

FACILITATION GUIDE: INFRASTRUCTURE AUDITS

PARTICIPATORY WALKING AUDIT OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Activity Type: Understand

Participant Audience: Residents, Organizational Partners, Decision-Makers

Objectives

Sidewalk and street audits are a simple way to identify deficiencies in the built environment for cycling and walking safety. This is a more structured walk-about activity, and it results in site-specific data on active transportation infrastructure from a lived-experience perspective.



Using the Tool

Materials needed

1. Printed basemaps. To create your own basemaps, refer to 'How to Create a Basemap' guide on participatoryplanning.ca.
2. Audit legend (see Sample Materials section)
3. Clipboards
4. Pens

Facilitation Process

1. Provide participants with basemaps and audit legends. Describe the meanings of the legend symbols as a group.
2. Split up the group into teams of 2-3, and determine which blocks each group will cover.
3. Participants will walk their blocks and record the presence or absence of active transportation infrastructure on their base maps. Participants may also record details or notes along their route.
4. Reconvene at the initial meeting point, and collect all basemaps.
5. Compile results into one map of the full neighbourhood (see Sample Materials).



Tip: Keep the size of the focus area manageable, so that participants aren't rushed in their observations.



Tip: Divide into smaller groups to focus on different streets/key neighbourhood nodes.



Sample Materials

1. Audit sheet and basemap (via TCAT)



Street Audit Map






On the map to the left, please mark down the location of the items listed in the legend below.

The grey lines surrounding each block on the map imply the presence of a sidewalk. If there is not a sidewalk present, please mark this down with the appropriate symbol.

When adding crossings to the map, please specify which kind of crossing is present. For example: painted, push-to-cross with flashing light, signalized intersection. There is space to do this on the opposite side of this sheet.

You may add in other notes here as you see fit to describe items on your map. Please specify the particular block containing the item when listing elements this way or use numbering. These could include notes on the amount of trash, on the street lighting or noting confusing signage.

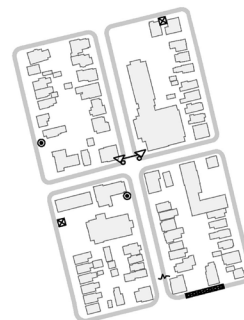
legend

-  Crossing (Note kind and condition)
-  Garbage can
-  Bench
-  No sidewalk
-  Curbcut in sidewalk
-  Crack / obstruction of sidewalk

* See an example of this legend in use on the other side of this sheet

List details of the items you mapped here _____

Example of legend in use _____

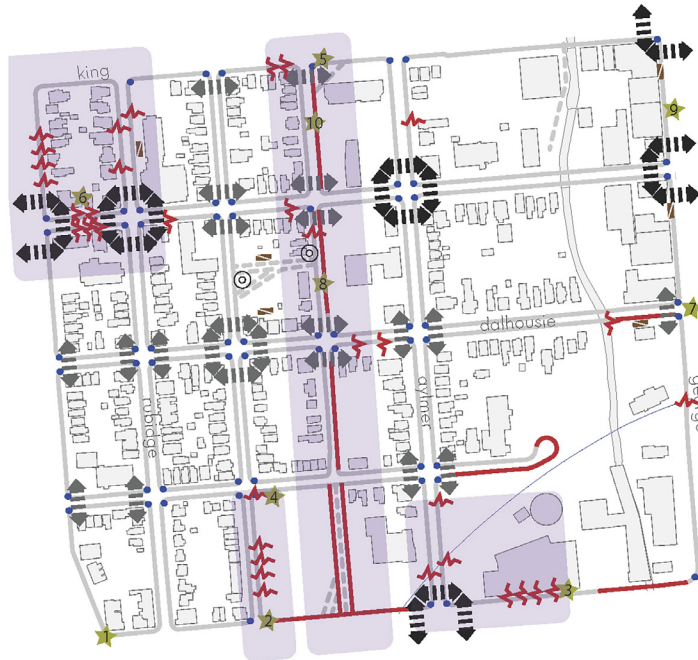


2. Street audit done at a community in Peterborough (via TCAT and GreenUP)

Community street audit

Members of the Active Neighbourhoods project team went out this summer to audit the condition of the streets in the neighbourhood, highlighting barriers and amenities for pedestrians. The map below shows the focus region, with the major problem areas highlighted in purple. As we can see here, Bethune Street emerges as a central corridor with issues such

as missing sidewalks, lack of street frontages and generally muddy, overgrown conditions. The area near the southern portion of Bethune is similarly in particularly bad condition. Finally, the sidewalks around Sherbrooke and Rubidge/Park are in terrible condition. It should also be noted that amenities such as seating and garbage cans are almost non-existent in the neighbourhood.



Street Audit Map

legend

- Crossing (Signalized actuated or non)
- Crossing (Painted)
- Garbage can
- Bench
- No sidewalk
- Curbcut in sidewalk
- Crack / obstruction of sidewalk
- Notes
 - five way intersection, difficult to navigate
 - asphalt & badly cracked pavement 1/2 block
 - many cracks throughout this stretch of sidewalk
 - this part of sidewalk really rough
 - this part of sidewalk really rough
 - very rough and cracked sidewalks, almost whole block
 - stop sign control on the side street unassisted.
 - no uses fronting the street on this block
 - downtown character; several pubs, wide sidewalk, bench, several bike racks
 - no sidewalk, grass to asphalt, fence

Active Neighbourhoods Canada : Stewart Street 22



Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal



Sustainable Calgary



the centre for active transportation

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