

IMPACT REPORT



2022

A Few Words From

The Executive Director

**When I look back at 2022,
I can see the clear
connection to our efforts
in 2023. Let me explain:**



In 2022 we pushed USDOT to implement new rules for safer vehicles. USDOT responded and this year we rallied thousands to comment on proposed new vehicle safety standards.

In 2022 we highlighted the Week Without Driving campaign in Washington state. This year we are taking it national with 142 participating organizations.

In 2022 we became co-hosts of the Freeway Fighters Network, this year we hosted the first-ever national convening of grassroots freeway fighters.

In 2022 we partnered with the League of American Bicyclists and Safe Routes Partnership to support local efforts on active transportation, which led to joint work in 2023 providing technical assistance on how to win federal grants.

All of this while continuing to expand our training of local advocates through our national and state walking colleges, and our successful webinar series.

All of this connects to our theory of change. We work with local advocates on their most pressing issues, and together we are building a movement that can have impact at every level. Our greatest asset as an organization is the passion and commitment of people to a better future. Learn more about our work, and we look forward to working with you on safer, healthier and more equitable communities.

Issues That Matter

Building Better Streets

In 2022 we partnered with the League of American Bicyclists and Safe Routes Partnership to begin our Intersections Initiative to assist local groups working to obtain federal funding for safe streets.



Reconnecting Communities

America Walks led a coalition of 114 national, state, and local organizations asking USDOT to reject highway-oriented, business-as-usual applications to the Reconnecting Communities program - urging USDOT to instead select those that are restorative, transformative and community-driven.

Issues That Matter

Freedom to Move

Around 52 million Americans now live in places where jaywalking has been decriminalized in some form. America Walks worked with two organizations that successfully decriminalized jaywalking in 2022.

Safer Vehicles for Pedestrians

America Walks and its allies mobilized thousands of Americans to voice their support for safer vehicle designs that protect people on foot, on bikes, and using mobility devices as USDOT revises its Safety Ratings for New Vehicles. USDOT received 16,000 comments, over 40 times the amount received when the program was last updated in 2015.



Policy Round Table on Tribal Pedestrian Safety

In 2022, America Walks hosted a Policy Round Table on Tribal Pedestrian Safety. This event brought together more than 50 stakeholders to discuss the following problem statement:

"Tribal communities are often bisected by highways with high-speed traffic, which creates safety, health, and quality-of-life problems for residents."

Who Participated

Participants included advocates from Indigenous Communities, along with DOT officials. To ground the conversation in truth and reconciliation, there was an acknowledgment of harms and systemic racism intentionally targeting Indigenous People, resulting in a lack of trust between tribal communities and the U.S.



Photo Credit:
Michael Blankenship

Brainstorming Solutions to Address Community Harms

Engineering approaches focused on reducing vehicle speeds within communities by creating traffic-calming "gateways" and redesigning streets. Also discussed were the benefits of communities developing their own Tribal Pedestrian Safety Action Plans and exploring the new federal Reconnecting Communities program for possible funding.

At the end of the event, the group agreed to convene again (possibly, in person) to start moving from analysis to action.

Training the Next Generation of Advocates

State and National Walking Colleges

Our National Walking College graduated 18 fellows from our intensive six-month training program on how to be effective community change agents. Fellows learned about the inequitable history of our car-centric transportation networks as well as the policies and tools for creating change. Working with other members of their class and experienced mentors, they developed Walking Action Plans to serve as a blueprint for their work going forward. Our National Walking College is supported by the Centers for Disease Control as part of their Active People Healthy Nation program.



Inspired by its success, AARP's Livable Communities Program retained us to deliver Walking Colleges in Colorado, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Maine, Georgia, Alabama, and Texas, and the State of Arkansas separately supported a Walking College as well. We trained 100 advocates representing a wide range of rural, suburban, and urban communities. The new advocates' Walking Action Plans included projects such as "walking school buses", disability access, downtown revitalization plans, public space activation, and innovative communications - even a children's book about walkability!

Fellow Showcases

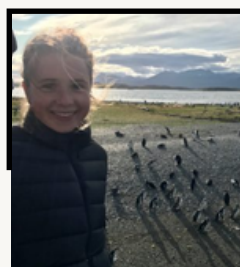
We are proud to share short biographies of a handful of our recent graduates, along with the problem they chose to tackle as part of their end-of-term action plans:



Tammy VuPham

Tammy is a parks and trails commissioner for her city. She became involved with pedestrian access after caretaking for her multigenerational family. With her background in human-centered design and social psychology,

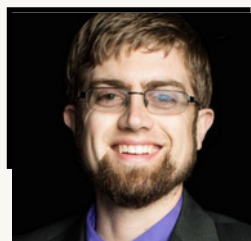
Tammy is interested in improving community mobility and well-being through the built environment. Her goal is to incorporate nature spaces within the growth of her city. She's also a backcountry guide in the Cascade Mountains and outdoor recreation advocate. Tammy's action plan aims to leverage the city's goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030 to favor of non-car transport.



Julia Mettler-Grove

Julia lives in Cleveland, Ohio and was first introduced to pedestrian advocacy in college. She is interested in universal design as a means of preventing pedestrian deaths and increasing the safety for all on the road. As

part of her Walking College experience, she was eager to learn about how to shift policy and create institutional change to support pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit users while improving her organizing and strategizing skills. Julia's action plan calls for the creation of a wayfinding initiative in Cleveland to connect neighborhoods with surrounding greenways.



Andy Fry

Andy lives with his wife and two daughters in Central Topeka, one of the more walkable areas in the community. He works for Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority. He works to make Topeka accessible to people

riding bicycles. This brought him to realize the need for solid pedestrian facilities as a root of a healthy community. All of these modes depend on the ability to walk and move on foot. Andy's action plan calls for the development of Walk-Bike Topeka, an advocacy organization bringing together existing individuals and groups working to promote active transportation to develop a cohesive strategy for making improvements.



Priya Patel

Priya was born and raised in Vadodara, India. After practicing as an architect in India, she immigrated to the US in 2016 to receive her dual master's in city planning and urban design from the UT at Austin. She now works as an

urban planner/designer for Black+Vernooy and is on the board of several advocacy groups. Priya's action plan is rooted in her move from Austin, Texas, where she was well-connected to like-minded individuals, to San Diego, CA, where she does not yet have a robust network. Her action plan outlines ways to build partnerships and identify opportunities for addressing the pressing mobility challenges confronting her new home.

Community Change Grants

Our Community Change Grants support the growing network of advocates, organizations, and agencies working to create change at the local level. Here are some examples of the engaging and and inclusive programs developed by passionate community advocates:



Maine Development Foundation

Maine Development Foundation works to gather baseline information from organizations engaged in active communities work around the State of Maine to capture what they are currently doing for work and what their needs are to continue their work. Maine's Statewide Active Communities Environment Working Group will use the findings to identify funding opportunities and partners to support these efforts statewide.

Turning Point Community Development Corporation

The overall goal of this project is to create an engaging and motivating outdoor space for learning, fitness, and leisure activities that improve the overall health and wellbeing of members of our region.

Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail and Trail

Put together a weeklong event spanning the county and bringing in organizations from the community that prioritize equity and the environment and contribute to safe walkable bike-able streets and robust public transportation. Coordinated with numerous local organizations as well as the National organizations, Labor Network for Sustainability, the NAACP, and the Sierra Club in order to put on National Transit Equity Day on February 4th, on the last day of the week of events.

Reaching More People With Our Message

An educated and activated public builds momentum for change. Here are some highlights from our 2022 communications.

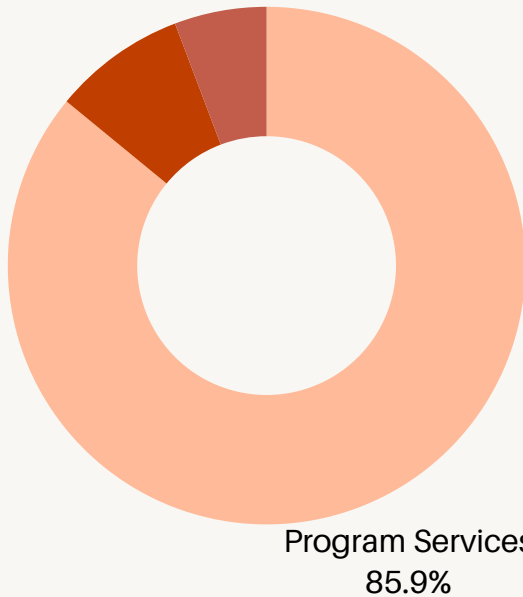


In 2022, we continued to grow our presence on all social media platforms. We hosted ten webinars with 7814 registrants on topics including reconnecting communities, vehicle safety for pedestrians, and the role of transportation in fighting climate change. We also generated thousands of comments to federal rulemaking through our action alerts, published ten editions of “Walkability Wins” and have a growing email list of 26,000.

Financials

\$1,305,761
Expense Total

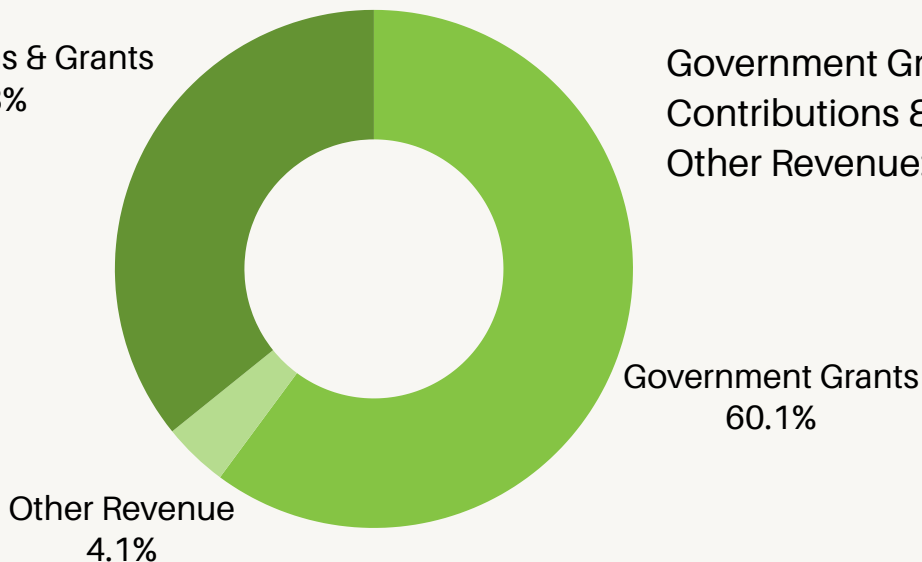
Management & General
8.3%



Program Services: \$1,122,155
Management & General: \$108,429
Fundraising: \$75,177

\$1,467,331
Revenue Total

Contributions & Grants
35.8%



Government Grants: \$882,236
Contributions & Grants: \$525,170
Other Revenue: \$59,925

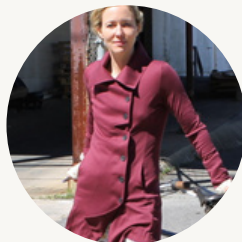
Staff



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