

CHAPTER SIX – BENCHMARKING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The proposed programs and policies contained within this plan are a roadmap to implementation of a more walkable Fort Worth. Implementing the plan will require participation by several city departments, partner agencies, and the public taking many years to implement all of the plan's policies, programs, and strategies. It is recommended that this plan be reviewed and updated every five years.

The Walk Fort Worth plan will require the dedicated efforts of City staff to fund, manage, and implement the policies and proposed projects. This plan recommends the creation of a full-time, pedestrian coordinator. This person would provide expertise on pedestrian-related projects and policies to ensure the effective implementation of the Walk Fort Worth Plan. Additional engineering, administrative, and traffic maintenance staff time will be required to support the completion of the plan.

Primary responsibility for implementation of policy directives in this plan should generally come from the Planning and Development Department with input from stakeholder departments and the public. Construction and engineering of sidewalks, signals, mid-block crossings, and other pedestrian related infrastructure should originate from the Transportation and Public Works Department with input from stakeholder departments and the public.

BENCHMARKING

To promote Fort Worth as a safe and walkable city, the Walk Fort Worth Plan specifies the following measurable goals. To achieve these objectives, the Walk Fort Worth Plan recommends implementing the policies and programs in Chapter 3 to create a more walkable city.

GOAL ONE: CREATE A SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

The City of Fort Worth's population is expected to increase one million people by 2030. In order to address the transportation needs of our residents, the City will need to consider a multimodal transportation system including walking. The City of Fort Worth will identify projects, policies, and

programs that will increase the use, safety, and convenience of walking as an integral component of the City's transportation system. The City of Fort Worth aims to increase pedestrian walking trips from 1.2 percent in 2012 to 3.2 percent by 2025 using the five-year estimates from the American Community Survey. (US Census)

Pedestrian crashes are preventable. Nationwide, pedestrians are over-represented in the crash data, accounting for more than 13 percent of fatalities but only 10.9 percent of trips. As with every mode of travel, there is clearly some risk associated with walking. However, walking remains a healthful, inherently safe activity for tens of millions of people every year. It is recommended the City of Fort Worth identify projects, policies, and programs that will increase the safety of pedestrians by decreasing the pedestrian fatality rate by 15 percent by 2025 using TxDOT Crash Records Information System data. (TxDOT, 2012)

Key policies and programs for implementation include the following:

- ✦ Increase the minimum sidewalk width
- ✦ Design streets for slower speeds
- ✦ Update the citywide Complete Streets Policy
- ✦ Update the policy on Street Connectivity
- ✦ Investigate the cause of pedestrian-related crashes at high crash locations and develop solutions
- ✦ Continue the use of road diets as a way to reduce speeds and increase buffer between sidewalks and travel lanes
- ✦ Educate all road users on traffic laws

GOAL TWO: IMPROVE THE WALKING EXPERIENCE FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Nearly half of Tarrant County residents met the recommendations for physical activity (at least 30 minutes per day at least five days per week). Additionally, 19 percent of children aged 2-14 are obese. In order to promote a healthier community, this plan recommends investing time and resources into providing opportunities and encouragement for residents who wish to be more physically active. This plan recommends working towards an increase of adults meeting the recommendations for physical

activity from 47.4 percent to 60 percent and decrease obesity from 19 percent in 2009 to 9% in children ages 2-14 by 2025 using Tarrant County Public Health Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data. (Tarrant County Public Health Department)

Key policies and programs for implementation include the following:

- ✎ Investigate innovative and practical ways to create vibrant public spaces for pedestrians
- ✎ Support and expand neighborhood car-free events
- ✎ Work with neighborhoods to install pedestrian wayfinding signage.
- ✎ Develop neighborhood walking maps

PRIORITY AND FUNDING MATRIX

Policy or Program	Implementation Priority				Primary Department or Agency	Secondary Department or Agency	Capital/O&M Funding Needed? (Y/N)
	High	Medium	Low	Continuous			
Increase the sidewalk width	X				Planning and Development	Transportation and Public Works	Y
Design streets for slower speeds	X				Transportation and Public Works		N
Pursue best practices on improvements to standard intersection treatments		X			Transportation and Public Works		Y
Design highway interchanges for pedestrian safety		X			Texas Department of Transportation	Transportation and Public Works	N
Implement best practices in pedestrian-scale lighting		X			Transportation and Public Works		Y
Review access management standards to identify opportunities to reduce conflicts at driveways		X			Transportation and Public Works		N
Separate bike and pedestrian paths in the highest bicycle and pedestrian conflict areas			X		Parks and Community Services	Tarrant Regional Water District	Y
Continue traffic calming projects as a way to reduce speeds on City streets		X			Planning and Development	Transportation and Public Works	N
Adopt standard ADA infrastructure standards for all areas in the pedestrian realm		X			Transportation and Public Works	ADA Coordinator	N
Install traffic calming devices at schools and other high pedestrian areas				X	Transportation and Public Works		Y

Policy or Program	Implementation Priority				Primary Department or Agency	Secondary Department or Agency	Capital/O&M Funding Needed? (Y/N)
	High	Medium	Low	Continuous			
Update driveway standards for slower turning speeds		X			Transportation and Public Works		N
Adopt and incorporate guidelines from nationally recognized design manuals				X	Transportation and Public Works		N
Create pedestrian overlay districts around schools		X			Planning and Development Department		N
Create developer incentives for walkable development			X		Planning and Development Department		N
Adopt a Pedestrian Zone Policy to provide a more orderly and comfortable pedestrian environment	X				Planning and Development Department		N
Discourage meandering sidewalks on arterial roadways	X				Transportation and Public Works		N
Pursue Reinstating the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program		X			Transportation and Public Works		Y
Identify and improve pedestrian crossings in areas of high pedestrian use	X				Transportation and Public Works		Y
Update the City's Context Sensitive Street Design policy to include Complete Streets Policy or equivalent in every project	X				Planning and Development	Transportation and Public Works	N

Policy or Program	Implementation Priority				Primary Department or Agency	Secondary Department or Agency	Capital/O&M Funding Needed? (Y/N)
	High	Medium	Low	Continuous			
Update the City policy on Street Connectivity	X				Planning and Development		N
Improve and establish connectivity between existing developments	X				Transportation and Public Works	Planning and Development	Y
Enforce the existing requirement that public access easements be built to public street standards, including the provision of sidewalks	X				Planning and Development		N
Review and update policies for obtaining a change of use permits as they relate to repairing or installing sidewalks		X			Planning and Development		N
Enforce requirement that traffic studies include non-motorized traffic control plan and route study	X				Transportation and Public Works Department		N
Improve City ordinances to encourage walkable developments and neighborhoods				X	Planning and Development		N
Pursue best practices for maintenance of trees in the right-of-way				X	Parks and Community Services		Y
Pursue best practices on arterial landscape policy				X	Parks and Community Services	Transportation and Public Works	Y
Prioritize filling gaps and repairing sidewalks along arterial roadways and priority streets	X				Transportation and Public Works		Y

Policy or Program	Implementation Priority				Primary Department or Agency	Secondary Department or Agency	Capital/O&M Funding Needed? (Y/N)
	High	Medium	Low	Continuous			
Track the number of new arterial sidewalks and curb ramps installed and repaired each year				X	Transportation and Public Works		N
Implement the recommendations in the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan in coordination with stakeholder organizations	X				Transportation and Public Works		Y
Coordinate with school districts to create and implement Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Plans				X	Planning and Development		Y
Work with school districts and PTAs to encourage children to walk or bike to school				X	Planning and Development		N
Coordinate with the Fort Worth to improve pedestrian access to transit	X				Transportation and Public Works	Planning and Development	Y
Coordinate with railroads to build sidewalks over railroad tracks	X				Transportation and Public Works		Y
Encourage expansion of multi-modal transportation education into Texas Drivers Manual		X			City Manager's Office		N
Support changes to the Texas Transportation Code to strengthen pedestrian right-of-way in crosswalks			X		City Manager's Office		N
Coordinate with local and state agencies to investigate the cause of pedestrian-related crashes at high crash locations and develop solutions	X				Transportation and Public Works	Police Department	Y

Policy or Program	Implementation Priority				Primary Department or Agency	Secondary Department or Agency	Capital/O&M Funding Needed? (Y/N)
	High	Medium	Low	Continuous			
Prepare and maintain an updated ADA Transition Plan	X				Transportation and Public Works	ADA Coordinator	N
Coordinate Walk Fort Worth Plan implementation with the Fort Worth Blue Zones Project	X				Planning and Development		N
Create a Healthy Community Development Guide		X			Planning and Development		N
Inventory and prioritize corrections to accessibility barriers at traffic signals				X	Transportation and Public Works		Y
Pursue best practices for installing pedestrian countdown signals citywide	X				Transportation and Public Works		Y
Review new technologies for pedestrian signal actuation and push buttons		X			Transportation and Public Works		Y
Evaluate signal timing for pedestrians in all signal-retiming efforts				X	Transportation and Public Works		Y
Inventory and prioritize corrections to accessibility barriers at signal push buttons				X	Transportation and Public Works		Y
Pursue best practices in the visibility of crosswalk pavement markings		X			Transportation and Public Works		Y
Investigate potential improvements to the current crosswalk marking practice		X			Transportation and Public Works		

Policy or Program	Implementation Priority				Primary Department or Agency	Secondary Department or Agency	Capital/O&M Funding Needed? (Y/N)
	High	Medium	Low	Continuous			
Install high visibility crosswalk markings with advance stop markings or yield lines where necessary		X			Transportation and Public Works		Y
Replace worn striping and crosswalk markings more frequently	X				Transportation and Public Works		Y
Identify and improve pedestrian crossings in areas of high pedestrian use		X			Transportation and Public Works		Y
Install traffic calming devices at schools and other high pedestrian areas		X			Transportation and Public Works		Y
Manage encroachments on sidewalks				X	Code Compliance		N
Educate property owners on vegetation maintenance to eliminate overgrown vegetation near sidewalks				X	Code Compliance		N
Educate property owners on the contents of the sidewalk maintenance ordinance				X	Transportation and Public Works	Code Compliance	N
Educate drivers on the dangers of distracted driving				X	Police Department		N
Educate police officers about critical violations of pedestrian rights by motorists and educate all road users on their rights and responsibilities				X	Communications Office		N
Educate drivers on the dangers of distracted driving				X	Communications Department	Police Department	N

Policy or Program	Implementation Priority				Primary Department or Agency	Secondary Department or Agency	Capital/O&M Funding Needed? (Y/N)
	High	Medium	Low	Continuous			
Educate police officers about critical violations of pedestrian rights by motorists and educate all road users on their rights and responsibilities				X	Communications Department	Police Department	N
Educate drivers on the dangers of distracted driving				X	Communication Department	Police Department	N
Introduce bike speed limits/courtesy signage on shared use trails			X		Parks and Community Services and Tarrant Regional Water District		N
Expand the Share the Trail Campaign on shared use trails including courtesy speed limits in heavily travelled locations				X	Parks and Community Services and Tarrant Regional Water District		N
Incorporate pedestrian education in AARP and senior/retirement centers				X	Tarrant County Public Health		N
Incorporate bicycle and pedestrian safety programs in school curriculum and in community centers				X	School Districts; Parks and Community Services	Neighborhood Education	N
Create material for a community-wide educational crash prevention campaign				X	Communications Department	Police Department	N
Establish regular staff and contractor training on practices for safety and accessibility in work zones	X				Transportation and Public Works Department		N

Policy or Program	Implementation Priority				Primary Department or Agency	Secondary Department or Agency	Capital/O&M Funding Needed? (Y/N)
	High	Medium	Low	Continuous			
Investigate innovative and practical ways to create vibrant public spaces for pedestrians		X			Planning and Development and Transportation and Public Works	Transportation and Public Works	N
Support and expand neighborhood car-free events		X			Planning and Development		N
Work with neighborhoods to install pedestrian wayfinding signage			X		Planning and Development		N
Develop neighborhood walking maps or walking map mobile applications			X		Planning and Development		N
Create best practices for installing crosswalks at mid-block locations		X			Transportation and Public Works		N
Review current policy on installing crosswalks across arterial roadways		X			Transportation and Public Works		N
Develop best practices for providing barrier protected sidewalks on arterial bridges		X			Transportation and Public Works		N
Create a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)	X				Planning and Development		N