

# AMERICA WALKS

America Walks Newsletter

August 2015

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## Step it Up with the Surgeon General's Call to Action!

America Walks is thrilled that Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy has announced the release of his anticipated Call to Action on Walking and Walkable Communities, titled Step it Up! on September 9th. The Call to Action will provide leadership and motivation for governments, businesses, organizations and individuals to address the numerous barriers to safe, active mobility and promote the multiple health benefits of walking.

The release is only the beginning of this exciting new chapter of the walking movement. America Walks is proud to be able to offer several ways to increase walking and make all communities more walkable, including:

- Registering for our webinar on September 15 at 1pm ET, to learn what is in the Call to Action and strategies to using it in your community. [Register here!](#)
  - Attend the [2015 National Walking Summit](#) in Washington DC, October 28-30. The Surgeon General will be one of our amazing [keynote speakers](#). [Register today!](#)
  - Keep your eyes open for the September Monthly Theme from the Every Body Walk! Collaborative. This month's theme is Walk for a Cause and we are using #walk4change to track the great work from partners.
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## 2015 National Walking Summit

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Register Now!

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## Celebrate Deb Hubsmith's Life at the 2015 National Walking Summit

Walking advocacy lost a leader, inspirator and friend in Deb Hubsmith this month. Deb fought many successful battles for the walking movement but lost her battle with cancer on August 18th. As a founding Co-Chair of the Every Body Walk! Collaborative, Deb always pushed to advance our "movement for movement." In addition to her powerful advocacy, she also loved to walk her talk and dance and groove.



Please join us at the [2015 National Walking Summit](#), where we will be celebrating Deb's life and work both in the program and during the [After Hours Move & Groove Event](#).

Deb Hubsmith with Rep. Jim Obestar (MN-8)

[Learn more about Deb here.](#)

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## Walking News

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### America Walks Hosts Series of Agency Workshops

America Walks is launching a series of workshops this August as part of efforts to bring together decision-makers that have an impact on creating walkable communities. Three state agency directors attended a workshop in Helena, Montana on August 12, representing the state's Departments of Transportation, Public Health and Human Services, and Commerce where their staff, plus Bike Walk Montana Executive Director Melinda Barnes, presented on a proposed "Collaborative Framework for Walkable Montana Communities," that had been developed earlier in the day.



America Walks will host similar workshops in Little Rock, Arkansas and Frankfurt, Kentucky in continued efforts to develop resources and technical assistance to the champions of walkable communities across the country.

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### Local Organization Hosts Walkability Summit

[Living Streets Alliance \(LSA\)](#) is a Tucson-based non-profit advocacy organization whose mission is "to promote healthy communities by empowering people to transform our streets into vibrant places for walking, bicycling, socializing, and play." LSA offers programs

and services such as Neighborhood Walkability Assessments and Safe Routes to School, and hosts Tucson's increasingly popular bi-annual open streets event, Cyclovia.

In 2012, LSA launched a [Pedestrian Safety & Comfort Campaign](#) with the goal of making the simple act of walking safe, comfortable, and convenient in the greater Tucson region. The campaign included a variety of initiatives, one of which was to secure funding for pedestrian improvements. This led to a successful effort to include a \$12 million-proposal for Pedestrian Safety & Walkability Improvements in the upcoming (November 2015) Pima County bond election.



After this remarkable achievement, LSA decided to convene a Walkability Summit to build on the alliances and the momentum created during the bond process and to turn it into a broader movement with a shared vision. On October 23 & 24, the summit will bring together a diverse group of people representing different interests and constituencies, including the youth, the elderly, the disabled, and low-income populations. LSA is looking forward to this engaging process to help shape the future of its Pedestrian Safety & Comfort Campaign.

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## Partner Highlights

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### One Company Puts Sidewalks on the Map



pathVu is a Pittsburgh, PA based company focused on building a global database of sidewalk maps, features, and attributes to provide pedestrians and community organizations with data to improve walkability and safety.

The company has recently developed a crowdsourcing application called pathVu and a database used to gather sidewalk data. The pathVu app is used for reporting sidewalk features (e.g. trip hazards), alerting pedestrians as they approach hazards, and informing them with navigation along walkable routes.

[Learn more about their innovative approach to tackling a serious issue at their website here.](#)

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### Walking Summit Sponsor Highlight

The American Council on Exercise (ACE) is pleased to support the 2015 National Walking Summit as part of our commitment to fighting the dual epidemics of obesity and inactivity, and creating a culture of



health that values and supports physically active lifestyles.

Our mission is to ensure that individuals have access to well-qualified health and fitness professionals, as well as science-based information and resources on safe and effective physical activity. Ultimately, we want to empower all Americans to be active, establish healthy behaviors and live their most fit lives.

[Join ACE and other sponsors at the 2015 National Walking Summit. Register Now!](#)

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## America Walks Sponsors

America Walks would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support of this publication and all of the work being done by America Walks to promote the Walkable movement. Thanks for helping to make America a great place to Walk!

8-80 Cities, AARP, Accessible Design for the Blind, Active Living By Design, Active Transportation Alliance, Alliance for Biking & Walking, American College of Sports Medicine, American Council on Exercise, APBP, APHA, BungyPump, California Walks, Carmanah, CDC, Chaffin Luhana, LLP, Circulate San Diego, Daniel Rose Law, Eco-Counter, Estey & Bomberger, LLP, Every Body Walk!, Federal Highway Administration, Feet First, Group Health, Health by Design, Hoosier Rails to Trails Council, Idaho Bike Walk Alliance, Jurewitz Law Group, Kaiser Permanente, Kellogg Foundation, Landman Family Charitable Trust, Law Offices of Jay S. Knispel, Lyft, MIG, Inc., Muscle Powered: Citizens for a Bikable and Walkable Carson City, National Association of Realtors, National Physical Activity Society, Nelson Nygaard, Nemours, Northshore LIJ, Orthotic Shop, Partners for Health, pathVu, PedNet Coalition, PEDS, PhillyWalks, Posternak, Blankenstein & Lund, LLP, Rails to Trails Conservancy, re:Streets, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, S&G Endeavors, Safe Routes to School National Partnership, Sally Flocks Charitable Fund, Sam Schwartz Engineering, Seattle Police Department, Shaping New Jersey, ShoreWalkers, Inc., Swanson, Thomas, Coon and Newton, Synergy, LLC, Tennessee Department of Transportation, The Reeves Law Group, TVA Architects, Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition, W-Trans, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, Walk Boston, WalkSacramento, The Walking Company, Wallace Consulting & Training, Inc., Weissman-Landman Family Trust

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