

AMERICA WALKS

Making America a Great Place to Walk

August 2016

Get Out and Walk with Pokémon GO

The world's most popular app is luring millions of people off the couch and getting them moving. And while we believe the success of Pokémon GO presents an opportunity to introduce more Americans to the benefits of walking, recent tragedies linked to the game provide an important reminder for all of us to remain vigilant while moving through our environments, no matter the modes we use. The popularity of Pokémon GO can be used to launch not only an active lifestyle but also a conversation on the issue of safe and accessible places to walk.

Read the full statement [here](#), along with a variety of tips on promoting walkability in your community. Among these resources you'll find:

- [Information](#) on the benefits of walking and how to build a walking movement in your community;
 - [Vision Zero-inspired solutions](#) for communities interested in promoting active transportation; and
 - Dan Burden's [10 key elements of walkable places](#).
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Meet Our Newest Team Members

America Walks is excited to introduce two new staff members who will be working on fund development and communications. Fund Development Manager [Charlotte D'Ooge](#) brings ten years of fundraising experience to her role. Communications Specialist [Emilie Bahr](#) is a writer and urban planner passionate about active transportation.



Bahr



D'Ooge

America Walks Hits the Road to Improve Walkability

Earlier this month, America Walks co-hosted workshops in [Des Moines, Iowa](#); Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and [Augusta, Georgia](#) focused on strengthening relationships and improving collaboration among public health, transportation, economic development and other strategic partners able to influence walkability.

"Improving understanding between state agencies and various organizations is a big

priority when making our communities more walkable," said America Walks State and Local Program Director Ian Thomas. "We spend a lot of time at state-level workshops like these trying to maximize collaboration between the groups."

The workshops in were held in conjunction with partners including the [Iowa Healthiest State Initiative](#), AARP, the [Project for Public Spaces](#), and departments of transportation, natural resources, public health and economic development, with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mark Your Calendars for:

- [STEPtember 2016](#), a month-long initiative sponsored by [United Cerebral Palsy](#) that challenges participants to reach 10,000 steps per day while raising awareness and money to benefit people living with Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities. Register [here](#) and read more [here](#).
- [First Mile, Last Mile: Connections to Transit](#)
The latest in America Walks' 2016 webinar series, this free online session will begin at 2 p.m. EST Sept. 8th. and focus on the natural partnership between walkability and good public transit and opportunities for collaboration between transit and walkable communities advocates.
- [Walk to School Day 2016](#).
The 20th commemoration of Walk to School Day in the U.S. will take place Oct. 5th and registration is open now. This year, mayors are being encouraged to join in the event in a show of support for safe walking and biking. Register [here](#) and get ideas for planning a walk to school event [here](#).
- The plenary session at [Street Lights: Illuminating Implementation and Equity in Complete Streets](#), looking at what the Florida Department of Transportation has done to transform its approach to better accommodate all road users. The [full agenda](#) for the Nov. 15th conference of the National Complete Streets Coalition and Smart Growth America was recently released. See you in Sacramento!

In Case You Missed It

Summer is busy and we know you don't always have a chance to attend our great webinars. That doesn't mean you can't access the expert information and important resources. Recordings of two informative webinars hosted this month by America Walks are now available online. One centers on how to [translate complex research material](#) in ways that can help to inform policy. The other focuses on [interventions to promote walkability](#).

What Caught Our Eye in August

- America Walks Executive Director Kate Kraft gets a well-deserved shout out in this month's [Planning Magazine](#) as an early initiator of the active living movement.
- [Andrew Price of Strong Towns](#) explores

how social isolation among seniors is a byproduct of America's suburban development patterns.

- [Hilary Angus of Momentum Magazine](#) makes the case that the bulk of the responsibility for keeping the streets safe should be placed on those "with the greatest capacity to inflict harm."



Emilie Bahr takes advantage of the rainbow crosswalks installed in Seattle's largely gay Capitol Hill neighborhood. Inspired by something you see that's promoting walking? Send us a photo to be featured here!

Our Sponsors

America Walks thanks 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, 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, Dynamic Vitality, Eco-Counter, Estey & Bomberger, LLP, Every Body Walk!, Federal Highway Administration, FedEx, 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., National Association of Realtors, National Physical Activity Society, Nelson Nygaard, Nemours, Northshore LIJ, Orthotic Shop, Partners for Health, pathVu, PedNet Coalition, PEDS, Posternak, Rails to Trails Conservancy, re:Streets, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Safe Routes to School National Partnership, Sally Flocks Charitable Fund, Sally Morin Law, Shaping New Jersey, ShoreWalkers, Inc., Synergy, LLC, The Reeves Law Group, US Fish and Wildlife Services, W-Trans, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, Walkapocket, Walk Boston, The Walking Company, Weissman-Landman Family Trust

Help make America a great place to walk!

Have an item for our newsletter or a question for our team? Contact America Walks

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