AMERICA WALKS WEBINAR

Tracking the Walking Path: Tools and Programs for Measuring Walking and Walkability

Presenters:
Karen Lane,
Prevention Program Manager
Lewis and Clark Public Health

Allison Mouch, AICP
President, APA Western Central Chapter
Partner, Orion Planning + Design
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COALITION

- **Coalition formation** – who, how and when
- **Project identification** – need for cohesive wayfinding in Helena, link to overall health and access
- **Two grants helped catalyze project activities** - Plan4Health and Reaching People With Disabilities Through Healthy Communities
Vision and Goal

- Vision
  Helena is the healthiest community in Montana

- Goal
  Greater access to healthy nutrition and to opportunities for physical activity by people of all ages, ability and income. (health equity)
WAYFINDING IN HELENA

- Access and connectivity
- User experience
- Continuity & sense of place
Project Strategies

- Create an Active Living Wayfinding System for the Greater Helena Area (total population 64,000)
- Create and implement a plan for communicating with the public regarding the wayfinding system
- Host Inclusive Healthy Community Design Workshop and Inclusive Walk Audit Training
- Construct a demonstration project to educate decision makers with the goal of area-wide adoption
1. MOU with diverse organizations/partners during the application process.

2. Hired consultants – Coalition subgroup wrote RFP and scored applications

[Received NACDD grant]

3. Coalition decided on priority users, destinations, and accessibility features. List of recent community policies, plans revisions and assessments
COMMUNITY HEALTH INCLUSION INDEX (CHII)

ON-SITE ASSESSMENT

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this assessment about the accessibility and inclusion of a facility in your community for promoting physical activity and healthy nutrition. The purpose of the Community Health Inclusion Index (CHII) is to collect information about healthy living resources in a community and the degree to which they are inclusive. The assessment will be extremely useful in helping stakeholders to plan and develop strategies that will impact the health and well-being of all members of your community, including persons with disabilities. Please note that the CHII is not an ADA compliance checklist, but is intended to be a tool to measure a broad level of health inclusion in communities.

The CHII On-Site Assessment is designed in sections. Please make sure to review all the sections of the survey and answer all that apply to the site being assessed. There are instructions and pictures to help conduct the assessment. In addition, raters should review the CHII Manual for additional instructions on rating sites, measurement and a glossary of terms.

The CHII was developed in partnership by the Center on Health Promotion Research for Persons with Disabilities, University of Illinois at Chicago (http://chp.ahdibs.uic.edu/projects/chii) and the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability, University of Alabama at Birmingham & Lakeshore Foundation (http://www.nchpacl.org/)
Focus Groups

✓ Rocky Mountain Development Council (Seniors)

✓ Learning Center (Parents with Young Children)

✓ Farmer’s Market near SNAP-Ed benefits table

✓ MILP

GIVE YOUR OPINION!

We need your input!

Please tell us where you go around town – to shop, work, learn, and play – and how you like to get there. Help us create better signs to guide you to where you want to go, safely and efficiently!

Please join us on July 8th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at 200 South Cruse, Helena, MT 59601 for a focus group to share your thoughts.

Rocky Mountain Development Council Senior Center

Join our focus group!

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

200 South Cruse

Helena, MT 59601

For more information please contact Karen Lane, Prevention Programs Manager, Lewis and Clark Public Health:

406.457.8960 or klane@lccountymt.gov

Stay connected with the plan and provide your thoughts through our online map:

http://bit.ly/1OL8Bh5
Pick your favorite signs!
Place up to THREE STICKERS below the sign styles that you prefer.

Helena, MT Active Living Wayfinding
July 2016
Farmers Market
CONTEXT AND SETTING

DEMOGRAPHICS

With a focus on equity in signing routes and destinations, it is important to analyze the access and functional needs of the whole community, as cited in the American Community Survey (ACS). Those populations typically have environmental obstacles that can prevent them from creating and maintaining healthy lifestyles. A series of equity maps on the following pages display areas of concentration or density of particular communities - each of which are in need of safe active transportation facilities and guidance to access healthy destinations - for food, education, and physical/mental health.
CIRCULATION PATTERNS
This map illustrates the existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian networks within the Greater Helena Area based on current county GIS and the recommendations contained within the 2014 Greater Helena Area Transportation Plan. As these networks expand and grow, the wayfinding system can grow simultaneously - connecting the community to destinations and other components of the networks. These networks also serve as the base for safe routes and key decision points.
PEDESTRIAN COMFORT LEVELS

It is important when creating a wayfinding system, that the routes users are directed to take are comfortable and safe for the users. This data driven map shows the level of pedestrian comfort based on the existing facilities, road speed, and road classification. According to the data available, many of the roadways seem to have safe routes for pedestrians. The main throughways throughout the city might be the most direct route, yet they appear to be unsafe as illustrated by this model. The same is true for the main connectors to other areas. These routes were further examined in the field and discussed with members of the community to calibrate real-life experiences with the diagram below. The final routes recommended in Chapter 6 reflect the integrated human element which improve upon this model.

HELENA + EAST HELENA

Roadway Comfort Level

- Most Comfortable
- Least Comfortable
- Not Recommended for Pedestrian Travel
- Data Unavailable

City of Helena

City of East Helena
DROP-IN PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Select Your Favorite Concept!

Learn about the progress of the Greater Helena Area Wayfinding System and give us your feedback on your preferred design for the future wayfinding sign family for the Greater Helena Area. This event will be a drop-in, drop-out open house style event where a small amount of time is required to participate. There will be a short presentation about the project at 12:15pm for those interested in learning more about the project. See you there!

WED
October 26th

City/County Building
Visit our Open House!
11 am to 2 pm
316 N Park Ave
Room 226
Helena, MT 59623

For more information please contact Karen Lane, Prevention Programs Manager, Lewis and Clark Public Health: 406.457.8960 or klane@lccountymt.gov
**FINAL ROUTES AND PLANNING LEVEL PLACEMENT**

This graphic represents a planning level placement plan which illustrates locations for sign placement along priority routes, determined by data driven and community input.

Field research revealed key locations throughout the area where messaging is critical to alert users to remain on their intended path. Kiosks should be placed throughout areas where many choices and decisions are possible to clarify and guide users while building awareness of destinations travelers may not already know. Confidence or confirmation signs should be strategically placed at half mile increments where no key decision points are encountered.

Working with this methodology, routes and signage can be expanded throughout the Greater Helena Area to connect people with healthy destinations.

The estimated numbers of signs along the priority routes by type are:

- Mile Markers: 125
- Directional: 300
- Kiosk/Area Maps: 16

**PEOPLE** + **PLACE** + **COMMUNITY** = **ACTIVE LIVING WAYFINDING SYSTEM**
CONCEPT 1A: Off Street Wayfinding

Helena, MT Active Living Wayfinding

Draft Concepts 11.21.2015

Lewis & Clark Public Health
Inclusive Walk Audit Facilitator Training
Newly trained Inclusive Walk Audit Facilitators split 42 people into 3 multidisciplinary teams of Coalition members and guests from other communities participating in the Inclusive Healthy Community Design workshop.
Next Steps

- Plan completed in March 2017
- Coalition members reviewing and strategizing order of tasks
- Preparing for plan adoption by jurisdictions
- Technical Assistance from app developer to make signs readable by people who are blind or with low vision
- Implementing demonstration project for key route in Helena
Thank you!

For more information contact:

Karen Lane
klane@lccountyamt.gov
(406) 457-8960

Allison Mouch, AICP
allison@orionplanningdesign.com
(419) 297-1604