

September 2020



Help Us Celebrate Achievements and Build for the Future

Amid a time of charged transition for the walking movement, America Walks is going through changes too. Kate Kraft—after five years as our outstanding Executive Director, eight years with the organization and a career of pioneering leadership in active living—is retiring. Mike McGinn, a longtime advocate for walkable communities and the former mayor of Seattle, has joined America Walks as our new Executive Director.

To honor Kate's illustrious legacy and look to the future of the walking movement we are inviting you to join us for a virtual celebration. Special guest speaker [Pramila Jayapal](#), Congresswoman and Co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, will give us a clear picture on important national intersections to the walking movement, and [Toks Omishakin](#), Director of Caltrans, will provide an invaluable perspective from leading a state DOT.

We will also raise funds through the party to support our work to help more communities become walkable and movable and to amplify the diverse voices of our movement calling for change and offering creative solutions. A donation of at least \$25 is encouraged to attend. To make your donation go further, ***we have secured a matching fund that will double every dollar that you give between now and the party.***

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 29th at 7:30 eastern, 4:30 pacific time.

Register for the Event and
Donate



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AMERICA WALKS INVITES YOU TO MARK A MILESTONE

**HELP US CELEBRATE
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF KATE KRAFT
AND THE FUTURE OF THE
WALKING MOVEMENT**



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS PRAMILA JAYAPAL, CO CHAIR OF
THE CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS, AND
TOKS OMISHAKIN, DIRECTOR OF CALTRANS

JOIN IN DIALOGUE WITH OTHER WALKABILITY LEADERS
AND OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIKE MCGINN

SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2020 • 4:30PM PST / 7:30PM EST
A ONE-HOUR VIRTUAL ZOOM EVENT

[Register for the event by clicking here.](#)

Suggested donations of \$25 are encouraged.

A lot of times when people jaywalk they're behaving rationally.

As Charles Brown put it during the webinar, you all broke the America Walks internet earlier this month on, *Right of Way: Race, Class, and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America* – a conversation with author Angie Schmitt.

Thank you for packing the house on this critical topic. If you missed it, you can check out the full recording and access related resources by clicking below.

RIGHT OF WAY



Race, Class, and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America – a conversation with author Angie Schmitt & Charles Brown

The feds can do a better job addressing pedestrian safety.

Research and analysis tells us how to reduce deaths and serious injuries to pedestrians, but there has not been the political will to implement the changes needed. Those in charge have spent too much time focusing on changing individual behaviors, rather than focusing on the built infrastructure and systemic flaws that are generating death and injuries. That includes over reliance on police enforcement that is particularly problematic given racial profiling and police brutality against Black and Brown Americans.

Read our full remarks and feel free to borrow this graphic.

Read Our Full Recommendations to the
USDOT



WHAT WE THINK THE USDOT SHOULD FOCUS ON

recommendations from America Walks / Mike McGinn

20 years strong
**AMERICA
WALKS**

#1

Design roads and streets to put people and safety first, and stop prioritizing the number of cars moved as the measure of roadway success.

#2

Reduce speeds through lower speed limits and road design that require drivers to exercise greater caution and care.

#3

Invest in the places and neighborhoods bearing the brunt of this pedestrian safety crisis.

*the federal government is in a
unique position to spur dramatic
transformation – if it so chooses*

#4

Confront the fact that larger cars with massive front grills means more pedestrian deaths and injuries. These cars should be regulated with an eye to the safety of vulnerable street users, not just the safety of the auto occupants.

#5

Use USDOT's power to address not just US highways, but the roads of states and towns that use federal funding. That power was successfully used before on state drinking ages, state speed limits, and right turn on red laws. That power should be used now to stop the growing carnage on our streets.

#6

Set targets, evaluate progress, and hold USDOT and others accountable to actual outcomes. It is not sufficient to set various processes, policies and programs moving forward without measuring effectiveness. Again, there is sufficient data and experience with road safety to know what actually works to save lives and prevent tragic injuries.



A "stupid" project? Or a really good one?



Walking College Fellow Scot Key wrote this brilliant guest blog/photo essay, *The Pandemic Ate My Homework: The "Stupid" Project*, to illustrate his grand undertaking of a great Walking Action Plan.

Find out why his project is so darn "stupid", and get an up-close-and-personal look at what a Walking College Action Plan actually looks like. As always, you can [learn more about the Walking College by clicking here](#). Please share this opportunity with those who you know have some really "stupid" ideas. We need as many as we can get!

Read the
Blog



PED Talks Episode 3: GirlTrek's Vanessa Garrison

In our latest PED Talks episode, Kate Kraft interviews GirlTrek's co-founder and COO Vanessa Garrison.

Learn why Vanessa started GirlTrek, why self care is a radical act for black women, and why at its core, GirlTrek continues to be a driving force in evolving the walking movement – with nearly 854K+ members strong. And that includes 10,000 formally trained public health advocates, now organizing on behalf of GirlTrek. You don't want to miss this episode.



AMERICA WALKS
ANNUAL GRANT SERIES



COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS ARE COMING

SAVE THE DATE:
OCTOBER 5TH, 2020



Mark Those Calendars:

September 30th – Youth Leading the Way: Inspiring Stories of Youth Creating Safe, Accessible Neighborhoods. [Learn more about the panelists and register by clicking here.](#)

The entire month of October is Pedestrian Safety Month– NHTSA is providing all kinds of activities, tools and resources for promoting people–first safety, [click here to access them.](#)

The entire month of October is Maryland Department of Transportation's WALKtober. [Register for their upcoming Walkinars by clicking here.](#)

Oct 5th – Applications open to apply for one of our annual Community Change Grants – \$1,500 awards to innovative, creative and inclusive community projects that curate more safe, enjoyable, walkable experiences. We'll send you the materials to apply soon! Check out past projects and get a feel for the application by [clicking here.](#)

Oct 14th– America Walks Webinar: The Black Butterfly: The Harmful Politics of Race and Space in America Author Conversation with Lawrence T. Brown. [Register by clicking here.](#)



**WALKABILITY IS MORE THAN
JUST INFRASTRUCTURE.
IT'S ABOUT SHIFTING OUR
CULTURE TO APPRECIATE THE
VALUE OF WALKING
AND BIKING.**

- JACK KELLY

Senior at Shenendehowa High School
in Clifton Park, New York who is creating a
walkability committee in his community.

*Jack is one of four panelists on our upcoming webinar, Youth Leading the
Way: Inspiring Stories of Youth Creating Safe, Accessible Neighborhoods*

Content of the Month:

- [Anger Hits Streets in NYC, Chicago; Two Cops Shot: Protest Wrap](#) / *City Lab*
- [Identifying and Addressing Barriers to Physical Activity in the Black Community](#) / *NACDD*
- [Guest Column: 'Walking School Buses' Need To Be Part of Schools' Reopening Plans](#) / *Streetsblog Mass*
- [Walking is Increasingly Deadly, and Not Because People are on Their Phones](#) / *Curbed*
- ['Walk and Talk' Might Be The Future of Therapy](#) / *Elemental*
- [Report: 2020 Roadway Deaths are Way Higher Than Normal](#) / *Streetsblog USA*
- [Built Environment Approaches to Increase Physical Activity A Science Advisory From the American Heart Association](#) / *Circulation*

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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