Implementation Checklist for Walkable Communities
Institute for Public Administration at University of Delaware

Design for pedestrian safety

- Always provide adequate lighting
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Building code
  □ Capital project: ______________________
  □ Work with state agency: ________________
  □ Plan/development review process

- Separate wheels from heels as much as possible with buffers, pleasant pedestrian pathways through parking lots etc.
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Capital project: ______________________
  □ Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  □ Work with state agency: ________________
  □ Plan/development review process

- Pleasant walking environment: Comfortable, safe places to wait, shade trees, special pavement, public art
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Building design guidelines
  □ Capital project: ______________________
  □ Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  □ Work with state agency: ________________
  □ Plan/development review process

- Maintenance: Light bulbs, tree trimming, sidewalk condition, snow removal, graffiti removal, street sweeping, grass mowing
  □ Building code
  □ Work with state agency: ______________________
  □ Operations (operating budget, town staff, inspections, contract with another agency or business)

- Information & Orientation: street signage and neighborhood identification, clearly articulate rules, warnings and directions. Signage should be consistent, coherent and visible, pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular signage. Define borders and boundaries.
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Building code
  □ Plan/development review process
  □ Need information or assistance

Design for all users

- Codes are ADA compliant.
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Building code
  □ Need information or assistance
• Minimize grade changes, glare and shadows. Provide long sight distances, longer crossing times, and rest areas. Provide buffers and snow storage areas between the street and sidewalk.
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Work with state agency: ________________
  □ Plan/development review process
  □ Need information or assistance

• Adopt basic sidewalk standards and dimensions.
  • 5' with green strips, 8' without
  • Commercial sidewalks—7.5' to 15' wide
  • Green strips—5' wide
  • Vertical clearance—8'
  • Tree/obstacle clearance—2.5'
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Plan/development review process

• Intersection design, crosswalks
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Work with state agency: ________________
  □ Plan/development review process
  □ Need information or assistance

• Provide frequent & safe pedestrian crossings (mid-block if necessary)
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Capital project: ________________
  □ Work with state agency: ________________
  □ Plan/development review process
  □ Need information or assistance

• Crosswalks & curb ramps
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Capital project: ________________
  □ Work with state agency: ________________
  □ Plan/development review process
  □ Construction inspection
  □ Need information or assistance

Continuous, connected, direct and convenient
• Offer a clear, direct route to and from destinations. Provide access from public transit, accessible parking, public streets, and passenger loading zones to the entrances they serve
• Provide visible, continuously linked facilities within a parcel, between parcels, and from each parcel to the surrounding neighborhood
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Capital project: ________________
  □ Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  □ Work with state agency: ________________
  □ Plan/development review process
• Minimize dead-end streets, cul-de-sacs and loop roads. Limit length to 200 feet where allowed.
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Work with state agency: _____________
  □ Plan/development review process

• **Provide sidewalk connections every 250 to 300 feet**
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Capital project: _____________
  □ Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  □ Work with state agency: _____________
  □ Plan/development review process

• **Extend existing street grid into new developments.**
  □ Capital project: _____________
  □ Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  □ Work with state agency: _____________
  □ Plan/development review process
  □ Need information or assistance

• **Allow vertical and horizontal mixing of land uses, and require a variety of housing types and sizes.**
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Building code
  □ Zoning change
  □ Building design guidelines
  □ Plan/development review process
  □ Need information or assistance

• **Locate and design public facilities such as schools to maximize pedestrian, bicycle and transit access, in addition to access by school buses.**
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Zoning change
  □ Building design guidelines
  □ Work with state/other agency: _____________
  □ Plan/development review process
  □ Need information or assistance

• **Other public facilities and institutions should be designed and located to encourage access by pedestrians and support the fabric of the community.**
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Building design guidelines
  □ Capital project: _____________
  □ Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  □ Work with state agency: _____________
  □ Plan/development review process
  □ Need information or assistance
• Design and locate open space and recreation areas to maximize bicycle/pedestrian connections. Do not allow open space to be a barrier to walking and transit.
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Capital project: ____________________
  □ Work with state agency: ______________
  □ Plan/development review process
  □ Construction inspection

Minimize walking distances
• Reduce or eliminate minimum side yards, setbacks and lot widths. Consider build-to lines
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Building design guidelines
  □ Plan/development review process

• Restore or demolish abandoned and neglected buildings and properties.
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Building code
  □ Capital project: ____________________
  □ Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  □ Work with state agency: ______________
  □ Operations (operating budget, town staff, inspections, contract with another agency or business)
  □ Need information or assistance

• Encourage development of vacant and infill parcels
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Building code
  □ Capital project: ____________________
  □ Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  □ Work with state agency: ______________
  □ Operations (operating budget, town staff, inspections, contract with another agency or business)
  □ Need information or assistance

• Parking: Minimize the amount of surface parking. Locate parking to the side and rear of buildings. Use several small lots instead of one big ugly sea of asphalt
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Capital project: ____________________
  □ Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  □ Plan/development review process
  □ Need information or assistance

• Screen dead spaces with attractive walls, hedges or berms. Require landscaping.
  Screens, walls & fences should allow for observation of public spaces.
  □ Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  □ Building design guidelines
  □ Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  □ Plan/development review process
Building Design and Placement

- Bring buildings close to the street. Set back garages away from the street, behind the building facade. Incorporate plazas and seating at entrances.
  - Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  - Building design guidelines
  - Plan/development review process
- Locate doors, windows and activity areas facing street. No blank walls, lots of windows at street level. Use articulation to reduce the scale of large buildings.
  - Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  - Building design guidelines
  - Plan/development review process
  - Need information or assistance
- Avoid large changes in scale
  - Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  - Zoning Change
  - Building design guidelines
  - Need information or assistance
- Preserve and protect older and historic buildings
  - Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  - Building code
  - Zoning Change
  - Building design guidelines
  - Capital project:
    - Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  - Work with state agency: __________
  - Plan/development review process
  - Need information or assistance

Design streets for cars AND pedestrians

- Minimize street width and design speed. Allow on-street parking. Design intersections for pedestrian safety, minimize crossing distance and maximize visibility.
  - Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  - Work with state agency: __________
  - Plan/development review process
  - Need information or assistance
- Use short blocks and T intersections in residential areas.
  - Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  - Work with state agency: __________
  - Plan/development review process
- Slow traffic with traffic calming measures.
  - Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  - Capital project:
    - Special project (i.e. redevelopment, economic development)
  - Work with state agency: __________
  - Plan/development review process
Need information or assistance
- Reduce the impact of driveways: controlled/channeled entrances, continue sidewalk, maximum driveway widths
  - Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  - Work with state agency: 
  - Plan/development review process
  - Need information or assistance

Make the most of transit
In addition to all of the above:
- Provide appropriately located and lighted stops and pull-offs
  - Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  - Capital project:
  - Work with state agency: 
  - Plan/development review process
  - Need information or assistance
- Provide comfortable and safe places to wait.
  - Revisions to subdivision/zoning codes
  - Work with state agency: 
  - Plan/development review process

Code Revisions
- Review process
- Mixed uses
- Area standards
- Open space
- Sidewalks
- Street trees and landscaping
- Parking requirements and parking lot design
- Block length
- Historic preservation
- Fencing and screening
- Building code and design
- Sign regulations
- Lighting
- Residential & employment density along transit routes

Development Review
- Pedestrian and Vehicular Connections
- Shared parking & cross-access easements
- Extending the street grid
- Parking and site design
- Landscape plan
- Circulation plan
- Orientation of doors and entry plazas
Maintenance
- Keep pedestrian facilities and lighting in good condition
- Remove snow, trash and graffiti quickly
- Maintain landscaping to avoid encroachment and blocked sightlines
- Light bulb replacement
- Tree trimming
- Sidewalk repairs
- Snow removal
- Graffiti removal
- Street sweeping
- Grass mowing

Capital Improvements
- Sidewalks
- Streetscape improvements
- Parking facilities
- Landscaping
- Lighting
- Burying utilities

Funding
- Operating budget
- Capital budget & programming
- Grants and other sources of public money
- Other sources
  - Developer contributions
  - Homeowners
  - Businesses
  - Sponsors, Partners

Mix of Land Uses: Specific uses recommended near residential and employment
- Schools & educational facilities
- Commercial office buildings
- Restaurants, taverns, coffee shops
- Parks and recreation facilities
- Neighborhood-scale retail such as news stands, dry cleaners
- Civic, institutional uses
- Grocery stores
- Child care