Transit-Walkability Collaborative
Statement of Purpose and Strategic Plan
January, 2017

General Description:
The Transit-Walkability Collaborative consists of national, state-level, and local leaders in the walkability and public transit advocacy movements who recognize the synergies between these two transportation modes and the benefits of collaboration.

Background Information ("WHEREAS ..."):
1. Quality public transit service benefits communities by providing safe, affordable, and convenient mobility for everyone.
2. Walkable communities encourage high rates of walking, which improves health, safety, environmental conditions, and quality of life for everyone.
3. By emphasizing and integrating these two modes of transportation, local officials create safe, affordable, and enjoyable neighborhoods, whose residents complete their daily activities while owning fewer vehicles and driving less often.
4. By providing a variety of viable transportation options, communities stimulate higher participation in active and public transportation, leading to many benefits including fewer traffic fatalities, significant public and private-sector cost savings, reduced air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, higher levels of physical activity, and a better quality of life - especially for low-income families.
5. Programs and policies that increase investment in transit service and walkability are complementary because these two modes are effective at different scales - the neighborhood level for walking, and the community level for transit.
6. Because the vast majority of transit rides start and end with a walk, coordinating efforts to improve both modes simultaneously leads to safe and accessible connections to transit and empowers people to live well without a car.
7. Walkability and transit advocacy complement each other and accomplish common goals neither can achieve on its own.

Statement of Purpose ("THEREFORE ..."):
The Transit-Walkability Collaborative exists to promote the benefits of walkable, transit-rich communities; to bring together transit and walkability advocates at the local, state, and national level; and to identify and implement programs and policies that simultaneously expand walkability and transit services in communities across the U.S. Our shared goals are to improve public health, safety, and transportation equity, by developing complementary planning efforts, increasing funding for active and public transportation, and supporting transit-oriented development that is designed to benefit existing residents and neighborhoods.
Objectives:

- **RESEARCH** - Current state of the field and best practices in collaboration between transit and walkability advocates will be understood and used to inform strategy.
- **COMMUNICATIONS** - Public perceptions will continue to change such that transit, walkability, and social equity are highly valued by residents and decision-makers.
- **CAPACITY BUILDING** - Local and state-level transit and walkability advocates will expand their ability to collaborate effectively and accomplish their shared goals.
- **POLICY CHANGE** - Federal, state, and local investment in walkable communities, quality transit systems, and transportation equity will increase.

2017 Strategic Activities:

- Conduct environmental scan of active transportation/transit advocacy groups and relevant research centers (R)
- Reach out to organizations with primary interests in bicycling, disabilities/access, social equity, public health, and smart growth, and discuss partnerships (R/C)
- Disseminate examples of transit and walkability advocates working together to improve mobility and resource allocation through programs and policy change (C)
- Deliver national webinars and trainings, and design session/track at CFTE conference, National Walking Summit and/or APTA conference (C/CB)
- Develop White Paper and/or online interactive economic analysis tool that articulates the benefits of walkable, transit-rich communities (CB/PC)
- Develop additional resources that describe specific model policy approaches involving zoning, development, and parking regulations (PC)

[R = Research, C = Communications, CB = Capacity Building, PC = Policy Change]

TWC Members (the following organizations "sign on"):  

- Center for Transportation Excellence
- American Public Transportation Association
- National Association of Public Transportation Advocates
- Victoria Transport Policy Institute
- Circulate San Diego
- WalkDenver
- Health by Design/Indiana Citizens' Alliance for Transit
- WalkBoston
- America Walks