

April 2020

## 20<sup>years strong</sup> AMERICA WALKS

### Share the Story of Your Shared Streets

20<sup>years strong</sup>  
AMERICA  
WALKS

SUPPORT SAFE,  
SHARED STREETS

#SUPPORTSHAREDSTREETS

From people-first positivity to the dangers of ableism and racial injustice, **America Walks** wants to read, see, hear, and feature the stories of your current shared streets.

SHARE YOUR STORY

- To [info@americawalks.org](mailto:info@americawalks.org) or via [americawalks.org](http://americawalks.org)
- Tag @americawalks on Facebook & Twitter using the #supportsharedstreets hashtag

How are *your* streets being shared? It is clear that too many Americans lack the people-first street design to stay apart, safe, and healthy during this COVID-19 pandemic. Racial, ability, and income disparities have been made even more obvious as we see striking community differences in accessible and safe places for walking and moving.

The differences are sparking important and needed conversations and actions for how we can better share our streets. There is an urgent need for mobility justice and active transportation solutions that work for all.

We want to hear from you. Is your community working to close these gaps around access and safety through shared or open street policies? Share your story with us for a chance to be featured. Click the button below to enter through our storytelling template or:

- Email your story to [info@americawalks.org](mailto:info@americawalks.org) including quotes, blog ideas, photos, and videos
- Tag @americawalks with your stories on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #supportsharedstreets

SUBMIT YOUR SHARED STREETS STORY



Share



Tweet



Share

# REGISTER FOR OUR MAY WEBINAR

## *Walking and Walkability in the Time of COVID-19: New Policies and Practices*



James F. Sallis, PhD  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus  
Family Medicine / Public Health at UC San Diego



Destiny N. Thomas, PhD  
CEO of Thrivance Project



Don Kostelec, AICP  
Veteran Transportation Planner



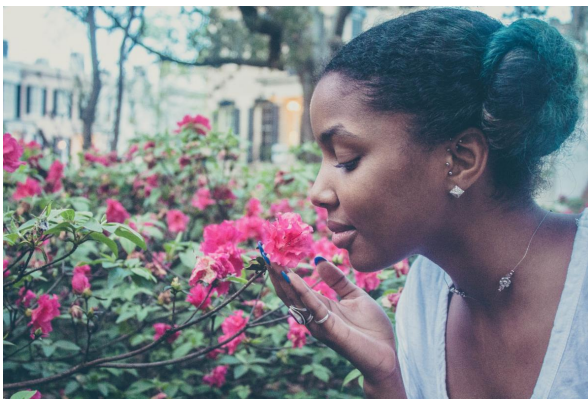
Allison Arief  
Editorial Director at SPUR



The pandemic has created new realities for every aspect of our lives. This webinar will explore how walking and walkable community advocacy have been affected by physical distancing, stay-at-home orders, a slower economy, and racial and economic disparities in the impact of the virus. Panelists will discuss why it's especially important to stay active right now, how new policies and practices might help you do so safely, and what we can all learn about the future of the national walking movement and social justice issues in the face of this crisis.

**REGISTER HERE** for the May 13, 2020, 2 pm Eastern / 11 am Pacific, free webinar: *Walking and Walkability in the time of COVID-19: New Policies and Practice.*

### Physical Activity Can Be Helpful in the Coronavirus Pandemic



Our latest guest blog explores the scientific validations for why moving and walking is critical in this times.

America Walks also acknowledges the often inherent access, privilege, and ableist issues or tones that can be associated with broad recommendations around physical activity. Especially at a time when people may be fearful to leave their homes and not have enough room or resources to safely walk, move, and be physically active in their community. We see you, and continue our work to support the dismantling of these barriers.

[Read the Blog](#)

### How Coronavirus Might Make Walking Easier in the Future



Public pushbuttons may be taking on a new dimension.

As is so often the case in road system design, the decision for signal controllers to default to pedestrians having to push them is driven by the desire to minimize delay for vehicles. But in some US cities, this is changing.

Read more about these changes on our blog, *Bringing Back "Automatic Pedestrian Recall": How Coronavirus Might Make Walking Easier in the Future.*

Photo Credit: Carrie Turner, @carrieturnerphotography

## Mark Those Calendars:

**May 13, 2020**– [Register now](#) for America Walks free webinar: Walking and Walkability in the time of COVID-19: New Policies and Practice.

**May 20, 2020** – [Register now](#) for Webinar II of Rural Design Webinar Series: The Role of Design in the Time of COVID-19.

**June 3rd, 2020** – [Register now](#) for America Walks free webinar: In Praise of Walking: A New Scientific Exploration – a conversation with author and neuroscientist Shane O'Mara.

**June 10th, 2020** – [Register now](#) for America Walks free webinar: Enhancing Walkable Spaces Through Public Art.

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## Content We Loved This Month:

- [Opinion: How to Save Summer 2020](#) / *New York Times*
- [Strategic design can help car-free streets gain popularity post-coronavirus](#) / *Smart Cities Dive*
- [Global Learnings for the U.S. Vision Zero Movement](#) / *Vision Zero Network*
- [Absent Traffic Jams, Many Drivers Getting More Reckless](#) / *Governors Highway Safety Association*
- [Slow Miles: Walking as Spiritual Practice](#) / *Elisa Morgan Blog*
- [Enforcing Social Distancing](#) / *Toole Design Group*
- [We Shouldn't Have to Say This: Expanding Sidewalks Does Not Spread COVID-19](#) / *Streetsblog USA*
- [Better Block Recipe Library](#) / *Citizens' Institute on Rural Design*
- [Unusual Bedfellows: Expanding and Developing New and Different Partnerships](#) / *America Walks*
- [From Victim Blaming to Solutions: Changing the Narrative About Traffic Crashes](#) / *Pedal Love*
- [Milan announces ambitious scheme to reduce car use after lockdown](#) / *The Guardian*
- [New Rules for Social Distancing While Walking](#) / *America Walks*

Feel free to use these graphics by America Walks and Jen Udler, a walk-and-talk therapist with Positive Strides Therapy:

## NEW RULES FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING WHILE WALKING

## NEW RULES FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING WHILE WALKING



### EXPAND YOUR AWARENESS

Be more aware of those around you than usual.



### BIKERS, BEWARE!

Bikers (and other riders or rollers), please announce your imminent arrival.

### STAY TO YOUR RIGHT

If you see someone walking towards you, stay as far to your right as possible.



### DISMOUNT IF NEEDED

Bikers, (and other riders or rollers) please also maintain a safe 6-foot distance while passing. If you must dismount, and stand on the grass, please do so.



### LOOK AHEAD IF YOU CAN

Try to look ahead, and see if you need to cross the street to avoid a run-in.



### GET HANDS ON

Using clear hand motions that indicate where you are going, can be helpful.

### IF POSSIBLE, SAFELY MOVE OFF THE PATH

If the path is less than 6-feet wide, try to stand off the path at a safe distance.



### GIVE THE RIGHT OF WAY

If someone is clearly older or less mobile than you, please give them the appropriate right of way.



### ANTICIPATE RUNNERS

When a faster jogger is approaching you from the rear, move off the path to allow them to pass if possible.



### ANTICIPATE CHILDREN

If you see a young child, keep in mind, that they may not understand what is going on. It's also quite possible that they did not read this list! Please also give them the right of way.

### COMMUNICATE "PASSING"

If you are the faster jogger, politely call out "passing on your left".



### BE A FELLOW HUMAN

Smile, be friendly, go out of your way to say "hello", "good morning", or "nice day out". We are still social beings, and there's nothing unsafe about a friendly greeting!



THANK YOU FOR SAFELY SHARING PATHS, SIDEWALKS AND STREETS

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Support Walkable Communities