

Community Walkabout Tool - Urban

Scoring: 0 - don't know 1 - no 2 - sometimes 3 - yes

Indicators	Score (0-3)	Teaching/Discussion Points
Can streets be easily, safely and conveniently crossed?		<p>Choosing a safe place to cross: Young children do not realize it is unsafe to cross between parked cars and obstacles. They look across to the other side of the road. If it is clear they think they can cross. They do not realize they need a greater range of vision to accurately judge if traffic is close.</p> <p>Helping children choose a safe place to cross the road.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand on the sidewalk between 2 parked cars. 2. Identify objects across the street that the child could not see from their point of view but are across the street 3. Ask the child if they can see these objects. 4. If they cannot see the object, explain that this is not a good place to cross because you cannot see along the other side of the road. 5. Ask the child to look for a place to cross the road where they can see up and down the road. 6. If the child cannot find a place, take them to a place with an unobstructed view. 7. Repeat this as you walk with your child, identifying places to cross with an unobstructed view. ⁱ <p>Caregivers and parents should be encouraged to talk to their children about safe walking when they walk with children. Especially since the presence of parents and caregivers may help reduce the risk of injury.</p>
Are there separations between pedestrian and fast traffic (greater than 50 km/hr)?		Some examples would be pedestrian refuge islands, pedestrian crossings, wider sidewalks.

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In residential areas, are speed limits 30 km/hr to 40 km/hr?		If a child crosses the road 13m in front a car that is travelling at a speed 30 km/h, the driver would be able to stop just before hitting the child. If the car is travelling at a speed of 50 km/h or more, the child would be hit by the car and there is a slim chance of survival.
Are there traffic calming measures?		Some examples are speed humps, bulbouts, narrower streets, diagonal parking.
Do drivers drive the speed limit?		Speeding of any kind is bad driving. Drivers need to respect the existing speed limits in residential areas because the limits are slower to minimize the risk of serious injury to children.
Do drivers yield to pedestrians?		Not only is this required by law, but the majority of children are injured while crossing at an intersection. Streets are public places and are meant to be used by everyone.
Are there stop signs or lights at main intersections?		<p>Cross at a safe place. Children have a hard time understanding that traffic can come from several different directions at intersections. It is especially hard for the child to remember to look behind them. Help children learn to cross at an intersection by having them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look down the road to make sure you have a clear view in all 3 directions. 2. Have the child stand at the corner looking into the centre of the intersection. 3. Look left, look straight ahead (into the centre of the intersection), look right. 4. Then again look left, look straight ahead and look right. <p>Caregivers and parents should be encouraged to talk to their children about safe walking when they walk with children. Especially since the presence of parents and caregivers may help reduce the risk of injury.</p>

Indicators	Score (0-3)	Teaching/Discussion Points
<p>Are there parked cars blocking the view down the road for children to see and be seen by cars?</p>		<p>Crossing between parked cars: Many traffic incidents involving children happen close to parked cars. If at all possible children should cross the street where there are no obstacles. But in some neighbourhoods this is not possible.</p> <p>Help children learn to cross between parked cars by having them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose a place wide enough for 3 people to cross. 2. Check that you can reach the sidewalk on the other side. 3. Check to see that there are no people in either car. 4. Walk to the outside corner of the parked car and STOP. 5. Look left, look right, look left again. 6. Repeat this as you walk with your child, practicing crossing between parked cars.ⁱⁱ <p>Caregivers and parents should be encouraged to talk to their children about safe walking. Especially since the presence of parents and caregivers may help reduce the risk of injury.</p>
<p>Are there other obstacles, i.e. garbage bins that can block a child's view when crossing the street?</p>		<p>Crossing between obstacles: Many traffic incidents involving children happen close to obstacles which obstruct the driver's or child's view. If at all possible, children should cross the street where there are no obstacles. But in some neighbourhoods this is not possible.</p> <p>Help children learn to cross between obstacles by having them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose a place wide enough for 3 people to cross. 2. Check that you can reach the sidewalk on the other side. 3. Walk to the outside corner of the obstacle and STOP. 4. Look left, look right, look left again. 5. Repeat this as you walk with your child, practicing crossing between obstacles.ⁱⁱⁱ <p>Caregivers and parents should be encouraged to talk to their children about safe walking. Especially since the presence of parents and caregivers may help reduce the risk of injury.</p>

Indicators	Score (0-3)	Teaching/Discussion Points
Do sidewalks exist?		If yes, sidewalks should be on both sides of the street. If no, then pedestrians must walk on the left hand side of the road as close to the edge as possible.
Are sidewalks designed to accommodate strollers and wheelchairs?		Strollers need flat, low curbs at street level, and sidewalks should not have unnecessary changes in surface texture. The ideal sidewalk should be 5-6 meters wide.
Are sidewalks well-maintained?		Walking areas should be smooth and even. People may choose not to walk if sidewalks are broken or uneven.
Is there protection from weather and sun by trees and otherwise?		The walking environment should be sheltered from sun and rain. Shelters can be natural (trees) or artificial (awnings, or other structures).
Are there benches and other places to rest?		People need places to rest along the way. Occupied benches also “keep eyes on the street” to reduce the potential of crime.
Are there walkable community based organizations in your community?		Examples of walking groups are active and safe routes to school, walking school bus, mall walking groups, and mom and tots stroller exercise groups.
Do municipal officials consider walkable neighbourhoods in their planning?		For information, contact your local municipal planning office. They will know what kinds of plans are in place in your community to promote a walkable neighbourhood.
TOTAL		

Scoring

1- 16: Community needs to make considerable effort to create pedestrian friendly environment.

17-32: Community is pedestrian friendly in some areas but more work still needs to be done.

33-48: Community is very pedestrian friendly. Keep walking in mind for future developments.

Definitions

Bulbouts or curb extensions extend the sidewalk or curb line into the street, reducing the street pavement width. Bulbouts calm traffic speeds and improve pedestrian crossings. They shorten crossing distances and reduce the time pedestrians are exposed to traffic. They also improve visibility for pedestrians and motorists.

Pedestrian refuge islands are raised islands placed in the center of the street at intersection or mid-block locations to help protect pedestrians from motor vehicles. As with medians, refuge islands allow pedestrians to be concerned with only one direction of traffic at a time.

Speed humps are typically paved with asphalt, approximately 3-6 inches high at their center, and extend the full width of the street. The higher the vertical rise, the better the humps work to reduce vehicle speed.

A street can be physically narrowed by extending sidewalks, providing landscaped areas, or adding on-street parking within the former curb lines. This often reduces vehicle speeds along a roadway section and enhances movement and safety for pedestrians.

ⁱ Adapted from Kerbcraft: Road Safety Training Program, UK

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