

September 2016

America Walks Heads to Vancouver for Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place

America Walks was well-represented as an active participant in [Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place](#), the biennial conference hosted by [Project for Public Spaces](#) held this year in Vancouver. The conference brought together over 1,000 city planners, transportation engineers, public health professionals, elected officials, community leaders, and professional walking and bicycling advocates. America Walks played a big role at the conference:



Vancouver, B.C. has become a model for people-centered design.

- As part of the [America Walks Walking Track](#), America Walks identified and promoted sessions that demonstrated the power of walking and walkability in placemaking and developing robust active transportation networks.
- Heidi Simon and Kristen Henry led a workshop on the new Every Body Walk Collaborative! [Social Justice Toolkit](#), which connects social justice and walkability and focuses on how to incorporate equity considerations into the walking movement. Read more about the Toolkit later in this newsletter.
- Members of the [2016 Walking College](#) met to discuss their work and to learn from experts in the field. Fellows had the opportunity to attend several Walking College events as well as the conference programming. [Read more about their experience here.](#)
- Staff presented on a number of topics, including the recently released [Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation.](#)



Members of the 2016 Walking College met to discuss their walking action plans in Vancouver.



Join Us in St. Paul in 2017!

Our Time at Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place left us energized and motivated to get to work on the [2017 National Walking Summit: "Vital and Vibrant Communities: The Power of Walkability."](#) The Summit will be held in St. Paul September 13-15th, 2017. Add your voice to the walking movement by [submitting a proposal](#) to be a speaker or presenter. Proposals are due by December 15th.

Every Body Walk! Releases New Social Justice Toolkit

The Every Body Walk! Collaborative and America Walks have released a new [Social Justice Toolkit](#) aimed at providing those working in the walking movement with resources to help foster equity, fairness and justice within the communities in which they work. Walking and walkability provide exciting opportunities to engage, empower and inform community members on larger issues. [We look forward to hearing what you think!](#)

Nation Sees Largest Increase in Traffic Fatalities in Decades

[Statistics](#) released this month show that 35,092 people died in traffic crashes in 2015, marking the largest single-year increase since 1966. This disturbing finding reminds us that we all must recommit to creating policies, programs and environments that work to create safer conditions on our streets. Read America Walks' full statement on the report [here](#) and see what the federal government is doing to improve safety for people using the country's roads [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars!

- **October 4th and 20th:** Join us for our recurring "Ask the Experts" Twitter chat. Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to submit questions for a real-time discussion with staff and partners using [#AsktheExperts](#).
- **October 13th:** Opportunities and challenges related to promoting walking and walkability vary greatly depending on context. Join America Walks for our next free webinar, "[Walking and Walkability in Rural Communities](#)," to learn from people working to improve walkability in rural communities and hear about resources available for local advocates to do the same.
- **November 15th:** [Street Lights](#), the first Complete Streets Conference hosted by the National Complete Streets Coalition, is coming up fast! Take a look at the exciting programming, including an [in-depth look at the work being done in California](#) to translate the commitment to Complete Streets to actual changes on the pavement.

What We're Reading:

- [Slate](#) covers Paris' six-month experiment to ban cars from a major expressway and promote its use by people.
- [The New York Times](#) writes about efforts afoot in Atlanta to build the Atlanta BeltLine, converting 22 miles of railway beds into a pedestrian and bicycle path and streetcar line.
- [CityLab](#) explores how ramping up law enforcement to protect people walking and biking may have unintended consequences at a time of heightened scrutiny of racial profiling.

Help Get America Walking!

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!

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

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