

## Monthly Newsletter - June 2015

Follow the evidence, follow the money, follow in people's footsteps to making every community in America one that embraces walking.

All signs continue to point to the benefits of and increased demand for walkable communities and more walking. A growing number of reports and studies from health professionals, developers and real estate professionals and local elected officials demonstrate the power behind walkable communities. In my personal experience, by living in a neighborhood that allows my family to own only one car and where my family walks to the grocery store, bank, movies, barber we save thousands of dollars each year.

I urge you to use the undisputable facts and statistics as the fuel to push for safer streets and accessible walking conditions in your community. Bring these messages to your friends, community businesses, and local governments to begin improving your neighborhood's health. America Walks is here to help you take those first steps.

- Register for one of our [Summer Webinars](#) aimed to help you become a more effective advocate alongside our [Walking College Fellows](#)
- Plan your trip to the [2nd National Walking Summit](#) in October. [Register](#) today, learn about [scholarship opportunities](#) and check [out preferred rates for hotels](#).
- [Bring America Walks to your town](#) for hands on technical assistance, including our workshops highlighted below.

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America Walks  
State & Local  
Program  
Director  
Facilitates  
Walkable  
Workshop

As a long-time advocate and local elected official, Ian Thomas knows first hand how improvements in walkability help achieve a remarkable array of priorities for local leaders. Ian facilitated a workshop titled "The Top Ten Reasons Local Officials Want Walkable Communities," at the Mississippi Municipal League's Annual Conference; the workshop was attended by almost 100 Mayors and Council representatives from across the state. Other speakers were Mayor Chip Johnson of Hernando, MS, Mayor Bill Lockett of Clarksdale, MS, and Ms. Ivory Craig, Associate State Director for Community Outreach (Mississippi) for AARP.

After the presentations, participants in the workshop held small-group discussions about the importance of walking and walkability to their communities, what projects they are working on or would like to pursue, the challenges they might face and the strategies they would need to use to make their communities more walkable.

Contact [Ian](#) to learn about bringing such as workshop to your state or community.

This project was made possible through funding by the Centers for Disease Control in partnership with the American Public Health Association.

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Lyft

National  
Walking  
Summit  
Sponsor  
Profile

**Lyft** is pleased to sponsor the **National Walking Summit** and the goals to

create walkable, safe, sustainable communities from coast to coast.

Active mobility, such as walking and cycling provides transportation options that are enhanced by safe streetscapes, great public transit, and the presence of shared mobility services.

Lyft's peer-to-peer rideshare platform provides a reliable and affordable alternative to driving alone.

People can confidently choose to walk places if they know that they can get a Lyft in bad weather, for late nights, or when they need to transport goods, for instance.



Combined with the variety of other appealing transportation options,

Lyft is helping reduce the need for people to own cars. While we strive for walkable, human-centered communities, the decline of single occupant vehicle trips enables us to reimagine the way we build our cities and roads. Lyft is excited to be a part of the movement toward healthier, safer, more environmentally friendly transportation.

For more information on the National Walking Summit, please visit [our website](#). [Registration is now open](#) and [scholarships towards registration costs are available](#).

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## Inspiring & Innovative-Ulster County, NY

Nationwide, we are seeing inspiring acts of advocacy and progress toward the creation of safe and accessible walking conditions for all. America Walks is proud to highlight the work being done by one local community with the support of our partner, the [National Association of REALTORS](#).

[Ulster County, NY](#) has been working on active transportation related issues for nearly a decade, beginning with the County's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and most recently with its [first-ever Ulster County Active Transportation Conference](#) being held this month. As several major projects to improve sidewalks, create bike lanes and expand the county's multi-use trails advance, the conference aims to build partnerships among municipalities, businesses, health providers, community-based organizations and real-estate professionals and promote the interest in active transportation. The conference is the latest step in ensuring that the tremendous economic, social and health benefits of an active transportation system will be realized for Ulster County.

Does your community or advocacy group have a success story you would like to share? Email [Heidi Simon](#) to be featured in future newsletters.

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## Recent News

America Walks is encouraged by the recent attention walking and walkability is receiving.

- Transportation Funding Legislation: June has seen big movements on Capitol Hill for walking and biking issues. The [DRIVE Act](#) is a bill in the Senate that lays out funding for the nation's transportation infrastructure, including provisions for walking and active transportation, through 2021. [Read more about the legislation here](#).
- The Move to Walkable Downtowns: What attracts businesses to relocate and invest in new locations? [A report from Smart](#)

**Growth America** shows that walkable communities play a major role in drawing companies to cities.

- Physically Active Cities See Big Returns: A **new study** reports that active cities are not only physically healthier but also economically. The report found that walking and biking projects have a return of **\$20 for every \$1.50 spent**.



## Other Events and Resources

<b>What Caught Our Eye in June</b>	<b>Resources and Events Available</b>	<b>We Need Your Stories</b>
<p>As a new section for the America Walks Newsletters, we want to share with our network some of the interesting things that cross our desk. This series will highlight books, films and other media that adds color to the walking movement and could be interesting to readers.</p> <p>Google's new <a href="#">Sidewalk Labs</a> aims to improve life in cities for everyone through the application of technology to solve urban problems. The company will look at how to <a href="#">address issues like cost of living, efficient transportation and energy usage</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">America Walks Webinar Series</a></p> <p><a href="#">National Walking Summit Guide for Creating Safer Communities</a></p> <p><a href="#">Advocacy Advance Rapid Response Grants</a></p> <p><a href="#">NHTSA 2013 Pedestrian Fact Sheet</a></p> <p><a href="#">Smart Growth Community Workshops</a></p> <p><a href="#">New Resources for Walkable Rural Communities</a></p> <p><a href="#">AARP Livability Index</a></p>	<p>America Walks wants to hear from our great network to find stories, testimonials and pictures that show examples of the great work you have done.</p> <p>We want to highlight the hard work and successful changes communities and local advocates have accomplished on our website and can't do it without your contributions.</p> <p>Those interested in contributing should contact <a href="#">Susan Lyon</a> or visit the <a href="#">Share Your Stories</a> page on our new website.</p>



## Thank You 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, 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, 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, Orthotic Shop, Partners for Health, 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, 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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### America Walks

PO Box 10581  
Portland, Oregon 97296

[www.americawalks.org](http://www.americawalks.org)

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