



CONNECT CLEVELAND WALKABILITY ACTION PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Association of Chronic Disease (NACDD) funded attendance by the Cleveland MPO's *Connect Cleveland* team (Avery Johnson, Amy Davenport, Beverly Johnson, Dustin Tommey, David Sheely, and Greg Thomas) at the *Step It Up!: Action Institute to Increase Walking and Walkability*. Team members worked with expert faculty and other teams from around the nation. Each team is working to develop and implement a local Walkability Action Plan to improve their community's health, economy, and environment.

The Connect Cleveland Walkability Action Plan is to encourage Cleveland MPO area residents to walk more and to help them to reach more of the places they go by walking. Key values addressed in the Connect Cleveland Walkability Action Plan are:

EDUCATION: Share knowledge within our community about walking and walkability including the health benefits of walking, strategies for improving walkability within different neighborhoods, pedestrian mobility issues related to social justice (disability, low-income, etc.), consumer preferences for walkable neighborhoods and other economic benefits of improved walkability, environmental benefits of reduced automobile travel, etc.

SERVICE: Serve neighborhoods, political districts, and corridors with appropriate pedestrian improvements (sidewalks, improved crossings, greenways, walking paths, improved roadway shoulders, traffic calming, etc.) that make walking safe, easy, and enjoyable.

CONNECTIVITY: Connect Cleveland neighborhoods to the Greenway system, the Downtown, and to Schools with pedestrian improvements. Connect outlying areas with pedestrian improvements linked to schools and other neighborhood centers. Where possible, coordinate pedestrian improvements to support connectivity with transit and bicycle modes.

EQUITY: Provide an equitable distribution of pedestrian improvements among neighborhoods, political districts, and corridors while attending to the transportation needs of low-income, minority, and disabled populations, as well as those who are more dependent on walking, biking, and transit.

GOAL #1 SUMMARY: Make Walking and Walkability Priorities in Our Community.

SUMMARY OF ACTION STEPS FOR EDUCATION AND FACT-FINDING:



1. Present walking and public health connections to various audiences.
2. Describe the Walkability Action Plan planning process for decision makers.
3. Working with the Bike-Walk Cleveland citizen group throughout the Connect Cleveland Walkability Action Plan process.
4. Engaging school officials and transit officials about needed bus stop and walkability improvements.
5. Walkability health, economic, and environmental benefit education presentations to private and non-profit sectors to gain support.
6. Survey the community on walking habits, attitudes about walking, and barriers to walking.
7. Walkability audits of neighborhoods, political districts, and corridors (walking area as a group to identify barriers).
8. Present Connect Cleveland Walkability Action Plan findings to decision makers.

Goal #2 SUMMARY: Make Walking Easy, Safe, and Enjoyable.

SUMMARY OF ACTION STEPS FOR *PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING WALKABILITY IMPROVEMENTS:*

1. Assess existing sidewalks, including state of repair and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) required improvements.
2. Identify areas that could be made walkable with relatively minor improvements, e.g. short sections of sidewalk.
3. List potential walkability improvements for neighborhoods, political districts, and corridors.
4. Prioritize walkability improvements—focusing on walking trips of 20 minute or less, about one mile -- for each neighborhood, political district, and corridor based upon factors stemming from the service, connectivity, and equity values suggested above.
5. Determine planning level costs for the highest-ranking walkability projects from each neighborhood, political district, and corridor.
6. Identify schedules and budgets for ADA Transition Plan projects and Walkability Action Plan priority projects to be achieved over the following 10 years.
7. Identify funding alternatives that will allow for the achievement of the 10-year schedules of ADA and Walkability Action Plan priority improvements.
8. Seek adoption of policy changes, plans, and budgets to implement the ADA Transition Plan and Walkability Action Plan priority improvements.