

Appendix B

Develop Safe Routes To School/ Community Assessment of Safety

How Walkable is Your Community?

Location of walk _____

Note: Rating of "1" is the "worst" review, while a rating of "6" is the best score

1. Did you have room to walk?

Some problems:

Sidewalks or paths started and stopped

Sidewalks were broken or cracked

Sidewalks were blocked with poles, signs, shrubbery, dumpsters, etc.

No sidewalks, paths, or shoulders

Too much traffic

Something else _____

Locations of problems: _____

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

2. Was it easy to cross streets?

Some problems:

Road was too wide

Traffic signals made us wait too long or did not give us enough time to cross

Needed striped crosswalks or traffic signals

Parked cars blocked our view of traffic

Trees or plants blocked our view of traffic

Needed curb ramps or ramps needed repair

Something else _____

Locations of problems: _____

Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

3. Did drivers behave well?

Some problems: Drivers...

Backed out of driveways without looking

Did not yield to people crossing the street

Turned into people crossing the street

Drove too fast

Sped up to make it through traffic lights or

drove through traffic lights?
Something else _____
Locations of problems: _____
Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

4. Was it easy to follow safety rules?

Could you and your child...

Cross at crosswalks or where you could see and be seen by drivers?
Stop and look left, right and then left again before crossing streets?
Walk on sidewalks or shoulders facing traffic where there were no sidewalks?
Cross with the light?
Locations of problems: _____
Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

5. Was your walk pleasant?

Some unpleasant things:

Needed more grass, flowers, or trees
Scary dogs
Scary people
Not well lighted
Dirty, lots of litter or trash
Dirty air due to automobile exhaust
Something else _____
Locations of problems: _____
Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6

How does your neighborhood stack up?

Add up your ratings and decide.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
Total _____

26-30 Celebrate! You have a great neighborhood for walking.
21-25 Celebrate a little. Your neighborhood is pretty good.
16-20 Okay, but it needs work.
11-15 It needs lots of work. You deserve better than that.
5-10 It's a disaster for walking!

Improving Your Community's Score...

	What you and your child can do immediately	What you and your community can do with more time
<p>1. Did you have room to walk?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalks or paths started and stopped • Sidewalks broken or cracked • Sidewalks blocked • No sidewalks, paths or shoulders • Too much traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pick another route for now • tell local traffic engineering or public works department about specific problems and provide copy of the checklist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speak up at board meetings • write or petition city for walkways and gather neighborhood signatures • make media aware of problem • work with a local transportation engineer to develop a plan for a safe walking route
<p>2. Was it easy to cross streets?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road too wide • Traffic signals made us wait too long or did not give us enough time to cross • Crosswalks/traffic signals needed • View of traffic blocked by parked cars, trees, or plants • Needed curb ramps or ramps needed repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pick another route for now • share problems and checklist with local traffic engineering or public works department • trim your trees or bushes that block the street and ask your neighbors to do the same • leave nice notes on problem cars asking owners not to park there 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • push for crosswalks/signals/parking changes/curb ramps at city meetings • report to traffic engineer where parked cars are safety hazards • report illegally parked cars to the police • request that the public works department trim trees or plants • make media aware of problem
<p>3. Did drivers behave well?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backed without looking • Did not yield • Turned into walkers • Drove too fast • Sped up to make traffic lights or drove through red lights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pick another route for now • set an example: slow down and be considerate of others • encourage your neighbors to do the same • report unsafe driving to the police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • petition for more enforcement request protected turns • ask city planners and traffic engineers for traffic calming ideas • ask schools about getting crossing guards at key locations • organize a neighborhood speed watch program

<p>4. Could you follow safety rules?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross at crosswalks or where you could see and be seen • Stop and look left, right, left before crossing • Walk on sidewalks or shoulders facing traffic • Cross with the light 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educate yourself and your child about safe walking • organize parents in your neighborhood to walk children to school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage schools to teach walking safely • help schools start safe walking programs • encourage corporate support for flex schedules so parents can walk children to school
<p>1. Was your walk pleasant?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs grass, flowers, trees • Scary dogs • Scary people • Not well lit • Dirty, litter • Lots of traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • point out areas to avoid to your child; agree on safe routes • ask neighbors to keep dogs leashed or fenced • report scary dogs to the animal control department • report scary people to the police • report lighting needs to the police or appropriate public works department • take a walk with a trash bag • plant trees, flowers in your yard • select alternative route with less 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • request increased police enforcement • start a crime watch program in your neighborhood • organize a community clean-up day • sponsor a neighborhood beautification or tree-planting day • begin an adopt-a-street program • initiate support to provide routes with less traffic to schools in your community (reduced traffic during am and pm school commute times)