

August 2020

20 years strong AMERICA WALKS

OUR HEARTS ARE WITH THE FAMILY OF JACOB BLAKE, WHO WAS RECENTLY SHOT 7 TIMES IN THE BACK BY POLICE. THERE IS NO WALKABLE COMMUNITY, INDEED NO COMMUNITY AT ALL, UNLESS BLACK LIVES MATTER.

OUR MISSION IS NOT SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS - AT HEART WE ARE A PROJECT TO LIFT UP OUR DIGNITY AND COMMON HUMANITY THROUGH COMMUNITY BUILDING BY LOCAL ADVOCATES. WE ARE DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING THE NATIONWIDE EFFORT TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY RACISM. PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO COMMUNICATE WITH US ABOUT THIS AS WE CONTINUE TO WORK TO INTERROGATE THE NOTION OF 'WHOSE STREETS?'.



MAPS OF PEDESTRIAN CRASHES ARE MAPS OF INEQUALITY

- Angie Schmitt

We are honored to host the upcoming webinar that dives into [Angie Schmitt's](#) new book, *Right of Way: Race, Class, and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America*. [Charles T. Brown](#), MPA, will be hosting the webinar and has been gracious to share the foreword of the book with us all. Charles is a senior researcher with the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) and adjunct professor at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, both at Rutgers University. He is also a long-time America Walks Board Member.

As one of the nation's leading voices and thought leaders in transportation equity, I have devoted my entire career to creating equitable, healthy, and sustainable communities. In doing so, I have been methodical and intentional in the use of my power, my pen, and privilege to highlight and humanize the disparities and injustices faced by historically disadvantaged population groups in the United States.

As a racialized black planner and street-level researcher, I am often called upon by many in the industry to offer ways to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in North America. Although most of the brainstorming focuses on the normative experiences of the general population, I am deliberate in encouraging additional analyses across varying and intersecting social identities such as income, race, ethnicity, ability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, and religious affiliation.

At the nexus of this unwavering fight for justice and truth-telling is the genesis of my appreciation and admiration for my dear sister Angie Schmitt...

”

MOST BLACK COMMUNITIES ARE ALREADY BUILT FOR WALKING

- Andre Perry



KNOW YOUR PRICE: VALUING
BLACK LIVES AND PROPERTY
IN AMERICA'S BLACK CITIES -
A CONVERSATION WITH
AUTHOR ANDRE PERRY

We love the above quote from this month's webinar, Know Your Price: Valuing Black Lives and Property in America's Black Cities – a conversation with Author Andre Perry.

So the work remains – to invest in assets proximate to Black people, to build trust through investment and to make "place" for the people who already live there.

Perry notes, we work under the thick white supremacist myth that presumes the conditions of black communities and neighborhoods are a direct result of the people in them. Learn Perry's research and stories that prove this to be an unabashed, racist untruth.

”

NATIVE WOMEN ARE 10 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE
MURDERED THAN ANY OTHER GROUP OF WOMEN
IN THE COUNTRY. MOST OF THESE CASES ARE
IGNORED BY AUTHORITIES EVERY SINGLE YEAR.

- Congresswoman Deb Haaland

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**WALKING TOWARDS
JUSTICE IN INDIAN
COUNTRY: MISSING AND
MURDERED INDIGENOUS
WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Part two in the Walking Towards Justice in
Indian Country series



And many of these abductions take place when the victim is walking along a highway.

In our latest Walking Towards Justice in Indian Country webinar, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, this is the question that Congresswoman Deb Haaland left us with: If any group of women living in a major American city faced murder rates 10x the national average, what do you think the public response would be?

Walkability is intersectionally rooted in the MMIWG epidemic. As walking advocates we have an urgent responsibility to learn and act on it. Please watch and share this webinar.

Transit Needs Help More Than Ever. Tell Congress.



As millions continue to stay home from work and school, public transportation ridership has flatlined, taking fare revenues with it. Combined with increased costs for additional cleaning and with the economy quickly coming to a halt, all of the funding sources that sustain our transit systems have evaporated, even as many essential workers and others continue to rely on it.

Let Congress know that at least \$32 billion in emergency operating support for transit must be included in the next relief package. Transit is essential for the thrivability and connectedness of walkable communities. This support cannot wait.

Take Action Now



Libraries. Our Long Lost Soul Mates?

Amid our pandemic summer we've seen an explosion of socially distanced walking and moving activity programs fueled by leading local libraries.

Read this guest blog by Noah Lenstra, Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and head of the Let's Move in Libraries initiative, and take in these invigorating stories. How might you harness the power of public libraries to transform your community?

Read the Blog

Mark Those Calendars:

September 8th– America Walks Webinar: A Conversation with Angie Schmitt: Right of Way: Race, Class, and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America. [Register here.](#)

September 15–16th– AARP Livable Communities Transportation Workshop. [Sign up here.](#)

September 16th– America Walks Webinar: Youth Leading the Way: Inspiring Stories of Youth Creating Safe and Accessible Space. [Register here.](#)

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AMERICA WALKS' WEBINAR

YOUTH LEADING THE WAY: INSPIRING STORIES OF YOUTH CREATING SAFE, ACCESSIBLE NEIGHBORHOODS

Register at www.americawalks.org
Tuesday, September 16th 2020 2PM EST

Content of the Month:

- [Back to School 2020 Recommendations for Safe Routes to School Programming](#) / *Safe Routes Partnership*
- [ADA and other programs to protect vulnerable groups benefit everyone](#) / *State Smart Transportation Initiative*
- [When a Daily Walk Becomes an Act of Radical Self-Care—And an Honoring of Black History](#) / *Vogue*
- [The Life-Saving Car Technology No One Wants](#) / *Bloomberg CityLab*
- [The New Normal Community Walks Safe Walking Guide](#) / *Walk 2 Connect*
- [Why walking to work may be better for you than a casual stroll](#) / *Ohio State News*
- [Racism has shaped public transit, and it's riddled with inequities](#) / *Rice | Kinder Institute for Urban Research*

Thank you all for taking part in our themed Walk Audit – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly – at this year's virtual Walk/Bike/Places Conference. Here are a few of our favorite submissions:



THE BAD

**WALKER (ME)
ON GRASS +
BIKER (LADY
IN PINK) ON
SIDEWALK**

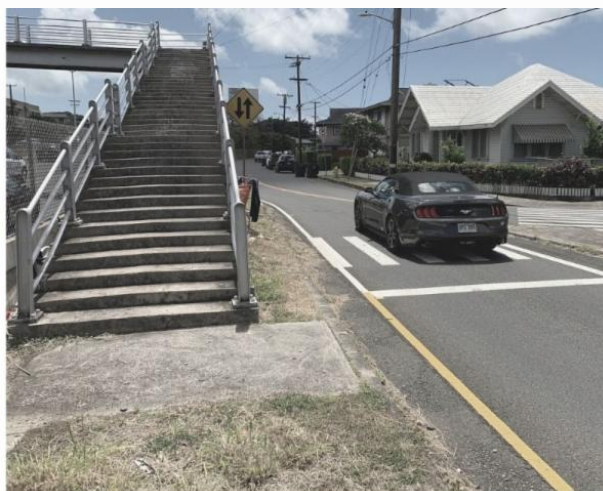
**NO BIKE
LANES ON
ROAD**



#WalkAuditsWBP

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Healthier Jupiter Walk Audit
@HTJupiterPBC



#WalkAuditsWBP

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Isenberg Street Walk Audit @colbcuts

America Walks Thanks 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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HELP US INNOVATE, STORYTELL AND
CREATE IN NEW WAYS.**

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