Crowdsourcing Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements through Walk Audits

2019 ITE Western District Annual Meeting
June 26, 2019
Walk Audits 101

- Conducted by community members to evaluate conditions on-the-ground
- Helps build an inventory of strengths and barriers to walking and bicycling
- Informs the development of recommendations for improvements
Walk Audit Objectives

- Promote community involvement
- Broaden input (demographics, experience, expertise)
- Receive input from likely users of the system (roadway, sidewalks, bike lanes, etc.)
Example Projects

- Metro Purple Line Extension – Section 2 & 3 First/Last Mile Plan

- Oceanside Coast Highway Corridor Study
Metro Purple Line Extension First/Last Mile Plan

- 5.15 mile subway extension in West Los Angeles
Walk Audits as a Planning Tool for First/Last Mile

- Participants of all ages and abilities
- Current and potential transit users
- Understand barriers and opportunities within ½ mile station radius
- Identify key destinations and potential pathways
Key Items for Participants to Remember

• Put yourself in other people’s shoes: Different abilities, ages, mode of travel

• **Safety**: How does it feel to walk and bike here? How does/would it feel at night?

• **Aesthetics**: How attractive is the station area to walking/biking?

• **Accessibility**: How is wheelchair, bike, scooter access? Is it easy to walk? Is it easy to be dropped off by car?

• **Transfers**: Is transferring to another mode easy, efficient, and intuitive?
Barriers
Strengths and Ideas

The image shows an urban scene with people walking and cycling along a sidewalk. The scene is designed to reduce emissions and improve air quality, which aligns with the goal of decreasing greenhouse gases. To achieve this, the city has implemented various measures such as bike lanes, pedestrian-friendly pathways, and green spaces. These initiatives not only improve the quality of life for residents but also contribute to a healthy environment.
Translating Input into Ideas

- Key station access routes
- Desire lines for travel
- Needed amenities
  - Wayfinding
  - Bike facilities
  - Improved crosswalks
- Lighting
- Landscaping & shade
Coast Highway Corridor Study

- 3.5 mile Complete Street road diet in Oceanside
Walk Audits as a Planning Tool for Complete Streets

- Residents, employees, and business owners
- Walkers/cyclists and non-walkers/cyclists
- Understand barriers and opportunities when walking and biking
- Differs from First/Last Mile in that we are not focused on a single specific origin/destination or trip purpose
- Select audit areas that are important to mobility and maybe a bit uncomfortable for walking and bicycling
Coast Highway Walk Audit

- Walking tour of about two miles
- Reviewed pedestrian conditions
- Over 50 participants

Coast Highway Walking Tour
Looking for a way to provide additional input on Coast Highway to the project team?

Join us for a walking tour of the project area on Saturday, February 22nd at 10:00am. We’ll walk the project area to discuss what works and what doesn’t work along the route, and you will be able to provide valuable feedback on what you would like to see in the area, which will be used to help inform the next stage of the project.

The tour will leave from the Oceanside Transportation Center tower located along Tremont Street at the entrance to the passenger drop-off loop (between Topeka Street and Michigan Avenue) at 10am, and last no more than 90 minutes. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring a bottle of water if desired.

In case of rain, the event will be moved to Saturday, March 1st at 10am at the same location.

For more information on the walking tour contact Bill Delo at (949) 833-5588 or bdelo@ibi-group.com
Coast Highway Walk Audit

Walk Audit Results

Participants were asked to rate aspects of the route on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest score possible, and 5 being the highest.

See the following pages for greater detail and breakdowns by route segment.

1. Sidewalks: Rate the quality of the sidewalks along the route
   Average Score 2.4

2. Street Crossings: Rate the quality of street crossings along the route
   Average Score 2.9

3. Driver Behavior: Rate the behavior of motorists along the route
   Average Score 3.5

4. Safety: Rate your perception of your personal safety along the route
   Average Score 3.5

5. Comfort and Appeal: Rate the route's overall appeal and walkability
   Average Score 2.4
### Walk Audit Stop 1: OTC-Topeka-Coast Highway

1. **Sidewalks**: Rate the quality of the sidewalks along this segment
   - 1: Sidewalks in poor condition - cracked, discontinuous, rusted, or too narrow
   - 2
   - 3: Sidewalks in fair condition overall - same cracks, discontinuities, or narrow segments
   - 4
   - 5: Sidewalks in excellent condition - overall
   - 6
   - 7: Average Score: 2.4

2. **Street Crossings**: Rate the quality of street crossings along this segment
   - 1: Poor overall - crossing area too wide, crossing width not maintained, no pedestrian signal
   - 2
   - 3: Fair overall - some improvements could be made to crossing areas
   - 4
   - 5: Excellent crossing environment and experience
   - 6
   - 7: Average Score: 3.0

3. **Driver Behavior**: Rate the behavior of motorists along this segment
   - 1: Drivers behaved poorly - driving too fast, did not yield, or were not paying attention
   - 2
   - 3: Some drivers behaved poorly
   - 4
   - 5: All drivers were well-behaved and respected pedestrians
   - 6
   - 7: Average Score: 3.5

4. **Safety**: Rate your perception of your personal safety along this segment
   - 1: Unsafe - hitting pedestrians, unsafe building design, etc.
   - 2
   - 3: Some unsafe areas, but safe overall
   - 4
   - 5: Completely safe
   - 6
   - 7: Average Score: 3.3

5. **Comfort and Appeal**: Rate this segment's overall appeal and walkability
   - 1: Completely unappealing - dirty, poorly lit, no shade or street plantings
   - 2
   - 3: Somewhat appealing - unattractive stretches, but comfortable overall
   - 4
   - 5: Very appealing - excellent lighting, cleanliness, and walkability
   - 6
   - 7: Average Score: 2.1

### Observations

6. **Observations**: What is the most pleasant element of this segment? What about it made it pleasant?

   - trees
   - fresh
   - nice
   - wide
   - go
d
   - street
   - buildings
   - cars
   - streets
   - etc.
   - sidewalk
   - plants
   - businesses
   - etc.

7. **Observations**: What is the most unpleasant element of this segment? What about it made it unpleasant?

   - unattractive
   - new
   - palm
   - ugly
   - street
   - parking
   - palm
   - citizens
   - condition
   - Board of
   - spruce
   - snow
   - street
   - apple
   - poison
   - palm
   - safety
   - conditions
   - Board
   - Board
   - Board
   - Board
   - Board
   - Board
   - Board
   - Board
Translating Input into Ideas

- Mid-block crosswalks – locations & attributes
- Auto traffic speeds – comfort/safety for pedestrians
- Landscaping and shade – improved walking environment

Recommendations:
- 10 new mid-block crosswalks
- Strategies to reduce traffic speed/conflict
  - Roundabouts
  - Narrowed travel lanes
  - Reduce number of unprotected left turns
- Enhancements to parkway, sidewalks
Lessons Learned

• Walk audits can multiply perspectives and input on walking and bicycling conditions

• Allows incorporation of diverse perspectives and opinions

• Great community involvement activity that builds engagement

• Helps provide justification for design decisions and prioritization
Thank you!