

# WALKABILITY AUDITS



Walkable communities are often vibrant communities. Walking safety in many communities can be a challenge, and the walkability audit—a careful examination and evaluation of the walking environment—is a way to identify and prioritize ways to address these challenges. During an audit, all types of concerns for pedestrians related to the safety, access, comfort, and convenience of the walking environment can be examined.

MCPC Services & Resources



We have created a standardized set of procedures for our audits. With professional planners conducting an audit, we can assure the municipality or school district that the audit is equitable. We work closely with interested stakeholders to pick the routes that best show a typical walk. The audit involves walking an area with local community members, municipal staff, school district staff, parent groups, and interested agencies such as PennDOT. This collaborative effort allows us to gain local perspective on potential walkability issues and to provide solutions that will fit the community. The audit can look at an entire community or a specific neighborhood, addressing pedestrian system elements such as crosswalks, sidewalks, public transit stops, school walking routes, parks, links to key destinations, and other priorities.

After identifying pedestrian barriers and safety issues, solutions are proposed to the community. These can include conceptual street redesign, sidewalk improvements, signage, pedestrian safety information, landscaping or fencing, and various maintenance measures. The Montgomery County Health Department can also provide pedestrian and bike safety education to school-age children in conjunction with the audit.

Planning to allow pedestrians to travel safely and conveniently alongside motorists and public transit may not be easy. With a well-balanced transportation system, supported by smart land use planning, communities can become more attractive and walkable places for businesses and residents.

### Examples:

Collegeville Borough

Red Hill Borough

Hancock Elementary School

Cheltenham Elementary School



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