

# MINNESOTA WALKS

A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION FOR CREATING SAFE, CONVENIENT  
AND DESIRABLE WALKING AND ROLLING FOR ALL.



PLAN IT: COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING CONFERENCE  
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN | DECEMBER 13, 2016



# Why do we need Minnesota Walks?







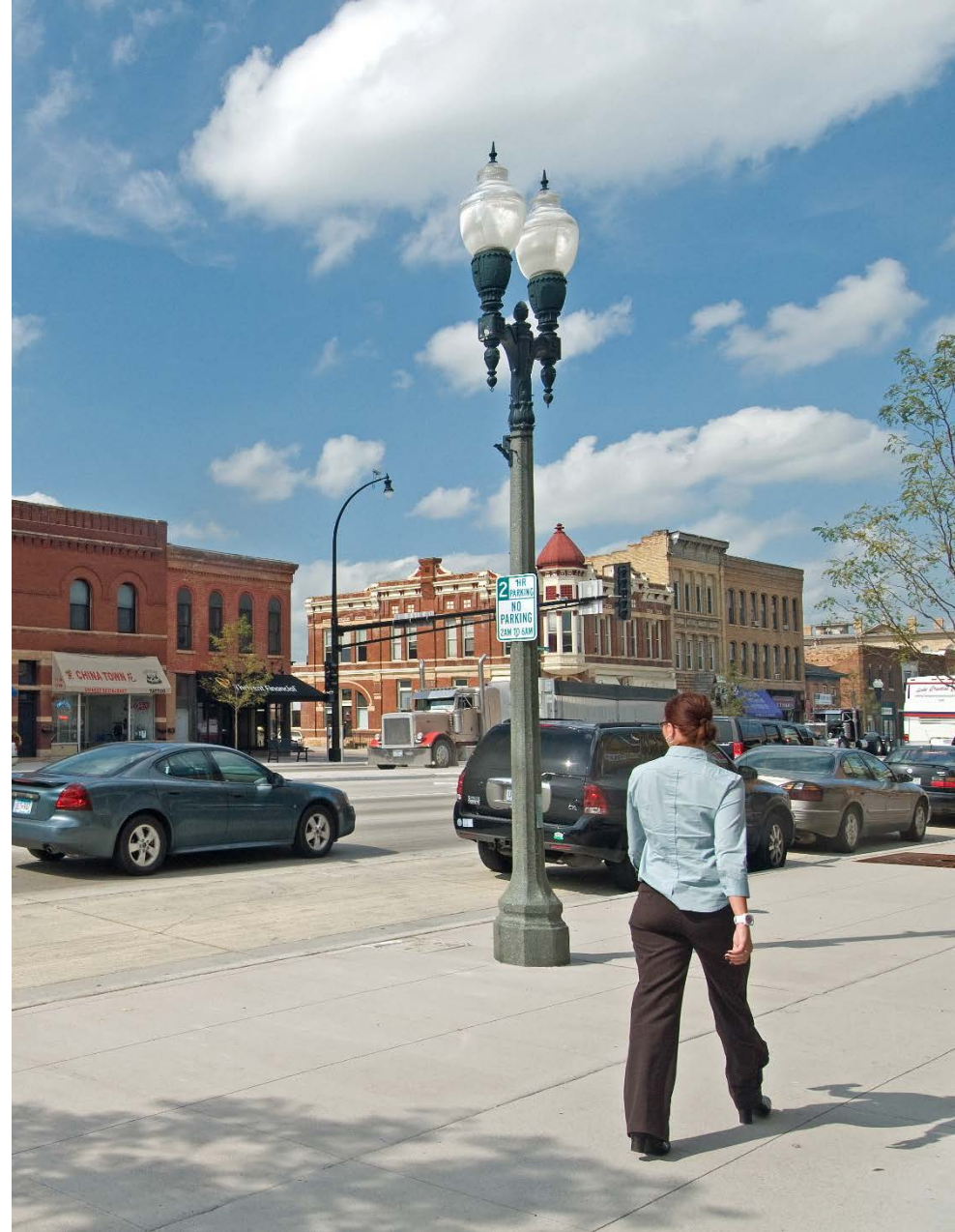






# What is Minnesota Walks?

- 🚶 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



We all have a stake in **A+B**

## MINNESOTA WALKS

Current & Future Steps Towards a Walkable Minnesota  
May 2015







# 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




Minnesota GO  
A Collaborative Vision for Transportation

Statewide Pedestrian System Plan

### Community Engagement Plan




1



## What is the Statewide Pedestrian System Plan?

The plan will guide the development of safe, convenient and desirable routes to walk and roll.



### WHY DEVELOP A STATEWIDE PEDESTRIAN PLAN?

Walking is good for **HEALTH**

**52%**

of all adults in Minnesota get enough physical activity to improve their health.

**62%**

of Minnesotans get their physical activity through walking.

Walking is good for **BUSINESS**




Neighborhoods with pedestrian-oriented streets have higher home sale prices than neighborhoods that don't.

**Walkable communities attract investment from both commercial and residential developers.**

Walking should be **EASIER**

Studies suggest that millennials and baby boomers prefer to live in communities where they can walk most places.


For many, in order to get

 <b>GROCERIES</b>	 <b>to WORK</b>	 <b>to SCHOOL</b>
--	--	--

walking is the only option – especially for students, people with disabilities, and low-income communities.

### MINNESOTANS ARE WORKING TOGETHER

With your help, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Transportation are working on a plan to reach a common vision: **Walking is safe, convenient, and desirable for all in Minnesota.**



### WHY IS THE PUBLIC INPUT IMPORTANT?

Your thoughts and ideas will help set the plan's vision, goals and recommendations. We want to know what your challenges are with walking in your neighborhoods, communities and regions. We can create more walkable communities with your help!

### WE NEED TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS!

You have your own experiences as a pedestrian whether you've crossed the street to get to a store, home or to a bus stop, or just strolled along an interesting street for fun. What makes your community walkable? How could it be better?

Take a survey!  
Join a discussion!  
Invite us to your community event!

**www.minnesotawalks.org**

 @minnesotago #mnwalks  facebook.com/MinnesotaGO





# 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](http://minnesotawalks.org)






# ENGAGEMENT

» Online Engagement and Social Media

<http://minnesotawalks.org>

 @minnesotago #mnwalks

 facebook.com/MinnesotaGO






General Project  
Teen Project

Home | About Students Walk! | Project Activities | Apply to be a Teen Commentator! | Preferences

**About Students Walk!**  
*Students Walk!* is a teen-focused conversation about pedestrians -- walkers and rollers -- in Minnesota. This project brings teen voices into the dialogue around Minnesota's first ever, statewide pedestrian system plan.

**We are all pedestrians!** Whether you walk to school, work, or just across the parking lot as soon as you get out of the car or bus, you are a pedestrian! We want to hear from YOU!

**How you can get involved!**  
There are 3 ways to get involved in *Students Walk!*:

-  **Teen Commentator**  
Apply to be one of our paid teen commentators in our 5-week, online conversation about pedestrians - walkers and rollers - in Minnesota (apps due by October 1),
-  **Workshops**  
Participate in one of our in-person teen workshops (and earn a \$25 Best Buy gift card!), or
-  **Online Conversations**  
Participate in our online conversation starting the week of October 19th.

**STEP IT UP!**  
SURGEON GENERAL'S CALL TO ACTION TO PROMOTE WALKING AND WALKABLE COMMUNITIES



**Quick Poll**  
Have some fun with our quick poll!  
Which best summarizes your thoughts about walking?

- (a) Bring it on! I walk wherever/whenver I can.
- (b) Zzzzzzz. Boring.
- (c) If only I had time.
- (d) Sounds like a lot of work.
- (f) Sure, if it's convenient.

View results & join the discussion

**Activities Timeline**

1 Participate in one of our in-person pedestrian workshops! ONGOING

**Facebook Like Box**



Students Speak Out  
160 likes

Like Page | Share

#mnwalks

Top | Live | Accounts | Photos | Videos | More options ▾

MDH Retweeted  
**Healthy Northland** @HealthyNorthlan · Nov 3  
Last chance to tell @mndot what you think makes a good road for pedestrians: [bit.ly/1Pjlp11](http://bit.ly/1Pjlp11) #mnwalks @minnesotago  
1 | 2

Cindy Zerger and 12 others follow  
**Greta** @snowpedals · Oct 29  
Who is attending the Collaboration Btw Health & Transportation session? Wish I was there! #WalkingSummit #mnwalks  
2

**Healthy Northland** @HealthyNorthlan · Oct 16  
What would make your community walkable? Give your input here: [bit.ly/1TRnPsm](http://bit.ly/1TRnPsm) #mnwalks  
1


**Minnesota GO** @minnesotago · Oct 14  
Have you taken our survey on what makes your community walkable? Deadline is 10/25! #WalkRollWednesday #mnwalks [surveygizmo.com/s3/2282922/MN-...](http://surveygizmo.com/s3/2282922/MN-...)  
3 | 1




# 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".




<b>Home</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Pharmacy</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>School</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Place of Worship</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Grocery Store</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Entertainment</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Post Office</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Restaurant/Cafe</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Job</b>  VOTE HERE
<b>Library</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Bank</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Friends</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Convenience Store</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Fitness</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Park</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Doctor</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Bus/Transit</b>  VOTE HERE	<b>Other Destinations?</b> <i>Please write them down!</i>



### WHICH PICTURE LOOKS THE MOST LIKE WHERE YOU LIVE?

1. Pick the picture that looks the most like where you live, then vote for that image in the column to the right.  
 2. In the two spaces next to that picture, mark up to five characteristics from each of the two categories:  
 a. What about your community makes walking **safe, convenient, and desirable**?  
 b. What about your community makes walking **unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable**?  
 3. If a characteristic is not listed in the table, please write it in the space provided at the bottom of the table.

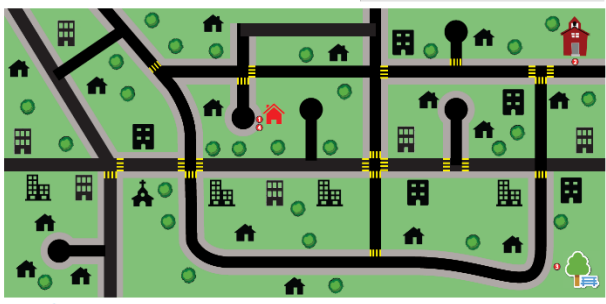



VOTE HERE ↓	What about your community makes walking <b>safe, convenient, and desirable</b> ?		What about your community makes walking <b>unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable</b> ?	
	1	2	1	2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 WWW.MINNESOTAGO.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/MINNESOTAGO

### Help Taylor Find Their Way!

● Start at Taylor's red house. ● Walk to the park.  
 ● Walk to the red schoolhouse. ● Walk back to Taylor's red house.  
*Remember, Taylor must walk on a sidewalk or crosswalk at all times!*

Find more information at:  
[www.minnesotago.org/walks](http://www.minnesotago.org/walks) | @minnesotago | #minwalks  
 facebook.com/MinnesotAGO

HeadwatersRDC  
TooleDesignGroup MinneapolisPAC  
ARCGreaterTwinCities  
WestCentralInitiative  
MinnesotaDepartmentofHealth  
MinnesotaDepartmentofTransportation  
UpperMinnesotaValleyRegionalDevelopmentCommission  
MarshallTransitAdvisoryCommittee  
TransitforLivableCommunities  
WrightCountyPublicHealth  
HorizonPublicHealth  
LiveHealthyRedwing CitizensLeague  
LiveWellWinona ArrowheadRDC  
MN Walks Project Advisory Committee

# THE TEAM





## 60+ & Healthy Foot Clinic

*Toenails are trimmed and filed*

*Blood pressure and pulse screenings*

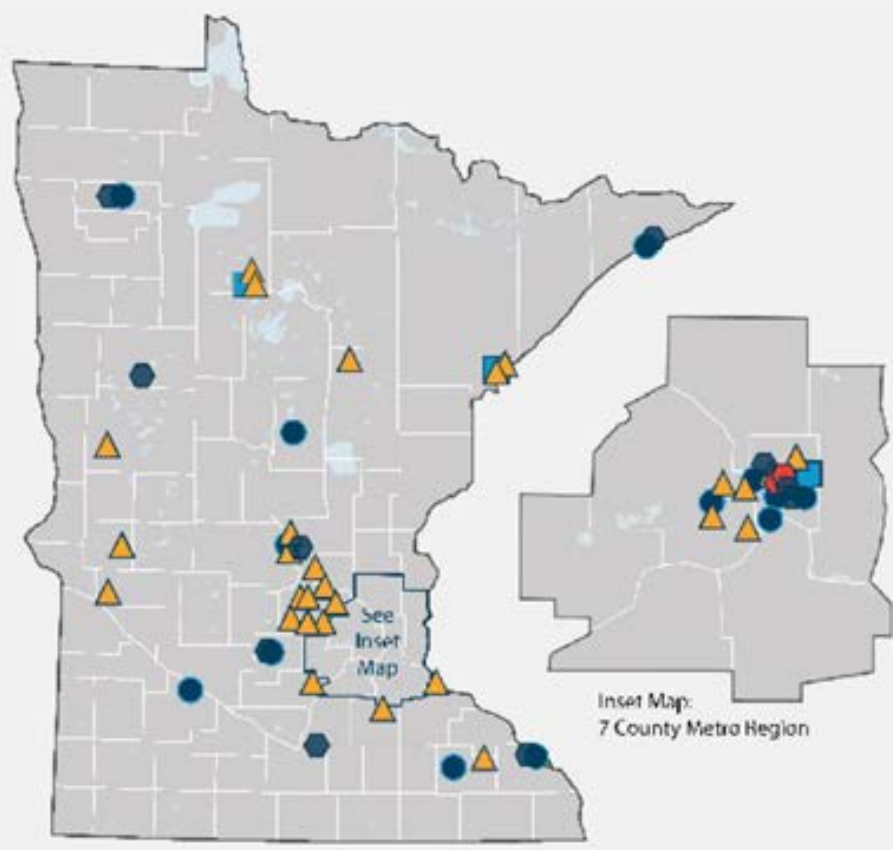
*Educational handouts on health topics*

\$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

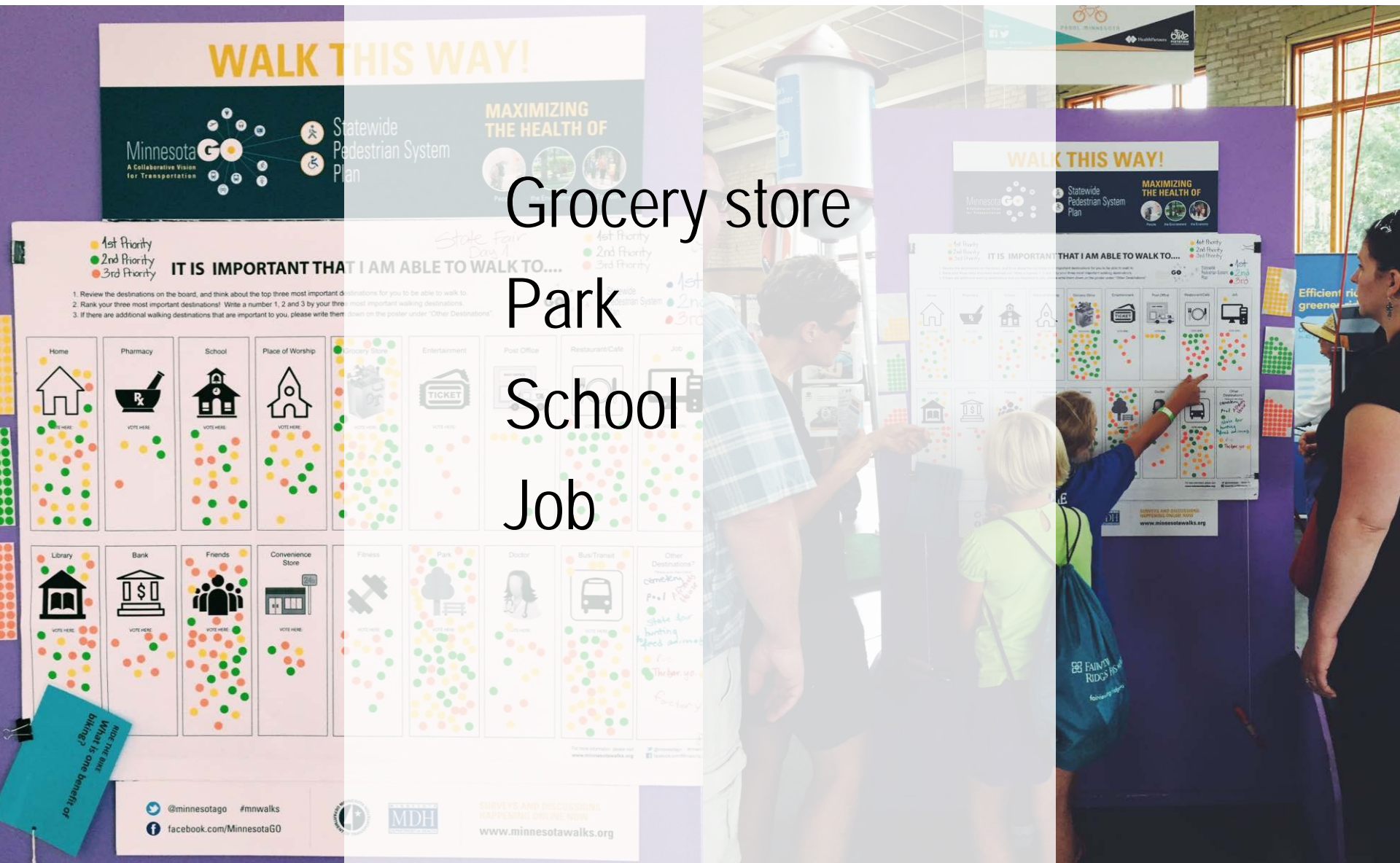
**2**  
Teen workshops

**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

RISE THE BIKE  
What is one benefit of  
biking?

@minnesotago #mnwalks  
facebook.com/MinnesotaGO

MDH  
SURVEYS AND DISCUSSIONS  
RECOMMEND ONLINE SURVEYS  
www.minnesotawalks.org



# 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)

What about your community makes walking safe, convenient, and desirable? Please check all that apply:

- Checkboxes for: Sidewalks, Street lighting, Space between cars and sidewalks, etc.

Others? Please write in:

What about your community makes walking unsafe, inconvenient, and undesirable? Please check all that apply:

- Checkboxes for: Lack of sidewalks, Poor driver behavior, Fast car speeds, etc.

Others? Please write in:

Which picture looks the most like where you live?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

★ ★ ★ ★ ★





# Activity #2 – Hey, that looks like my street!



What about your community makes walking safe, convenient, and desirable? Please check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalks	<input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalks
<input type="checkbox"/> Good street crossings and pedestrian signals	<input type="checkbox"/> Good street crossings and pedestrian signals
<input type="checkbox"/> Good street & sidewalk lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Good street & sidewalk lighting
<input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping/green space	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping/green space
<input type="checkbox"/> Many destinations/businesses	<input type="checkbox"/> Many destinations/businesses
<input type="checkbox"/> Safe and light rail access	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe and light rail access

Other? Please write in: \_\_\_\_\_

What about your community makes walking safe, convenient, and desirable? Please check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalks	<input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalks
<input type="checkbox"/> Good street crossings and pedestrian signals	<input type="checkbox"/> Good street crossings and pedestrian signals
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<input type="checkbox"/> Safe and light rail access	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe and light rail access

Other? Please write in: \_\_\_\_\_

What makes walking safe, convenient, and comfortable?  
Good sidewalks  
Good snow & ice removal  
There are people around  
Quiet streets/low traffic

Which picture looks the most like where you live?

1	5	9
2	6	10
3	7	11
4	8	



# 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



# Roadway & Street Design (p. 21)

## 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

# Listening and Planning (p. 28)

## 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



# Listening and Planning (p. 28)

## 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

# Listening and Planning (p. 28)

## 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

# MN Winter & Year Round Upkeep (p. 32)

## 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/>
- MN Safe Routes Resource Center
  - <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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