Step One: Pre-Assessment Questionnaire

Introduction

A walkability assessment is an important tool for Delaware local governments and community leaders for helping evaluate their respective community’s strengths and weaknesses related to pedestrian networks, consider opportunities for residents to become more physically active and healthy, and identify ways to increase economic and environmental viability through appropriate community planning initiatives. However, before assessing an area’s walkability, it is important for municipal representatives to understand the primary reason(s) for conducting the evaluation.

The first step of the walkability-assessment process is to clarify the town or city’s goals and objectives. The Pre-Assessment Questionnaire (Step 1) is designed to help familiarize local officials with healthy-community concepts and issues and encourage them to think strategically about how the town or city can benefit from the assessment process. It is recommended that the Pre-Assessment Questionnaire be completed and reviewed by a local government official before moving on to Delaware’s Walkability Checklist (Step 2). The purpose of this Pre-Assessment Questionnaire is to determine the answers to the following:

- **Who** will lead your jurisdiction’s walkability-assessment efforts (i.e., who will facilitate/conduct the process, review and share outcomes; what department(s) will be represented)?
- **What** are the town/city’s major issues or concerns regarding the health of its community (e.g., sidewalk issues, connectivity among destinations within the town/city, accessibility of walking paths or trails)?
- **Why** should the town/city should conduct a walkability assessment?
- **How** does the town/city plan to include stakeholder groups and use the results of the assessment (i.e., what will happen after the assessment process, will this help initiate citizen feedback or specific projects)?
The Questionnaire

This questionnaire is the first step of The Walkability Assessment Tool and should be completed by an authorized individual or representative group of a Delaware municipality. The individuals or groups will vary depending on the size and composition of the municipalities they represent. If needed, please use additional sheets to complete the following seven questions.

Completed by (please print clearly):

Name __________________________ Title __________________________
Phone __________________________ Email __________________________
Name __________________________ Title __________________________
Phone __________________________ Email __________________________
Name __________________________ Title __________________________
Phone __________________________ Email __________________________
Name __________________________ Title __________________________
Phone __________________________ Email __________________________

1) Why should the municipality initiate a walkable-community assessment (e.g., help the town or city consider options for residents to become more physically active, determine whether more foot traffic would benefit local businesses, understand whether the town or city is accessible for older residents or people with disabilities)?

2) Who will lead the assessment process (Steps 2 and 3) and be responsible for disseminating the results (authorized individual or representative group of the municipality)?
3) Will community stakeholders or citizens be asked to participate in Steps 2 and 3 (e.g., a person who uses a wheelchair or stroller)? If so, how?

4) To what extent does the town or city currently educate or provide information to its citizens on healthy-community resources (newsletters, websites, flyers, mailers, inserts)?

5) Is there a specific area within the municipality that should be a priority?

6) What is the Walk Score of the area(s) that are being considered for assessment (visit www.walkscore.com to learn about and measure the area’s Walk Score)? It will be helpful to compare the area’s Walk Score to responses in Steps 2 and 3.

7) How might the town or city use the assessment results to develop a healthy-community project or initiative within a particular area?