

Walking FUNdamentals

Walkability audit tool

This tool will help you evaluate common sites and destinations along your chosen walking route, as well as improvements that can make the route more appealing and useful. Complete the information below for each segment of your walking route.

Location: _____ Date: _____

A. Pedestrian Facilities (High): A presence of suitable walking surface, such as a sidewalk or path.

1	2	3	4	5
No permanent facilities; pedestrians walk in roadway or on dirt path		Sidewalk on one side of road; minor discontinuities that present no real obstacle to passage		Continuous sidewalk on both sides of the road, or completely away from the road

B. Pedestrian Conflicts (High): Potential for conflict with motor vehicle traffic due to driveway and loading dock crossings, speed and volume of traffic, large intersections, low visibility.

1	2	3	4	5
High conflict potential				Low conflict potential

C. Crosswalks (High): Presence and visibility of crosswalks on roads intersecting the segment. Traffic signals meet pedestrian needs with separate “walk” lights that provide sufficient crossing time.

1	2	3	4	5
Crosswalks not present despite major intersections				No intersections, or crosswalks clearly marked

D. Maintenance (Medium): Cracking, buckling, overgrown vegetation, standing water, etc. on or near walking paths. Does not include temporary deficiencies likely to soon be resolved (e.g., tall grass).

1	2	3	4	5
Major or frequent problems				No problems

E. Path Size (Medium): Measures of useful path width, accounting for barriers to passage along pathway.

1	2	3	4	5
No permanent facilities	<3 feet wide significant barriers			>5 feet wide barrier free



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F. Buffer (Medium): Space separating path from adjacent roadway.

1	2	3	4	5
No buffer from roadway			>4 feet from roadway	Not adjacent to roadway

G. Universal Accessibility (Medium): Ease of access for the mobility impaired. Look for ramps and handrails accompanying steps, curb cuts, etc.

1	2	3	4	5
Completely impossible for wheelchairs, or no permanent facilities	Difficult or dangerous for wheelchairs (e.g., no curb cuts)		Wheelchair accessible route available, but inconvenient	Designed to facilitate wheelchair access

H. Aesthetics (Medium): Includes proximity of construction zones, fences, buildings, noise pollution, quality of landscaping, and pedestrian-oriented features, such as benches and water fountains.

1	2	3	4	5
Uninviting				Pleasant

I. Shade (Low): Amount of shade, accounting for different times of day.

1	2	3	4	5
No shade				Full shade

Calculate the scores for each category. The scores make safety considerations the most important, followed by accessibility and aesthetics (medium importance) and finally shade (least important), and should range from 0-100.

Sum of High Importance (A – C): _____ x 3 = _____

Sum of Medium Importance (D – H): _____ x 2 = _____

Sum of Low Importance (I): _____ x 1 = _____

Total Score: _____ / 100

0-39 points = High risk and unattractive (red)

40-69 points = Medium risk; average or non-descript looking (yellow)

70 and above = Low-risk and pleasant (green)

Observations

1. What is the most dangerous location along this segment?
2. What is the most unpleasant element of this segment?
3. What improvements would make this segment more appropriate for pedestrian use?
4. Is it possible to design a more direct route to connect the ends of this segment?
5. Are the conditions of this segment appropriate and attractive for exercise or recreational use?