

What makes a Walkable Community?

There are many physical and philosophical components to a walkable community. The core of a walkable community is a pedestrian focused approach to city planning and street design which underscores the effectiveness of walking as a mode of transportation. A walkable community has four major components: 1) **Comfort**: a walkable community is comfortable to navigate and pays attention to the comfort of the pedestrian; 2) **Accessibility**: a walkable community has sidewalks, transit stations, and pedestrian facilities that are accessible to all kinds of pedestrians and are compliant with the American Disabilities Act; 3) **Safety**: a walkable community emphasizes pedestrian safety – both from injury by cars and from criminal activity; 4) **Efficiency**: a walkable community is planned and organized so that trips made on foot are efficient and it is possible to accomplish daily activities by walking.

There are several communities currently participating in creating walkable communities. **LA Walks** in Los Alamos is sponsoring a 2 day event on March 5th & 6th, 2009 to address concerns regarding Trinity Drive/State Road 502 and develop outcomes to increase driver awareness and make the this road a safer pedestrian area. The **Walatowa Pueblo of Jemez** is creating education and promotional materials to raise awareness for the Highway 4 crossing. The **Otero Walks** is having a community event in on April 25, 2009 and will partner with community groups to raise awareness on arroyo, pedestrian and railroad safety issues. During the summer they plan to work with the Boys and Girls Clubs to reach out and increase pedestrian awareness/safety for kids. The **Mid Region Council of Governments** is partnering with AARP to create a walking survey and will share findings.

If your community is interested in starting a walkable community contact Tammy Fisher, Program Specialist for the Pedestrian Safety Initiative Program sponsored by NMDOT at tfisher@salud.unm.edu