovative community engagement strategies and educate people about the long timeline of projects and when to get involved.
- Utilize walking audits to engage community members and practitioners.
- Modify the engagement tool for local communities.
Policies

– Consider an approach to sidewalk maintenance that requires the municipality to clear roads and sidewalks of snow and ice

– Enact snow removal practices and policies that treat sidewalks to the same standards as roads, allowing pedestrians full access to all sidewalks, crosswalk buttons, transit stops and destinations

– Establish and enforce policies to maintain pedestrian access during construction projects
MN Winter & Year Round Upkeep (p. 32)

Programs

– Create a easy way for public to submit maintenance issues

– Provide alternative snow and ice clearance for those who do not have the physical ability to do it themselves

Process

– Develop priority walking routes to identify funding priorities for snow removal and maintenance
Build a Culture of Walking (p. 35)

Partnerships and Coordination

– Form pedestrian advisory groups to encourage communities to be more walk friendly

– Increase awareness, visibility and effectiveness of Towards Zero Deaths with a stronger emphasis on people walking

– Apply for Walk Friendly Community designations

– Support crime and violence prevention through environmental design and maintenance
More Minnesotan’s Walking?

Be intentional about pedestrian planning
Questions?

• MN Walks draft
  – [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/peds/plan/](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/peds/plan/)

• MN Safe Routes Resource Center
  – [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mnsaferoutes/](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mnsaferoutes/)

• Walk Friendly Communities
  – [www.walkfriendly.org](http://www.walkfriendly.org)

• National Walk Summit - September 2017
  – [www.walkingsummit.org](http://www.walkingsummit.org)
Thank you!

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