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Walkable Communities

20 years strong AMERICA WALKS

July 2018

Autonomous Vehicles Are On the Move: First Step, Show Up

They say most of life is showing up. We're drawing inspiration from this sentiment when it comes to **putting people first in** the growing movement of autonomous vehicles (AVs) and other emerging technology. The leaders of this industry readily admit that **fatal errors will be made**. It is our responsibility to show up and speak up that even one death is too high a cost.



One way we did that recently is by attending the Federal Highway Administration dialogue about the introduction of new technology to the American streetscape. We saw a concerning lack of pedestrian, bike, and community advocacy voices inside these discussions. Accountability for safety, equity and transparent data is paramount so these serious issues aren't simply **swept under the rug**.

It's Time To Show Up. Will You Join Us?

- The FHWA has four more workshop series. **Register here.**
- **Urge your legislators** to consider their approach to self-driving cars. **Read the letter we sent here.**
- Prompt spirited dialogue on emerging technology accountability in your professional, social, and community circles. **Be inspired by our people-first principles.**

Seeing Headlines About "Distracted Walking"?

America Walks is alarmed by the growing trend of victim-blaming and distracted walking narrative. Help us stay vigilant in speaking out against this messaging in the media with [our new sample template and related resources](#) to call out this distraction from safety.



Celebrate a Lifetime of Discovery!

This July, celebrate **A Lifetime of Discovery** with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) for Park and Recreation Month! NRPA challenges you to redefine how you think about your local parks and rec and explore the many "undiscovered" offerings - like science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programming, senior programs, innovative health and wellness opportunities, flood mitigation, and so much more! You can celebrate by heading out to your favorite local park, rec center or pool during July and sharing photos via social media using #DiscoverJuly. **You can learn more about how to get involved by visiting NRPA's website.**

America Walks, along with other lead organizations Healthy Places by Design and National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), celebrated this month with the #Walk4Change monthly theme, "Change Your Parks and Trails." **Be inspired by work being done to expand trail use by a Community Change grantee.**

America Walks Hosts Walkability Workshops in Alabama



Participants performed a walk audit, learned from expert speakers, and discussed ways to improve walkability. [Read more about the workshop here.](#) Photo Credit: National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD)

Movers and Shakers at America Walks

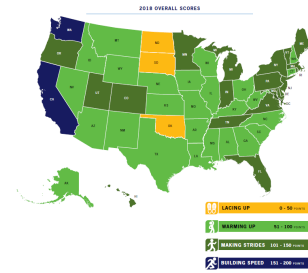
Changes are underway at America Walks! We welcomed new program coordinator, **Crystal Bowne**. Crystal will be working on the new **Road to Zero Safe Systems program** as well as other work. In other staff changes, Heidi Simon was named Deputy Director, a role that will allow her to continue to develop program, communications, and partnership initiatives for America Walks.

Our board also took a step forward. America Walks' newest board member **Anita Bennison** joined us earlier this summer. [Read about her passion for walking here.](#)

The Grades Are In

Safe Routes to School National Partnership recently released their 2018 report cards on active kids and communities.

[Read about how your state measured up in this guest blog post.](#)



Mark Those Calendars

- August 8: Slower speeds are a critical component to reducing pedestrian fatalities. Learn more at ["Act Fast: The Growing Call for Slower Speeds"](#) at 2pm Eastern.
- August 9: Join America Walks and partners in our [#Walk4Change Twitter Chat](#). [Find us on Twitter here.](#)
- September 26: Hear how walking advocates can be partners and allies for people with disabilities in our next Walking Towards Justice episode, ["Connecting and Alying with the Disability Rights Movement."](#)

#Walk4Change
TWITTER CHAT

JOIN US!
Thursday,
August 9th
1pm EST

@americawalks
@walkwithadoc
@NewUrbanism
@NRPA_news
@HPlacesbyDesign
@SafeRoutesNow

Every Body **WALK!**

Content We Loved This Month

- [What Does It Mean To Build a Vibrant Community? - Strong Towns](#)

- **Opportunities for Walkability in Rural Communities and Small Towns - *America Walks***
- **The Art of Walking in L.A - *New York Times***
- **Walking This Much Per Week Extends Your Life - *Blue Zones***
- **Let's Reconnect With Our Streets - *New York Times***

Want to Be Featured?

We want to see beautiful images of walking in your community!

Send us your captivating photos of special events, everyday walking, and anything that reflects what walking means to your town for possible inclusion in a future newsletter or other publication. **Email your photos with caption info to Heidi Simon.**



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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