Walkability & Safety

Colin O’Brien
Director of Operations
T. Cooper Inc.
www.tcooperinc.com
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

“The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement in the quality of life.”

Timothy D. Crowe
National Crime Prevention Institute
CPTED Principles

• Natural Surveillance
  – Lighting / Landscaping / Line of sight
• Natural Access Control
  – Wayfinding / Pedestrian Scale / Landscaping
  – Traffic Calming / Pedestrian Movement
• Territorial Reinforcement
  – Creating a sense of ownership / Define space
• Maintenance & Management
Where does walkability and CPTED intersect?

Answer: Everywhere
Sidewalks & Paths

- Normally minimal planning is put into sidewalks and paths during design and development.
- Ensuring proper width is critical to promoting safe walkable communities.
- Incorporating lighting and landscaping into path design is an essential step in creating safe spaces.
- Design to promote use by multiple population segments.
- Can be used to define space, assist in controlling access, and assist in wayfinding.
- Think outside the box. *Maps/directions can be painted in the paths or advertisement space.
- Consult with CPTED practitioners in design phase
- Maintenance is often overlooked.
Ideal Walking Conditions

– More users equals more potential witnesses.
– Positive activity generators.
– Criminals do not like being observed.

- Incorporating landscaping and lighting design with proper paths and sidewalks increase the ability of security systems.
- Enhances police and fire response.
- Discourages criminal and nuisance activity.
- Adds to property values.
Additional considerations

• Lighting
  – Ensure that lighting conforms to IES standards.
  – Uniformity and Quality of light.
  – Light trespass

• Landscaping
  – Ground cover plants no more than 2 feet in height.
  – Trees ensure canopy is at least 6 feet from the ground.

• Maintenance
  – Repair paths and sidewalks as needed.
  – Ensure lights are operable.
  – Tree trimming and debris removal.

• Wayfinding
  – Paths and sidewalks can contain directions or distances.
Questions?

Colin O’Brien
cobrien@tcooperinc.com
(410) 302-3640