

Conducting Walk Audits

A walk audit is a simple exercise that identifies and records sidewalk conditions, barriers and assets to walking, and the perceptions of people walking. It is used to improve walking conditions on a pre-planned route. Additionally, walk audits can help to understand the environment from an all-ability inclusive perspective. Walk audits can be used to build awareness of the importance of walkable design, identify specific pedestrian safety issues, advance policy and community development goals, inform planning decisions, and improve health and quality of life for residents.

To suggest a walk audit route in the Spokane region, please email Samantha Hennessy at shennessy@srhd.org.

Walk Audit Details

Date and time: Dec. 12, 2024, 3:45-4:15 p.m.

Route: East Frederick Avenue Minnehaha Neighborhood Loop

Hosts: staff from Spokane Regional Health District

Weather: partly cloudy, temperature 33 °F

Nearby Destination

The nearby destination includes Minnehaha Park

Observations

- The bus stop (ID 4720) on East Frederick Avenue had a paved area, tactile navigation strips with curb cuts and was in good condition, looking like it had recently been paved. The sidewalk for the bus stop did not lead to a connected network and was covered in gravel and debris from the surrounding area.
- The route showed evidence of pedestrian use: pedestrian walking paths crossed through the grass areas along the street. This was most obvious along East Frederick Avenue.
- There were no crosswalks or connected pedestrian paths to access the bus stops in the area or the park from the residential area.
- Auditors observed fast-moving traffic while walking the route. There was a sign in one of the yards requesting vehicles to travel at a slower speed, which was evidence that the fast-moving traffic was an ongoing issue for pedestrians in this area.
- The route did not offer pedestrian lighting, and the vehicle lighting was sparse. In a residential area with bus stops and a park, as well as high traffic, lighting for traffic and pedestrians is a safety concern.



1. Bus stop (ID 4720) at Frederick and Havana with sidewalk, tactile navigation strips, and curb cuts
2. End of bus stop sidewalk looking down East Frederick Avenue away from the route
3. East Frederick Avenue — pole with no trucks symbol just off road blocking what might be the walking path
4. Pedestrian walking path in grass along East Frederick Avenue
5. Corner of East Frederick Avenue and North Cuba Street with gravel in the intersection
6. House on East Frederick Avenue that is under construction
7. Sign placed in yard along street to encourage slower traffic speeds

*The pictures provided in this section were taken during the walk audit.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are suggestions to improve pedestrian access in the Minnehaha neighborhood. Recommendations were identified through auditor forms and notes, auditor discussion, and the AARP Build a Better Neighborhood tool.

Top Auditor Recommendations

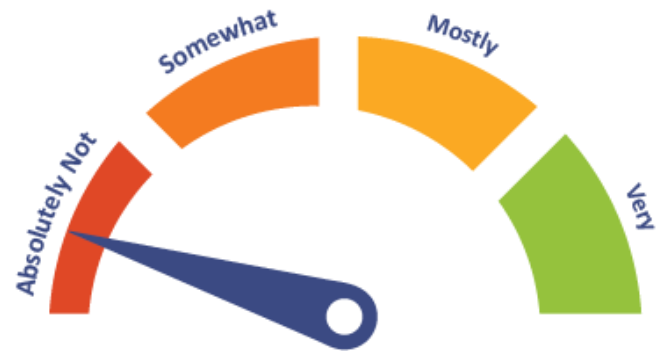
- Add sidewalks and crosswalks that create safe routes to access the park and the bus stops.
- Add traffic calming elements to reduce high traffic speeds throughout the route.

Other Recommendations

- Add pedestrian-friendly lighting to pedestrian walkways.
- Add outdoor seating, shelter from the elements, and a trash receptacle for public use at the bus stop.
- Conduct a neighborhood-wide campaign to encourage responsible waste management behaviors that would result in less litter.

Walk Audit Participants

This audit was completed by SRHD staff and interns as a portion of a longer route requested by a community member.



How pedestrian-friendly and safe is this section?

**This is an average of the participants' scores on this question*



Walk Audit Pilot Program
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