

**Photo Request for CDC US Virgin Islands – Jurisdiction Walkability Institute  
June 13-14, 2017; St. Croix**

Photos to be sent to Mark Fenton; [rmfenton777@gmail.com](mailto:rmfenton777@gmail.com)

The focus of this action institute will be on the influence of policies and the built environment on the amount of walking and routine physical activity in the attending communities. In particular we'll look at evidence- and practice-based approaches to improving walkability in these island community settings.

As part of your preparation for the meeting, we are asking you to begin looking at your island and thinking about aspects of the environment that either encourage or discourage routine physical activity, in particular walking and bicycling. These are very simple activities, and walking in particular requires no special equipment or instruction; but it does require a safe and inviting environment. Perhaps most important, physical activity can be obtained through the tasks of daily life, such as children walking and bicycling to school, or adults walking for errands or to work. Even in more rural settings where destinations are far apart, small villages and towns can be made more walkable so that when people *are* in town a walk from the post office to the bank to the store can provide incidental physical activity.

**Your assignment.**

1. Submit between 8 and 12 photos of typical environmental settings or factors that represent what you believe are common challenges or supports for walking. Try for 4 to 6 photos of challenges, and 4 to 6 photos of supportive elements. Also include a one-sentence (and one sentence only!) description of why you chose each photo. You may also include a few photos of surprises you discovered while scouting; e.g. surprising destinations people are walking to; unusual spots to see pedestrians; encouraging signs or behaviors.
2. Please put the photos either into a Word document or a PowerPoint presentation. That allows you to put the descriptive sentence right along with each photo.
3. Email the final document or PowerPoint presentation to Mark Fenton at [rmfenton777@gmail.com](mailto:rmfenton777@gmail.com). You may find it's easiest to turn the file into a .PDF so that it's small enough to email. Please identify who I can reach with follow-up questions if needed in the email. **Due by June 5, 2017.**

**Photo Tips.**

Here are three critical tips to help make the photos most helpful:

- A. **Small files!** Set your camera or phone on the lowest possible image density or quality, or otherwise reduce the size of the image files so that they're easier to email and handle. We do not need very high density or print quality images for use in PowerPoint presentations, for example. You have to be able to email the file (PowerPoint or Word document) when you're done
- B. **People in the pictures.** Try to capture people naturally using the setting in the images when possible (e.g. kids walking or biking to school or being dropped off by car, people walking to stores or services, or trying to cross the street; or walking along a road or a "goat trail" with no sidewalk) to provide scale and context. Just waiting a few minutes can often get a great shot of a facility in use.
- C. **Better, not more.** Don't feel you have to submit dozens of pictures; better to have ten or twelve good illustrative photos than to have lots and lots of shots of the same things (such as rural roads without sidewalks). One good shot of each issue will make the point. And get creative, talk to people and see what's happening out there; and then take a picture!

**Where to look for examples?**

The following is a list of locations and facilities that might be illustrative of your target communities.

- **Schools and parks.**
  - o Children walking, bicycling to school or a park.
  - o A typical drop-off or pick-up line at a school.

- Any fences or gates that kids must or could pass through, especially if closed/locked. Or holes in a fence that they've created to get to a destination.
- **Residential development.** Examples:
  - Typical residential area or sub-division. Often lacking sidewalks.
  - Typical cul-de-sac in a subdivision.
  - Traditional (usually older) neighborhood, often in a village or town with smaller lots, sidewalks & street trees.
- **Retail/commercial settings.** Think about whether they are placed and designed to encourage or discourage people from walking or biking to the store
  - Typical box retail and/or strip type development with parking lots out front.
  - Traditional "village" or Main Street style retail district, ideally with attributes such as buildings up at the sidewalk, multi-story buildings, even some street furnishings (such as trees, benches, bicycle racks, etc.), and on-street parking. Look for these in particular:
    - Multi-story buildings (often retail or housing above, retail below)
    - Sidewalk view of a pedestrian with either inviting or discouraging elements.
- **Trail or pathways.** Ideal to see representative users (walking, bicycling, etc.).
  - Multi-use trail, such as a pathway along a rail or utility corridor; or a pathway in or to a park.
  - Signs of demand for a trail (where it hasn't been built):
    - Worn pathways (sometimes called goat trails, or desire lines) where people have created a path where none officially exists, to connect to a sidewalk, trail, or building.
    - Dead end, missing sidewalk, and people walking on-street or on a worn goat/dirt path.
- **Transportation facilities.** Any notable pedestrian, bicycle, and road designs and facilities.
  - Encouraging examples of engineering, traffic calming, safety and other improvements such as
    - Nice sidewalk or wide shoulder on a road providing safe walking or bicycling space
    - Bicycle lane and/or sharrow (shared use arrow)
    - Roundabout (to slow traffic)
    - Improved pedestrian crossing (high visibility paint, signs, lights, curb extensions, etc.)
    - Traffic calming devices such as median islands or speed tables (raised crossing)
  - Discouraging examples . . .
    - High speed roads with no shoulders or sidewalks where people are forced to walk in a ditch, on the road, etc.
    - Dangerous street crossings (e.g. a pedestrian standing in the middle of a road where there is no island or median, no painted crosswalk, etc.)