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## CREATING WALKABLE COMMUNITIES

What makes a community more walkable?

There are 5 basic steps to create a walkable community, which is a place where people of all ages and abilities have safe, enjoyable, and easy access to their community *on foot*.<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Good Sidewalks

The basic design of a good sidewalk should include:

- *Curb Zone*: border between street with ramps for disabled and others to access sidewalk
- *Parkway or Planting Strip*: barrier between pedestrians and street for plants or other items
- *Pedestrian Zone*: wide, level sidewalks without cracks for pedestrians to walk on
- *Frontage Zone*: area between sidewalk and buildings, houses, etc.

### 2. Safe & Easy Crossings

Crossings should be available every 300 feet for convenient pedestrian crossing with improvements to increase the safety and ease of crossing including:

- *Painted or Decorative Crosswalks*: highlights pedestrian crossing pathway
- *Stop Bar*: painted line that keeps cars behind the crosswalk
- *Curb extensions/ Bulb-outs*: reduces crossing distance for pedestrians & lowers car speeds
- *Medians/ Islands*: area in middle of street that reduces crossing distance, provides pedestrian a safe place to stand, & lowers car speeds

### 3. Traffic Calming

Increases pedestrian safety by slowing car speeds and allowing for smooth flow of traffic:

- *Road Diet*: reduce lane widths, remove extra lanes, add bike lanes, paint lines, add parking
- *Other*: roundabout, islands or curves (chicane), diagonal parking, medians/ islands, curb extensions/ bulb-outs

### 4. Safety, Comfort, & Beauty

There are various ways to enhance the safety, comfort, and beauty of an area, such as:

- *Pedestrian Lighting*: increases visibility and safety for pedestrians
- *Landscaping & Trees*: greenery provides shade and protection for pedestrians, beautify area
- *Clean & Well-maintained*: not broken or cracked; no trash or graffiti, etc.
- *Amenities*: drinking fountains, bathrooms, benches
- *Public Art*: reflects community, beautify area

### 5. Great Places

A community is more walkable if there are great places to walk to that meet most basic needs:

- *Recreation*: parks, community centers, etc.
- *Shopping*: stores, markets, etc.
- *Services*: hospitals/ clinics, restaurants, post office, etc.
- *Transportation (to school, work, etc.)*: trolley, bus stops, etc.

1. Bicycle Federation of America. (1998). Campaign to Make America Walkable: Creating Walkable Communities.