



The **Walk Audit for Livable Communities (WALC)** tool aims to help communities consider features of their built environment. In the walk audit below, a group of people identify potential improvements for travelling safely from one place to another by foot, bike, or wheelchair. As you complete the tool, you might find:

- **Easy improvements**, such as removing branches blocking a sidewalk.
- **Moderate improvements**, such as adding or painting crosswalks.
- **Challenging improvements**, such as repairing or adding sidewalks.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. SELECT YOUR ROUTE.** Prioritize everyday destinations where people in the community **are already** walking or biking from one place to another (like libraries, schools, parks, and grocery stores).
- 2. CONNECT WITH PARTICIPANTS.** **Connect with community residents and other partners** to complete the tool with you and schedule a time.
- 3. DECIDE HOW TO COMPLETE.** As a group, decide if you'd like to complete the WALC Map as you walk the route and then complete the WALC Tool afterwards **OR** complete both at the same time as you walk the route. Regardless, be sure to read through the tool before the walk.
- 4. RATE EACH FEATURE OF THE ROUTE.** Is each feature **not on the route at all (0)**, **on some of the route (1)**, **on most of the route (2)**, or **on all the route (3)**? Taking photos can be a helpful reminder of the conditions identified during the walk!
- 5. ADD UP YOUR RATINGS.** As a group, **come to a consensus** on how to rate each feature. Then tally the section and total scores!
- 6. DISCUSS THE RESULTS.** Where would you like to see improvement? What were positive features of the route? Discuss the results with community residents, local partners, and key stakeholders. **Use the "Post Walk Audit Guide" to help facilitate next steps!**

Route Details.

Community Name: Audit Date:

Starting Location: Ending Location:

Start Time: End Time: Distance Walked:

Checkmark if this is the first time the route is being assessed: ☐

Choose the box(es) below to describe the Community Engagement you did related to WALC.


☐ Community engagement before LIA staff conducted WALC, to ask residents about which route to assess.

☐ Community engagement during WALC, where residents completed WALC alongside LIA staff.

☐ Community engagement after WALC, where residents provided additional feedback about the route.

☐ Other. Please describe below:

When you rate features, remember to consider the perspective of all individuals using the route including youth, seniors, bikers, parents, and/or individuals who are using a wheelchair or are visually impaired. Rate each feature from:
None of the route (0), Some of the route (1), Most of the route (2), All of the route (3)

 **SIDEWALKS**

Rating
0-3

Skip to the next section if there are no sidewalks or paved paths on the route.

The sidewalks or paved paths along the route are:

1. In good condition (without cracks, raised sections, and trip hazards).....

2. Clear of overgrown landscaping, poles, signs, plants, vehicles, etc.....

3. Continuous (no segments are missing).....


4. Wide enough so that two people can easily walk side by side.....

5. Buffered from the street by grass, trees, or parked cars.....

Notes:

Sidewalks Total:

/ 15

 **STREET CROSSINGS & INTERSECTIONS**

Rating
0-3

1. The street has traffic lights and/or stop signs at intersections and crossings.....

2. The traffic lights or stop signs are clearly visible to drivers and pedestrians.....

3. The street has crosswalks that are clearly visible to drivers and pedestrians.....

4. Marked crosswalks are within walking distance for people of all abilities.....

5. There are pedestrian-crossing signals that give enough time for individuals of all abilities to cross the street. ☐ N/A (no pedestrian-crossing signals).....


6. The pedestrian-crossing signals have audible prompts. ☐ N/A (no pedestrian-crossing signals).....

7. The crossings and intersections have a curb ramp for carts, wheelchairs, strollers, walkers, etc.....

Notes:

Street Crossings & Intersections Total:

/ 21

 **BICYCLE SAFETY**

Rating
0-3

Skip to the next section if there are no bicycle lanes on the route.

1. There is a bicycle lane marked with a line, posts, raised curb, etc.....

2. The bicycle lane is free of potholes or objects that obstruct the lane.....

3. There are signs indicating bicycle use (e.g., "share the road" signs).....

4. Bicyclists appear to be safe from traffic ☐ N/A (no bicyclists on the route).....

Notes:

Bicycle Safety Total:

/ 12

The content of this tool was adapted from LSU Ag Center’s Safe Routes to Public Spaces Walk Audit Checklist, AARP’s Walk Audit Toolkit, Safe Routes to School’s Walk Audit Checklist, and Columbus Public Health’s Neighborhood Walk Audit Tool.



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Rating
0-3

1. There are reasonable, posted speed limits.....
2. Pedestrians appear to be safe from traffic ☐ N/A (no pedestrians on the route).....
3. The route has adequate, working light fixtures.....
4. Pedestrians appear to be safe from animals encountered on the route.....
☐ N/A (no pedestrians or animals on the route)
5. Pedestrians appear to be safe from harassment or similar threats.....
☐ N/A (no pedestrians on the route)
6. Other pedestrians are present, or there are storefronts and homes along the route.....
7. Law enforcement along the route is (not scored): ☐ PRESENT ☐ NOT PRESENT

Notes:

Pedestrian Safety Total: / 18



DRIVER BEHAVIOR

Rating
0-3

Skip to the next section if drivers were not present on the route.

1. Drivers appear to be obeying the speed limit.....
2. Drivers obey stop signs or stop behind the crosswalk.....
3. Drivers yield to people walking.....
4. Drivers appear to be attentive to the road (not on the phone or facing other passengers).....

Notes:

Driver Behavior Total: / 12



COMFORT & APPEARANCE

Rating
0-3

1. There are trees along the sidewalks or other landscaping.....
2. There is enough shade.....
3. The buildings and lots are well-maintained.....
4. There are benches or places to sit.....
5. There are trash bins.....
6. Bus stops are covered.....
7. There is minimal vandalism (e.g., damaged signs or graffiti).....
8. There is minimal litter (e.g., trash or broken glass).....

Notes:

Comfort & Appearance Total: / 24

WALC SUMMARY:

You may leave skipped sections blank. **NOTE:** Not Applicable (N/A) items make section scores lower. For the purposes of using the WALC tool, you do not need to worry about adjusting your points.

SIDEWALKS.....

OF 15

STREET CROSSINGS.....

OF 21

BICYCLE SAFETY.....

OF 12

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.....

OF 18

DRIVER BEHAVIOR.....

OF 12

COMFORT & APPEARANCE.....

OF 24

Have there been improvements on the route since the previous assessment? If so, please describe them below.

Post-WALC Reflection

Who Attended the Walk Audit? Make note of participants’ roles in the community (e.g., librarian, council-person, resident, etc.)

What Were the Strengths of the Route? Refer to the WALC Map & and the WALC Tool to help you identify strengths of the route.

What Were the Major Concerns? Refer to the WALC Map & and the WALC Tool to help you identify major concerns of the route.

Insert Map of Route Here

AS YOU WALK, CONSIDER...

Accessibility

- Are the features of the route accessible for anyone, including seniors and individuals who may be using a wheelchair or are visually impaired?

Sidewalks and Bike Lanes

- Is there a sidewalk? Is it wide enough?
- Is the sidewalk cracked, broken, or incomplete?
- Are there bike lanes? Would children be safe biking?

Safety

- Is it easy and safe to cross the street?
- Does walking feel safe?
- Is traffic too fast?
- Is the street well lit?

Neighborhood

- Are building well maintained?
- Are there vacant buildings?

School Zone

- Are there safe street crossings to the school?
- Are there continuous sidewalks/bike paths to the school?

WALC Map:

Read through the **WALC Tool before starting your walk--this will help guide you as you complete the WALC Map**. This map is not scored--it is simply a space to elaborate your observations on the route. As you walk along the route, note positive and negative features of the route by writing a number at the location you selected on the map below. Write your observation on the line that matches with the number you wrote on the map. If you need more space, you may use the back of this page.

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17.	_____	36.	_____
18.	_____	37.	_____
19.	_____	38.	_____

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**Insert Map of Route
Here**

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Insert Map of Route Here

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