

Best Practices for Creating an Active Living Environment

This selection of best practices highlights a variety of tools that communities can use to support active living regardless of size or setting.

	Component	Plans	Policies	Programs	Projects	Performance Measures
TRANSPORTATION	Walking	<p>Convene a pedestrian advisory council</p> <p>Adopt a pedestrian master plan</p> <p>Develop a pedestrian safety action plan</p>	<p>Adopt a Complete Streets policy</p> <p>Dedicate funding for sidewalks and pedestrian connections</p> <p>Adopt a sidewalk ordinance that requires sidewalks with all new private development</p>	<p>Become a Walk Friendly Community</p> <p>Develop a sidewalk program with both regulatory and financing components (e.g., snow removal policy and revolving loan funding for maintenance and repair)</p> <p>Conduct education, encouragement & enforcement activities</p>	<p>Conduct walkability assessments near schools, parks, office/retail clusters, etc.</p> <p>Install pedestrian enhancements such as curb ramps, benches, trees and countdown signals</p> <p>Install wayfinding signs</p>	<p>Track indicators such as: linear feet of sidewalks, ratio of sidewalks to streets, percentage of pedestrian commuters and pedestrian counts at key intersections</p> <p>Collect/analyze pedestrian crash data</p> <p>Participate in the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project</p>
	Biking	<p>Convene a bicycle advisory council</p> <p>Adopt a bicycle master plan</p>	<p>Dedicate funding to bicycle facilities and connections</p> <p>Encourage or require businesses to provide bicycle parking</p>	<p>Become a Bicycle Friendly Community</p> <p>Conduct education, encouragement & enforcement activities</p>	<p>Paint and/or construct infrastructure such as: bike lanes, cycle tracks, trails, sharrows</p> <p>Install bike parking</p> <p>Install wayfinding signage</p>	<p>Track indicators such as: miles of bike lanes, percentage of bike commuters, bike counts at key intersections and number of bike racks</p> <p>Collect/analyze bicycle crash data</p> <p>Participate in the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project</p>
	Transit	<p>Complete a Comprehensive Operational Analysis</p>	<p>Dedicate funding to transit service</p>	<p>Conduct education, encouragement & enforcement activities</p>	<p>Conduct transit stop assessments</p>	<p>Track indicators such as: existing service and ridership, the mix of funding and identified supporting infrastructure needs</p>
	Trails	<p>Adopt a trails and greenways master plan</p>	<p>Dedicate funding to trails</p>	<p>Conduct education, encouragement & enforcement activities</p>	<p>Install wayfinding signage</p>	<p>Track indicators such as: miles of trail, number of trail users</p>
	Overall	<p>Develop and implement an ADA transition plan</p> <p>Adopt community and/or district wayfinding plans</p> <p>Develop transportation plans that prioritize connectivity and multi-modal infrastructure</p>	<p>Adopt a Complete Streets policy</p>	<p>Establish maintenance programs for trails, bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.</p>	<p>Add streetscape improvements (benches, landscaping, trees, trash receptacles, debris removal, etc.)</p> <p>Implement traffic calming features</p> <p>Implement road diets</p>	<p>Track ADA accessible design features such as curb ramps</p>

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LAND USE	Planning and Zoning	Prioritize connectivity and multi-modal infrastructure in comprehensive plans, downtown plans and neighborhood plans	<p>Allow and encourage mixed-use and form-based zoning</p> <p>Adopt parking policies that reduce cheap, easy parking and/or reward businesses for doing so</p> <p>Adopt an urban growth boundary</p> <p>Adopt a unified development ordinance</p> <p>Adopt a subdivision control ordinance</p>	Develop a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program and encourage neighborhood CPTED initiatives	<p>Rehab abandoned housing</p> <p>Beautify and repurpose vacant lots</p>	Track the number (and percentage) of vacant or abandoned buildings
	Schools	<p>Develop community-wide school travel plans</p> <p>Develop a Safe Routes to School plan</p>	<p>Develop shared use agreements between the school district and the city</p> <p>Eliminate policies that limit or create barriers to walking and biking to school</p> <p>Adopt a school siting policy that encourages accessibility and neighborhood connectivity</p>	<p>Participate in Walk to School Day each October</p> <p>Participate in Bike to School Day each May</p>	<p>Conduct safety audits near schools</p> <p>Secure funding for infrastructure projects near schools</p>	Track indicators such as: the number of children currently walking and/or biking to school, the number of potential walkers/bikers, traffic crashes near schools, parental attitudes about walking/biking to school
	Parks and Greenspace	Develop and adopt a Parks Master Plan	Develop shared use agreements	Conduct education, encouragement & enforcement activities	Assess infrastructure around park facilities for accessibility and safety	Track indicators such as: the percentage of residential parcels within a half-mile of a public park, total park acreage, per capita funding, etc.