

Learn it. Do it. Live it!

WALK or BIKE AUDIT



Walk audits help SRTS teams identify needed improvements and respond to changing school travel conditions.

WHAT'S A WALK OR BIKE AUDIT

Walk and bike audits involve observing how drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists interact with each other and the built environment (e.g., roads, sidewalks, intersections) and documenting unsafe behaviors or conditions. Sometimes walk and bike audits are divided into two parts, one focused on observing driver, pedestrian, and bicyclist behaviors at school arrival and dismissal times and the other focused on inventorying existing and missing infrastructure.

WHO TO INVITE

Walk and bike audits enable key stakeholders to experience pedestrian and bicycle conditions, share perspectives, and build consensus around potential solutions. Invite SRTS team members, school administrators, local government officials, police officers, elected representatives and anyone else with influence over SRTS program implementation.

WHAT TO BRING:

- A pen, pencil, or marker to write with
- A clipboard to use as a writing surface
- A map of the school area for location specific notations
- A notebook for notations that aren't location specific or won't fit on the map
- A camera (because a picture is worth a thousand words!)
- Reflective safety vests so drivers can see you

WHAT TO DO:

- Arrive at school at least 15 minutes before students start arriving to school or dismissing from school. Make sure to check in at the front desk beforehand.
- While on campus, walk in a loop so you have a chance to observe all locations and forms of behavior.
- While off campus, walk along key student walking and bicycling routes.
- On your map and/or notebook mark:
 - » Key student walking and bicycling routes.
 - » Existing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
 - » Missing or inadequate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

» Locations where drivers, pedestrians, and/or bicyclists behave in ways that are unsafe.

- Take photographs of good conditions or behaviors as well as those that need improvement. (Note: Make sure you understand the school's photo taking policy before taking pictures of children.)
- Ask participants to share perspectives and discuss potential solutions while you walk. Hold a post audit "debrief" session to collect additional feedback.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

Once you've planned the route for your walk/bike audit, think about the specific types of things to look for. For example,

- On the school campus note if there are any gaps in the sidewalks or paths between the school entrances and adjacent streets.
- Evaluate the quality and quantity of bike racks on campus.
- In the school zone look for signage that reminds drivers that they are entering a school zone.
- If speeding is an issue in the school zone, look to see if any traffic calming measures are present (speed humps, chicanes, etc.)
- Along student walking and biking routes look for sidewalks and bike lanes. Are they present? Are they in a state of good repair? Are there gaps in the sidewalks or bike lanes along the route?
- At intersections look for pedestrian facilities such as crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and pedestrian crossing signs. Are these present where students want to cross?
- Also note behaviors of all travelers (motorists, student pedestrians and bicyclists) and how crossing guards function.

Got questions? Contact our Local Technical Assistance Coordinators at 1.855.601.7787 or email us at info@VirginiaSRTS.org



WALK or BIKE AUDIT

For more examples, download and review the walkability and bikability checklists created by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. For your convenience they are available in both English and Spanish translations.

Walkability Checklist:
www.walkinginfo.org/library/details.cfm?id=12

Bikability Checklist:
www.bicyclinginfo.org/library/details.cfm?id=3



WHY USE A CHECKLIST?

Checklists provide a way to record challenges and issues along walking and bicycling routes to school. They can also be used to share information with school and community leaders as well as the media.

There are two ways that you can conduct the audit. One way is to have an audit leader that records the group's consensus on one checklist. Another is to give each participant, or groups of participants individual copies of the checklist to fill out on their own.

Make sure your participants are familiar with the checklist and its components before starting the audit so that they are aware of the types of issues that should be recorded. It might be helpful to review the entire list as a group first before starting the walk.

Get out there and see what you can find!



Find flyers, templates, banners and other downloads at www.virginia.dot.org/safe-routes. Find what you're looking for in the Starter Kit and the Marketing Toolkit.