

Support Walkable Communities

20 years strong AMERICA WALKS

February 2019

Walking the Road to Zero

Traffic fatalities in Richmond have risen steadily over the last four years, painting an all too familiar picture of communities across the United States in a particular position to protect more vulnerable populations of pedestrians – amid a backdrop of complex social issues.

America Walks, in partnership with UNC Highway Safety Research Center, has been working on its **Safer Systems Program** since the early fall. You could call it the exact opposite of a one-size-fits-all approach. On the blog this month, in *Walking the Road to Zero*, we featured Sarah Shaughnessy, Community Health Planner for the Richmond City Health Department and a **member of the 2018 Road to Zero cohort**. Read along as she details the safe systems solutions that will activate collaborative traffic safety changes in these communities, and operate as a potential model for addressing inequities in your walkable community work too.



[Read The Full Blog Here](#)

Don't miss out on the other great content on the blog this month. We're visiting with Walking College fellows who are **creating changes in the community** and **building connections**. Read the blogs and then be inspired to **finish that Walking College application**. We're extending the application deadline to Monday, March 4th at 9am Eastern.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Ushers in New Leadership

America Walks sends its heartfelt appreciation to **Keith Laughlin, now former president and CEO of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC)**. Keith contributed greatly to the progress and preservation of trails and greenways and active transportation for the last 18 years before retiring this month. Our Executive Director, Kate Kraft, was honored to give some parting words at his retirement party.

Ryan Chao became president of RTC and will oversee the organization's national leadership in trail development, policy advocacy, and movement building. We're thrilled to welcome and work with Ryan in the future.



We Need A More Walkable Green New Deal

A climate debate is heating up in Washington with the introduction of the Green New Deal. There are a wide range of opinions regarding the urgency and nature of interventions needed, but building walkable places is a 'no regrets' piece of the puzzle. See why we think putting people first, by calling out walking and other forms of active transportation, is essential. [Read our full statement on the Green New Deal here.](#)

Get to Know America Walks' Newest Board Member

We're making major strides in the walking movement with powerful change agents supporting us behind the scenes. America Walks' newest board member **Greg Miao** joined us earlier this month.

Greg is all about planning and the built environment. His areas of interest include promoting active living; creating equitable and inclusive parks; preserving, protecting, and producing healthy housing; and working to ensure people have access to clean and safe water. [Read why Greg is invested in empowering communities](#) to create safe, accessible, and enjoyable walking conditions for all.



Mark Those Calendars

- **February 28th:** TODAY is the last day to apply to The Walking College, our online educational program for walkable community advocates. [Complete your application here by February 28th.](#)
 - **March 9–12th:** The 20th Annual National Bike Summit takes place in Arlington, VA and Washington, D.C. If you are a government or business-based bicycle advocate, university bike advocate, bicycle club leader, or an individual who loves to bike, [find out more here.](#)
 - **March 13th:** [Register for our next webinar, *Stronger Together: Partnering with the Disability Rights Movement.*](#) We'll explore the power of partnerships between walkability advocates and the disability rights movement.
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Content We Loved This Month

- [Native American Pedestrians Have Highest Death Rate](#) / *Streetsblog*
- [State of Main: Place and Community](#) / *Main Street America*
- [What I Do: Work Toward a More Walkable America](#) / *Forest Hills Connection*
- [My Year of Walking Daily](#) / *Every Body Walk! Collaborative*

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