

Straight Talk - Smart Walk Pedestrian Safety Program Neighborhood Walkability Checklist

It's likely that someone in your family walks in your neighborhood everyday. Do your kids walk to school or the bus stop? Maybe you walk your dog regularly. Everyone benefits from walking, although most of us do not think twice before stepping out the front door. Walking should be a safe and enjoyable experience, especially in your own neighborhood! Please use this checklist to monitor and improve your neighborhood's walkability.

What YOU can do to improve your neighborhood's walkability:

- **Take a walk around your neighborhood with this checklist and a pen to identify potential pedestrian hazards.**
- Choose a familiar route.
- Think about each question while you are walking and rate your neighborhood's "walkability."
- If you have children, bring them along with you! Children should learn the importance of becoming responsible pedestrians.

Rating Scale:

1= Poor 2=Many problems 3=Some problems 4=Good 5=Very good 6= Excellent

1. Is it easy to cross streets?

Overall Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 6

(Circle any problems below)

see and be seen

Is the road too wide?

Is the traffic signal light too short?

Do parked cars block views of traffic?

Do trees/plants block view of traffic, street signs or traffic signals?

Do curbs/ramps need repairs?

Other (please explain):

Location of problems:

2. Do you have room to walk comfortably?

Overall Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 6

(Circle any problems below)

Do sidewalks, paths and shoulders start and stop in appropriate places?

Are sidewalks broken or cracked?

Are sidewalks blocked with poles, signs, shrubbery, dumpsters, etc.?

Is there too much traffic?

Other (please explain):

Location of problems:

3. Do drivers behave well?

Overall Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 6

(Circle any problems below)

Do drivers:

Back out of driveways without looking?

Continue, even when people are crossing the street?

Turn into crosswalks when people are crossing the street?

Drive too fast?

Speed up to make it through traffic lights?

Coast or roll through stop signs without making a complete stop?

Other (please explain):

Location of problems:

4. Is it easy to follow safety rules?

Overall Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 6

(Circle any problems below)

Can you easily:

Cross at crosswalks where you can see and be seen by drivers?

Stop and look left and right before crossing street?

Walk on sidewalks or on shoulders facing traffic where there are no sidewalks?

Cross with the light?

Other (please explain):

Location of problems:

Is your walk pleasant?

Overall Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 6

(Circle any problems below)

Does your route need more grass, flowers or trees?

Is the street well lit?

Is there litter or trash in the street or sidewalk?

Other (please explain):

Location of problems:

6. How does your neighborhood rate? Is it walkable?

Add up the ratings from questions 1-5. **Total**_____

Scoring:

26-30: Celebrate! You have a great neighborhood for walking!

21-25: Good. With a few improvements, your neighborhood will be a safe place to walk.

16-20: Okay. The neighborhood needs some work to make it a safe place to walk.

11-15: It needs a lot of work. You and your neighbors deserve better.

5-10: Uh oh! Call our hotline now to see what can be done to help.

7. How can you improve your neighborhood's score?

Did you find problems? Take action to improve walking conditions in your community! Here are a few tips on how to use the information you just discovered about your neighborhood to help make it safe for pedestrians:

- Speak up at board/city development meetings
- Trim trees or bushes that block the street, street signs and traffic signals and encourage neighbors to do the same
- Report illegally parked cars and unsafe drivers to police
- Request traffic signs and school crossing guards at intersections you think need improvement.
- Organize a community clean-up day
- If your neighborhood has a Neighborhood Watch, homeowners association or other program, work with it to help make your neighborhood a safer place to walk. It's a natural fit. Criminals don't like neighborhoods where people are walking, biking and enjoying the outdoors.

**Use your eyes:
be street wise.**

Feedback

Your information is extremely valuable to us, to you and to your community.

Please complete the following information and return your completed Neighborhood Walkability Checklist with this form to the **Straight Talk - Smart Walk Pedestrian Safety Program** at 6500 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1900, Los Angeles, CA 90048; by fax to **Straight Talk - Smart Walk Pedestrian Safety Program at 626/300-4854**; or log on to www.ladpw.org to submit the results of your checklist electronically via email. Your information can be used to make the County of Los Angeles safer for pedestrians!

Name _____

Address _____

Neighborhood, City _____

Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

*For office use only: *TABULATE AND USE FOR EVALUATION*