



WHAT YOU WILL GET FROM A WALKING AUDIT

The December, 2025, walking audits in Humboldt County are facilitated group walks with 3 top national experts in walkability and neighborhood design (Dan Burden, Victor Dover, and Josh Meyer). Each community maps out the preferred ½-mile area to evaluate and confirms the desired outcomes associated with the walking audit. During these 60-minute walks through areas your community is choosing, participants will experience the built environment and assess how welcoming, comfortable, and accessible it is for those seeking a healthier place to live. Your group will look at walking/rolling, cycling, using transit, driving, spending time, or living in an area. An audit examines ways to enhance walking, cycling, rolling (e.g., with mobility devices), overall safety, transit use, and traffic flow, while bringing back the life of main streets and neighborhoods, creating safe routes to school, and honoring places, for example. Our experts will already be familiar with studies of your community. The audit may include:

- Identifying barriers and opportunities to inform planning, neighborhood design and implementation decisions, based on the group's review of street conditions, intersections, downtowns, campuses, parks, as well as connections to parks, schools, and neighborhoods.
- Inspiring residents, staff, developers, and elected officials who explore and imagine—together— what could be possible in their community.
- Opportunities to act together to build and defend the shared community vision.

Who should I invite?

Anyone who can influence or is affected by the built environment is invited to join a walking audit. This might include:

- Planners, public works, engineers, architects, landscape architects, first responders;
- Public health and safety, housing, transit, school officials;
- Elected/appointed officials, including city/county council, planning commission, school board;
- Business and development leaders; and
- Those who often lack a voice in planning, including children, elders, people of color, low-income residents, students, advocates, or those with disabilities.

How long is a walking audit?

A walking audit is about discussions that take place around locations important to participants. The audit can be scheduled for 30 to 60 minutes, allowing time to stop for observations. After the walking tour, the group will discuss key points together and share impressions.

Post-event Documentation

The team will follow up with a visual summation of the activity with key takeaways, including:

- Based on the complexity of the chosen sites, a 10- to 20-page photo-summary report (PowerPoint format), enhanced with built solutions, capturing key learning points;
- Short recorded video-clip summaries can be added to capture key learning points.