The Stakes Have Never Been Higher

All of us understand the importance of walking in creating safer, healthier, more equitable communities. The decision on the part of the federal government to exit the Paris climate accord should bring new attention to the fundamental role the shape of our communities and our transportation networks has in ensuring our planet's continued viability. Mayors and other policymakers should take this as an opportunity for a renewed and aggressive focus for investing in walkable, bikeable, transit-rich places. Read America Walks' recent statement on climate change here.

Designing for Inclusive Health

America Walks and our partner, the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability-Lakeshore Foundation, congratulate the first recipients of our new microgrant program targeting projects that support making healthier choices easier for all. We look forward to seeing the work that Access Portsmouth (of New Hampshire), Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community (in Duluth, MN), and the Hanover County Health Department (in Ashland, VA) do to ensure that people living with disabilities continue to have access to opportunities for physical activity and engaging in their communities. Read more about their plans here. This work is being done as part of the Partnership for Inclusive Health.

Still wondering why you should attend the National Walking Summit?
Check out these interviews with some of the speakers appearing at the conference from the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, who weigh in on such topics as using walking as a means to fight oppression; shifting the culture in favor of walking through children; and getting youth involved in important transportation planning conversations. Then read America Walks’ guest blog post in SaludToday about how creating walkable communities should be a vital component of any conversation concerning social equity. Don’t wait to register - early bird registration closes on July 15!

Join Us In St. Paul for the 2017 National Waking Summit
Early Bird Registration Discount Available Until July 15

Help Us Kick Off Our Birthday Celebration

The next installment in our free webinar series will take place July 26th at 2 p.m. eastern time and will look back at the history of America Walks. Registration is now open for “Celebrating 20 Years of Making America a Great Place to Walk.” Join in and learn about how far we’ve come and where we’re headed on our mission to create safe, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk and be active.

Alabama Workshop Focuses on Coordination, Implementation

More than 45 people, representing state agency staff, non-profit organizations, and other local officials, attended our June 16th Alabama State Collaborative Workshop on Walkable Communities. Participants identified the assets they bring to new initiatives focused on walkability and brainstormed strategies on which they can work together. During a break in thunderstorms, walkability audits were completed in several different Montgomery neighborhoods close to the state capitol. The workshops resulted in the creation of a subcommittee to help promote walkability, as you can read here.

Making the Case for Walking

Want to learn more about how data, mapping and other assessment tools can help make the case for walkability? A recording of our June webinar "Tracking the Walking Path: Tools and Programs to Measure Walking and Walkability" is now available here.
Some Reading and Listening Material:

- Dr. Jim Sallis argues in this recent guest blog post that the proliferation of motorized transportation devices should be on the radar of walking advocates given the increasing competition this expanding technology presents for ever-dwindling safe rights of way.

- Wendy Landman, executive director of Walk Boston and an America Walks board member, responds in a radio interview to recent controversial comments by her city’s mayor that she says highlight a troubling trend in the national discourse in which pedestrians and bicyclists are too often blamed for injuries and fatalities.

- Jay Walljasper explores the Positive Power of Walking with his latest piece. Community connections, social equity, a sense of well-being, business opportunities, affordable housing, more choices for kids and older people, a cleaner environment—these are some of the benefits of walkable places.

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Main Street America is soliciting proposals for its 2018 Main Street Now conference**, to be held March 26-28 in Kansas City, Missouri.

- **Propose a presentation** for the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in St. Louis, MO in February 2018.

- **Head to Banff, Canada with Active Living Research for their 2018 conference by submitting an abstract.**

Help Make Every Community a Walkable Community

Our Donors

America Walks would like to thank those individuals and organizations who have made donations to America Walks in the previous month. We are grateful for their support of this publication and all of the work we do to make America a great place to walk.


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!
