

ALLAPATTAH WALKING AUDITS 2019 Preliminary Report of Community Feedback & Next Steps







ALLAPATTAH WALKING AUDIT

Preliminary Report of Community Feedback & Next Steps

Table of Contents

3 3
4
5
7
9 9
0
2 3 5
8
9 2
5
5 6 4
0 2 4

Acknowledgements

The Partnerships for Healthy Aging in Place is a collaboration funded through an Aetna Foundation Grant aimed at improving the living conditions of older adults in the Allapattah community. This project is carried out as a partnership between Urban Health Partnerships. the YMCA of South Florida's Village of Allapattah Y team as well as a wonderful group of community leaders and partners.

Partners

- Urban Health Partnerships
- YMCA
- Aetna Foundation

Project Overview





Every person deserves to live in a community where they can stay active, engaged, and healthy with dignity and enjoyment. This is especially important as we age. Older adults need a place that supports healthy aging and aging in place so that they can continue to live and thrive in their community.

The Partnerships for Healthy Aging in Place project in Allapattah is a collaboration between Urban Health Partnerships, YMCA Allapattah, and Community Health Workers (CHW's) to:

- Engage older adult residents of Allapattah
- Empower residents to identify barriers and opportunities for active aging in place
- Develop a mini action plan outlining key strategy and advocacy suggestions to for making age-friendly changes based on community feedback
- Connect residents & YMCA with local organizations to address barriers and opportunities
- Utilize CHWs to engage residents and connect them to resources and opportunities

• Increase community support and engagement among residents



Walking Audit (WA) Overview

Apart from driving, walking is the most popular mode of transportation in the United States. However, in many cities, towns, and neighborhoods, driving is the default and often times the only option because walking is too dangerous.¹ Miami-Dade County is especially prone to this issue – it is one of the five deadliest counties in the United States for walking and bicycling.² This is a the detriment of the City of Miami, a city that is naturally predisposed to be a pedestrian-friendly city. Miami has a number of advantages that make walking and bicycling naturally attractive options – namely, excellent weather for pedestrians for much of the year, a relatively flat topography, and an increasing variety of booming, independent businesses and unique areas such as Allapattah.

Walking audits can be extremely valuable in assessing needs in the physical, built environment toward initiating changes that can make streets, public spaces, and transportation options safer, more convenient, and more accessible. Such changes have been associated with improved mental, social, and physical health, access to opportunity including employment and education, economic development, and more equitable communities.

Walking audits can serve a number of purposes, including but not limited to:

- Documenting how walkable a route is
- Identifying walkability barriers and benefits in a community
- Bringing community members together to discuss problems and brainstorm solutions
- Identifying disparities and assessing whether different neighborhoods have walking environments that differ in quality

- Determining problems that can be easily fixed
- Identifying needed improvements to be included in funding asks, plans, and projects
- Engaging elected and appointed officials around a problem and advocating for change
- Capturing conditions before and after a street renovation to assess the effects of improvements
- Creating starting points for Safe Routes to School and similar programming

Walking audits are also beneficial because they involve the residents and community in a very direct way, and provide opportunities to:

- Engage residents and stakeholders to take action to improve the physical environment of their community;
- Provide an experiential tool for community members to learn about and assess ongoing issues in their communities, particularly as they relate to the intersection of health, equity, and the built environment;
- And discuss the value and implementation of Complete Streets, what Complete Streets can look like in a specific community, and how to advocate for changes that residents and stakeholders want to see in their communities.

Objectives and Aims of the Walking Audit



A walking audit is a tool to gather information about street conditions, engage community members, and inform planning and traffic safety projects.³ Put simply, the idea behind a walking audit is for residents and stakeholders to walk a specific route, get a feel for the walkability of said route, and identify threats/barriers and opportunities to promote and facilitate walking.⁴ Perhaps the most crucial component of a walking audit is the participation of local residents – it is essential to get the perspective of people who know the area, live and/or work there, know what it is like to walk around the neighborhood, and are deeply invested in seeing improvements and success in their community. Walking Audits have been successfully conducted locally in South Florida. More recently, Little Havana has conducted a walking audit that led to the planting of trees to increase shade and the installation of transit benches to improve experience while waiting for the bus.

The goals of the Partnerships for Healthy Aging in Place project were to:

- Engage older adult residents of the Allapattah community
- Empower them to identify barriers and opportunities for active aging in place
- Develop a mini action plan outlining key strategy and advocacy suggestions to for making age-friendly changes based on community feedback
- Connect residents & YMCA to local organizations to address barriers and opportunities in the livability of the Allapattah community
- Engage residents and connect them to local resources and opportunities
- Increase overall community support and engagement among residents of Allapattah

The project aims to accomplish these goals through:

- **Assessment** through the Kick-off Walking Audit to gather community feedback about the built environment, livability, access, transit and walkability of the Allapattah community
- **Engagement** to integrate older adults in Allapatah to provide feedback about the barriers and opportunities for age-friendliness in the community
- **Vision** to develop a mini community action plan and the local connections to address the barriers and opportunities identified
- **Support** from YMCA Community Health Workers to connect to local resources and opportunities
- **Evaluation** of the results, accomplishments, lessons learned and recommendations

The walking audits were a way to begin to accomplish the project goals.

The Allapattah community encompasses the zip codes 3**3136**, **33125**, **33127**, **33142**, an area of 4.208 square miles and a population of **47,966**. The population average is 40 years in age, but there are communities where 10.3% and over 18.6% of the population is 60 years and older. The area where the Village of Allapattah Y is located, has over **over 20.1% older adult population. Additionally, in Allapattah, over 13% of the population is affected by diabetes.** Additionally, when compared to Miami:

- Median household income:
 - Allapattah: \$25,700
 - Miami: \$34,901
- Non-English Speakers:
 - Allapattah: 36.2%
 - o Miami: 30.6%
- Population below poverty level:
 - Allapattah: 35.9%
 - Miami: 24.9%

Two walking audits of Allapattah were conducted on April 4, 2019 and on May 9, 2019, encompassing three different routes. These audits helped kick-off the *Partnerships for Healthy Aging in Place* project by engaging older adults at the Y and in the community, local stakeholders, and elected officials with their environment. Conducting these audits with older adults was essential, as they provided with the unique perspectives of their experiences when walking around their community. It would not have been possible without the cooperation and assistance of several community partners – we gratefully acknowledge the Village of Allapattah YMCA, the Allapatta NET Office, and the Aetna Foundation for supporting these activities and project.

Equity and Inclusion

Growing evidence indicates that racial/ethnic and income-based disparities by neighborhood can in turn translate into disparities in neighborhood quality. Local streetscape audits such as walking audits can be an effective way to pinpoint those.⁵ One study found that 90% of high-income communities had good sidewalks, versus 49% of low-income communities. Walking audits can be used to quantify disparities, assessing whether different neighborhoods have walking environments that differ in quality. They can help identify inequities and lead to safer and fairer environments for all.⁶

Additionally, persons with disabilities (including but not limited to elderly individuals who use walking aids such as canes; individuals in wheelchairs; individuals who utilize service animals; etc.) experience public spaces in very different ways, and their needs can oftentimes go unrecognized.⁷ This can result in significant danger for those persons – in one study of roundabout intersections, researchers found that persons with impaired sight waited three times longer to make a crossing than non-impaired individuals and, even after waiting, still made more dangerous crossings on average than non-impaired individuals.⁸ A walking audit is an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to acquire the perspective of a person with a disability if one is present. If one is not present, it does still present an opportunity for those involved to assess the walkability of their neighborhood and consider how placement of sidewalk objects, broken sidewalks, and other potential obstacles might limit their fellow residents who deal with disabilities.

Objectives and Aims

The Walking Audit community workshop specifically aimed to accomplish the following objectives and generate the following results for participants:

- Develop a shared understanding of how the built environment has impacted the health and well-being of Allapattah residents
- Develop a shared understanding of concerns for pedestrians, related to the safety, access, comfort, and convenience of the environment
- Experience the surrounding area as a pedestrian;
- Identify opportunities for a walkable environment

Conducting the Walking Audit and Routes

Two Walking Audit events took place during events held on April 4, 2019 and May 9, 2019. In total, three routes were audited. These routes were selected in collaboration with residents, community health workers, and Allapattah YMCA based on experience with residents and patterns available to address concerns. Thirty-one (31) individuals attended the workshops and participated in the walking audits. Allapattah residents were among the attendees, as well as representatives from several community organizations, including the City of Miami Allapattah NET Office, candidates to office, Miami-Dade police, and other local non-profits.



To begin the walking audits, a presentation was provided to introduce participants to the concept of and objectives behind the day's walking audit and provide details about the assigned walking audit tool and routes. The participants separated into teams, each of which went on one of the preselected routes. Each team had several different roles which were filled by the participants. These included:

- Walking Audit Facilitator
- Form Recorder
- Map Recorder
- Photographer
- Thermometer Recorder
- Team Observers
- Time Keeper

The three routes are mapped out in this report and were selected to highlight

different areas of Allapattah according to a number of characteristics and criteria, including pedestrian and bicyclist safety, proximity to the Village of YMCA Allapattah, closeness to older adult residences, access to transit, parks, and other community assets, among others.

The walking audit tool was derived from the Walking Suitability Assessment Form, the CDC-HAN Environmental Audit Tool, and the CDC Built Environment Assessment Tool. It included several sections, designed to elicit not just overall impressions of the route walked, but also specific areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. The first section dealt with Physical Conditions of the route, and asked respondents to consider questions such as whether the sidewalk was level or wide enough for a wheelchair or stroller; whether transit stops were clearly marked and accessible; what assets and amenities are present in the area; and whether there are aesthetically pleasant features, graffiti present, etc. The next section dealt with Social Conditions, asking respondents to consider whether there are street lights installed; what aids are present to support wayfinding in the community; whether they felt safe walking through the area, and other such features. Respondents were then asked to rate the overall level of walkability, provide additional comments and observations, and finally, highlight several strengths and weaknesses of the selected route or corridor. We also updated the tool specifically for this project to ensure it asked about age-friendly communities, and asked participants to think about the routes in terms of age-friendliness, and accessibility to all ages.

Team Findings and Route Level Discussion

Route 1: Allapattah YMCA to Allapattah Branch Library along 17th Avenue



Allapattah Walking Audit Route 1



Strengths

- Local parks, such as Juan Pablo Duarte Park and assets such as local small businesses, a public library, a grocery store, and resource, health, and community centers all provide opportunities to the community. Local community residents were engaged in socializing with each other and several were walking or riding around the community. There are several trees on NW 17th Avenue providing shade for walking.
- 2. Most bus stops along the sidewalks provided trash and recycling bins.
- 3. There are some sidewalk improvements around the corner of NW 36[™] Street and NW 18[™] Avenue.
- 4. The library on the corner of NW 18th Avenue & NW 35th Street offers great opportunities and resources for older adults and a space for potential collaborations.

Weaknesses

- 1. Additional shade is needed throughout the area.
- 2. High-traffic business area with limited safe opportunities for crossing the streets.

- 3. No designated bike lanes.
- 4. More trash cans and recycling bins are needed throughout the community.
- 5. Very few clear crosswalks and limited crossing lights.
- 6. Some areas with shade trees need maintenance.
- 7. Some areas with limited shade.
- 8. Several businesses and properties had uneven ramps to enter/exit.
- 9. ADA sidewalk ramps in need of repair.
- 10. Unpleasant aesthetic elements such as litter, including bulk items, in properties and sidewalks along the way.

Opportunities

- 1. Need additional features to make the community more friendly and welcoming.
- 2. Traditional local and other small businesses operate along this route. New businesses opening along NW 36th Street.
- 3. There is an opportunity to better connect the community to the Allapattah Branch Library, looking at the routes specifically to get there.
- 4. The community needs more bicycle lanes and locations to place bicycles bicyclists are frequent but use the roads or the sidewalk, making it more unsafe and difficult for pedestrians especially older adults and those with disabilities to also use the sidewalk.
- 5. Crosswalks can be repainted where appropriate to make them stand out more, cross lights need to be more consistent, and crosswalks needs to be added at several intersections:
 - a. NW 31st Street.
 - b. NW 32nd Street

Threats

- 1. Need more shade in some areas:
 - a. Areas that were specifically mentioned included:
 - i. East side of NW 17th Avenue (most of the way)
 - ii. Shade gaps starting on west side of NW 17th Avenue, north of NW 28th Street.
- 2. Need to reduce vehicle speed.
 - a. Aggressive drivers were noted along the walking route
 - b. NW 17th Avenue and NW 36th Street had a higher speed than the expected.
- 3. The sidewalks are uneven in height at certain points and tree roots have cracked the sidewalks in some portions, making it a trip hazard, especially for older adults and those with disabilities.
- 4. Especially in the areas of NW 17th Avenue that are closest to the parks. Old poles with hanging cables were found along the route. This also presents potential hazards for people using the sidewalk.

Route 2: Allapattah YMCA to Juan Pablo Duarte Park & Park Audit



Allapattah Walking Audit Route 2



Strengths

- 1. Juan Pablo Duarte Park is along this route and is a wonderful asset to the community. There are many shade trees within the park as well as programming.
- 2. There are several trees for shade along the way.
- 3. There is a dedicated, continuous sidewalk along the route.

Weaknesses

- 1. Need more street lighting along the way.
- 2. Graffiti, litter, air pollutants and heavy vehicles were elements noted as conditions observed on the route. Trash cans and recycling bins are needed throughout the route.
- 3. There were several homeless individuals living along the route, opportunities to connect them to housing or services are needed.
- 4. Some fencing along the park needs updates/upgrades.
- 5. There seems to have been an opening to the park much closer to the YMCA but it has since been closed, this means local residents who live in the buildings near the YMCA need to walk around the entire block to enter the park. One older adult on the walk had to stop to take a break because the walk was too long.

- 6. More lighting is needed on some stretches of the street, some areas had a lot of lighting while others had none.
- 7. The group asked to walk back past the YMCA toward 23rd Terrace they pointed out cars that were blocking this street on off hours.

Opportunities

- 1. Trees along NW 17th Avenue should be maintained consistently as they serve as great shade along this path.
- 2. Need additional wayfinding features along the access path to the park.
- 3. The park could support the slowing of traffic by extending to the sidewalk offering more benches and places to rest along the way.
- 4. There are very few bicyclists on the streets bicycle lanes and racks might increase the number of cyclists in the neighborhood.
- 5. Addressing the litter issue on this corridor will make it feel more pleasant to walk on.
- 6. Re-opening the gate closer to the older adult residences, even for certain hours in the day, will make the park more accessible.
- 7. Many of the older adults did not know the services and programming that was available at the park, there is an opportunity for more outreach to residents so they know what opportunities are available just around the corner.

Threats

- 1. Features of the community helpful for persons with disabilities, such as curb ramps, were limited, and waste along the road could become a potential safety hazard.
- 2. There were some locations where there was speeding (corner of 28th and 17th)
- 3. More lighting was needed for residents to feel safe walking at night. Participants noted that the levels of safety in the community vary throughout the day, and that is an important concern.

Route 3: Allapattah YMCA to NW 28th Street Corridor



Allapattah Walking Audit NW 28th Street Route

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NW 26th St	NW 26th St			:
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▲ Route Distance:	215	Q		Gym-Village of
Approx. 1.5 miles	1 Av			Allapattah YMCA.
and the state of t	n NW 24th St	NW 24th St	Comstock	Nonprofit center for classes & services
NW 24th St	NH 240.00	Z	Elementary Schoo	
		5		23rd Terrace

Strengths

- 1. Jose Pablo Duarte Park and the Post Office are along this route.
- 2. There are some pleasant aesthetic features like clear and visible signage, nice and tall palm trees, and areas that appeared to be recently repaired.

Weaknesses

- 1. Additional shade is needed throughout. Overall shade is very limited along NW 28[™] Street. There are some palm trees but they do not provide adequate shade.
- 2. Additional locations to rest (such as benches) would make the area more comfortable for walkers and bicyclists.
- 3. The sidewalks are uneven and in many places obstructed by overgrown yards, grass, and trees making them difficult to navigate for older adults and persons with disabilities.
- 4. Features of the community helpful for persons with disabilities, such as curb ramps, were limited, and waste along the road could become a potential safety hazard.
- 5. Graffiti, broken or boarded windows, and litter in yards were noted throughout this route.

- 6. There were several homeless individuals living along the route, opportunities to connect them to housing or services are needed.
- 7. Uneven sidewalks
- 8. Placement of wayfinding elements was not noted on the walking audit. And although there were clear and visible signs, there could be improved wayfinding elements, especially around the park and post office.

Opportunities

- 1. More shade trees along NW 28th Street would make the corridor more age-friendly and help with Miami heat.
- 2. Need more opportunities to rest along the way.
- 3. There are some bicyclists on the streets bicycle lanes and racks might increase the number of cyclists in the neighborhood.
- 4. Improved ADA accessibility for the bus stop along this route is necessary.

Threats

- 1. There are areas of the sidewalks that are uneven and/or heavily obstructed and gaps on the sidewalks along NW 28th street.
- 2. Features of the community helpful for persons with disabilities, such as curb ramps, were limited/absent. This is a significant hazard for those with limited mobility and/or disability.
 - a. There was one bus stop along the route (in front of the post office) and it was inaccessible.

Summary and Recommendations



There are many strengths of the Allapattah community, including a diverse population and local parks and assets that can be hubs for the community. In addition, the older adult residents of the community are active and engaged in their neighborhood and eager to see improvements. Allapattah is a vibrant community full of life and with a variety of community resources, such as the City of Miami NET Office, Miami-Dade County services, local partners and the Village of Allapattah YMCA.

Overall, participants felt the walking audit was a success. A post-audit evaluation survey was completed by some of the participants. Participants provided feedback on their experience and participation. Participants shared they learned something new about the built environment, age-friendly communities, and the way it impacts the health, well-being and mobility for older adults. Eighty-two (82) percent agreed they learned something new.

Overall, it is apparent that the walking audit workshops were a positive and educational experience for all involved and provided participants with a powerful opportunity to see the streets from residents' perspectives and generate valuable recommendations. Based on feedback from the walking audit and analysis of participants' responses, a number of recommendations have been made below.

Short-Term (1-5 years)

1. Make improvements at bus stops in the area.

Although most bus stops along these routes had benches and shelters, there were a few that did not, perhaps because there was not enough Right of Way. If there is not enough ROW, there may be an opportunity to install simme-seats which have been installed in Little Havana to address the right of way issue and still provide a place to rest for residents waiting for the bus. Also, they all should have proper trash and recycling receptacles with proper signage to assist with decreasing littering in the area. These issues can make it uncomfortable for residents generally and could be a significant disadvantage for older adults' use of transit.

- Potential Lead Implementer/Funder: Allapattah NET, City of Miami Public Works, Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works, Simme-seat partner: Urban Health Partnerships, AARP
- Community Role: Residents can call 311 and report a problem at their bus stop. In addition, taking a picture and posting on social media with tags to elected officials, City of Miami, and Miami-Dade Transit can bring awareness and change to the issue.

2. Engage residents to improve access to local assets including parks and public spaces through tactical urbanism.

Tactical urbanism is a community-centric approach using short-term, low-cost, and scalable interventions to catalyze long-term change.⁹ A classic tactical urbanism project is the use of wayfinding and sidewalk decals or markings to direct residents to access local assets such as parks and public spaces. This is a very cost-effective way to increase residents' engagement with their neighborhood and community and increase utilization of public spaces overall.

- Potential Implementer/Funder: Urban Health Partnerships, Public Space Challenge, Health Foundation of South Florida, KaBoom, AARP
- Community Role: Residents and community partners can conduct tactical urbanism projects on a very small scale for little or no funding. A ton of resources and ideas are available online. In addition, there are funding organizations that have interest in supporting these low cost/high impact projects. Be on the lookout for funding opportunities that community members can apply, i.e. Public Space Challenge.

3. Install trash and recycling bins.

Along both routes a lack of trash and recycling bins was noted. This in turn can lead to unpleasant aesthetic elements that then turn residents away from walking or bicycling in their community.

- Potential Lead Implementer/Funder: Allapattah NET, City of Miami Solid Waste, Miami-Dade County NEAT Streets
- Community Role: Residents can call 311 and report a problem about trash/illegal dumping in their neighborhood. In addition, the Allapattah NET office is a great resource to reach out to and ask for assistance.

4. Implement additional community assets (such as public art or open spaces).

Connect with local community resources and assets to continue outreach to the community, further engage residents, and assist with implementation of changes to the built and social environments. This can include public art beyond just murals and redefining public space into open space.

- Potential Lead Implementer/Funder: City of Miami Parks Department, Miami-Dade County NEAT Streets, Allapattah NET
- Community Role: Residents and community partners are better at knowing what space in their community needs to be redefined or what features are missing. Make sure those ideas are voiced at public meetings, to elected officials and anyone else who will listen. Social media is a great way to promote an idea and get others to help highlight the needed change.

5. Install and/or improve ADA ramps and painted crosswalks.

Designated crosswalks are an essential element of pedestrian safety when interacting with vehicles. Several locations along the routes could benefit from clearly designated, painted/repainted crosswalks, such as:

- ➢ NW 17TH Avenue
- ➢ Sections of NW 28TH Street

Additionally, ADA ramps should be installed or properly identified at all intersections as required.

- Potential Lead Implementer/Funder: City of Miami Public Works, Allapattah NET
- Community Role: Residents can call 311 and report a problem about an unsafe condition crossing a street, including the need for an ADA ramp. In addition, the Allapattah NET office is a great resource to reach out to and ask for assistance.

6. Continue to build relations with Miami-Dade County law enforcement.

If Allapattah is going to thrive, it is essential that residents feel safe in their neighborhoods. Continue to build on the relationship between local residents and law enforcement, potentially by holding community events and involving law

enforcement in day-to-day activities throughout the area. One example that has been successful is the *Mano a Mano* project in Little Havana that connects residents to the local police so that they know them as individuals and as a resource for them. Local Law enforcement can also assist with enforcement of speeding requirements, helping to improve safety in the aera. Additionally, the use of Community Policing practices have nationally shown positive effects.

- Potential Lead Implementer/Funder: Community partners, City of Miami Police, Commissioners Offices, Urban Health Partnerships
- Community Role: Residents can take part in activities that help build relationships with police and advocate for activities such as Mano a Mano. Residents can voice opinions and concerns. A complaint about a City of Miami police officer can be provided to Miami Police Department Internal Affairs Division at (305) 835-2000.

7. Install more trees throughout the community.

There are a variety of positive impacts that trees can have on a community. One of the most significant, especially in South Florida is the relief that shade provides for people walking, bicycle, or riding transit. There are other contributions that trees provide, such as helping to beautify a neighborhood, providing traffic calming, and creating a healthier environment.

- Potential Lead Implementer/Funder: City of Miami Public Works, Miami-Dade County NEAT Streets
- Community Role: Residents can take advantage of tree giveaways that occur in the City and County to plant more trees on their property and provide shade for the surrounding area. Also, the Allapattah NET and Neat Street Miami can be great partners in identify funding and location to plant more trees.

8. Address maintenance issues.

Several locations along the walking routes are in need of trash clean up, sidewalk repairs, crosswalk repainting, the open manhole covers and landscape trimming.

- > Lead Implementer/Funder: City of Miami Public Works, Allapattah NET
- Community Role: Residents can call 311 and report a problem about any maintenance type issues. In addition, social media can be a great platform to highlight concerns and tag partners that can help, such as City of Miami and Commissioners. Community members can also advocate for or lead local trash cleanups.

9. Work on improving blighted land and buildings.

Residents in high-vacancy neighborhoods show that it has a number of detrimental impacts. Notably, residents in such neighborhoods were more likely to perceive efforts to maintain or improve the neighborhood as futile; less likely to have good relations with other neighbors; and more likely to experience negative emotions, such

as frustration over their inability to change the neighborhood, and even negative mental states such as depression.¹⁰

- > Potential Lead Implementer/Funder: City of Miami, Allapattah NET, CRA
- Community Role: Residents can connect with CRA, Allapattah NET and Commissioner's office to voice concerns about deteriorated and vacant buildings. There are opportunities to fix up blighted buildings, but in some cases these pieces of land could be reused to become an asset for the neighborhood, such as a community garden or pocket park.
- 10. Increase awareness of and improve connections between existing, planned and needed bike infrastructure.

Create dedicated, safe and separated spaces for bicyclists, such as bicycle lanes and trails along railroads and through community parks. This will facilitate increased bicycling and relieve sidewalk congestion. Increase bicycle usage by creating safe and separated spaces to ride, such as dedicated bicycle lanes, and a trail along the train tracks and through parks.

- Potential Lead Implementer/Funder: City of Miami Public Works and Capital Improvements
- Community Role: Residents and community partners interested in increasing and improving bicycling in Allapattah should connect with already established bike groups in Miami. Not only are separated bike lanes important, but also multiuse trails can increase bicycling in a community, such as the proposed Heritage and Flagler Trail. In addition, it would be important to bike programming, such as Earn-A-Bike to the community youth to help teach them about maintaining a bike and bike safety.

Long-Term (5-10 years)

11. Install consistent pedestrian crossing lightings along corridors.

Pedestrian crossing lights assist community members when crossing the streets; especially those with high/fast traffic, such as NW 17TH Avenue. Like crosswalks, pedestrian crossing lights are an essential component of a pedestrian walkway. Without the assistance of pedestrian crossing lights, pedestrians feel unsafe. This particularly affects older adults and persons with disabilities such as those with impaired sight or hearing.

- Potential Lead Implementer/Funder: City of Miami Public Works and Capital Improvements, FDOT
- 12. Revitalize vacant land and park space to include other elements that can engage the community.

Vacant lots and homes are associated with a number of negative outcomes for the community, ranging from increased crime to increased rates of diabetes, premature

mortality, and suicide. As such, revitalization of vacant land and park space is a significant priority for community revitalization. A variety of approaches are available for repurposing vacant land and parks, including temporary urbanism (temporary use projects such as roller discos, art exhibitions, and food festivals – these often have lasting benefits by promoting further use of the land), greening (urban gardening, honey farms, etc.)^{11,12}, and developing new businesses and restaurants.

Potential Lead Implementer/Funder: City of Miami Parks Department, CRA, Allapattah NET

13. Create better housing options for older adults.

Based on the walking audit, conversations with local residents, and stakeholder expertise, Allapattah could benefit from increased diversity of housing options, particularly for older adults such as community rentals, tax-credit or other form of subsidized housing. There is a lot of change happening in Allapattah and it is also important to ensure that residents can stay in their community because they have affordable housing options. Increased efforts to promote housing option diversity within Allapattah would in turn be well-rewarded. When working households, retirees, and others have options for housing and can sustainably afford their housing options, they in turn are more invested in their community and have more time, money, and energy to put locally toward their neighborhood.¹³

> **Potential Lead Implementer/Funder:** CRA, Allapattah NET, Commissioners.

14. Promote economic development and support local small businesses.

There is a strong interconnection between neighborhood walkability and economic development. More walkable streets have been found to be more economically productive, both in terms of tax revenues and home and property values.^{14,15} Likewise, residents of neighborhoods with a central core of shops and services walk nearly three times more often than residents of neighborhoods where shops and services are exclusively located along arterial roadways, and that the number of businesses per acre is a robust indicator of how likely people are to walk in their neighborhood, indicating the importance of economic development and local businesses for neighborhood walkability.¹⁶

> **Potential Lead Implementer/Funder:** CRA, Allapattah NET, Commissioners

15. Implement more Complete Streets and traffic-calming techniques.

Utilize traffic-calming measures along the NW 17th Avenue corridor and elsewhere as necessary. There are various options for traffic-calming measures, and the most effective option depends on a number of street characteristics (average speed; whether it is a major corridor; whether emergency services utilize the street; etc.). Some potential options may include converting one of the intersections to a roundabout or mini-roundabout; implementing a road diet to narrow or eliminate one of the lanes; allocating some of the paved space in the corridor to parking spaces; and

clearly demarcated raised crosswalks, to name a few. By and large, traffic-calming measures have been shown to be a cost-effective way to decrease average corridor speeds and crash risk, while increasing pedestrian safety. A fuller listing of traffic-calming measures can be found in Appendix C.

Potential Lead Implementer/Funder: City of Miami Public Works and Capital Improvement, FDOT, Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization, Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works

Appendices

A - Walking Audit Agenda



Village of Allapattah Kick-Off & Walking Audit April 4, 2019

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Objectives:

- 1. Understand the healthy aging concept and the Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative.
- Understand how the social and built environment impact the health and wellbeing of Allapattah residents.
- Understand the Goals of the Partnerships for Healthy Aging in Place collaboration.
- Gather community feedback regarding concerns for pedestrians, related to the safety, access, comfort, and convenience of the environment.
- 5. Participate in a walking audit.

Agenda:

- 1. Introductions and Partner Welcomes
- 2. Overview of Partnerships for Healthy Aging in Place
- 3. Age-Friendly Communities
- 4. Presentation: Data, Walking Audit Tools, Instructions
- 5. Walking Audit
- 6. Walking Audit Debrief
- 7. Discuss Next Steps & What's Next
- 8. Event survey
- 9. Adjourn





B - Walking Audit Presentation

















C - Walking Audit Tools



WALKING AUDIT INFORMATION						
Cross Street 1:	Day of Week: Start Time: End Time:	м				AM/ PM
CROSSING STREETS/INTERSECTIONS		_				
 Is there a well-marked crosswalk? Yes No Please describe: 	2) Is there a crossing with a pedestrian or audible signal? Yes No		the sig ccessib] Yes] No] N/A lease d	le?	operat	ing, and
 4) Does the signal give slow walkers enough time to cross? Yes No N/A 	5) What is the amount of time that the signal gives pedestrians to cross?		the roa] Yes] No lease d		safely	cross?
 7) If the road has 4 or more lanes, does the road have a median? Yes No N/A 	8) Does the road have speed humps? Yes No Please describe:					

SIDEWALKS		and a second sec
 10) Is there a dedicated, continuous sidewalk along the entire route? Yes No Please describe: 	 11) Is there a buffer between traffic and the sidewalk? Yes No Please describe: 	 12) Is the sidewalk level and wide enough for a person in a wheelchair or with a stroller? Yes No Please describe:
 13) Are the sidewalks well maintained and free of obstructions? (e.g. no trip hazards, such as cracks, barriers, overgrown vegetation, utility poles, etc.) Yes No Please describe: 	 14) Are there any permanent or temporary (e.g., cars, trucks, vendors) obstructions blocking the sidewalk? Yes No Please describe: 	15) Are there any walkway slipping hazards? ☐ Yes ☐ No Please describe:
 16) Are there ramps (i.e., curb cuts) on sidewalks? (Note: There should be two curb cuts per corner) Yes No Please describe: 	 17) If there are ramps (i.e., curb cuts), are they misplaced? Yes No N/A Please describe: 	 18) If there are ramps (i.e., curb cuts), are they textured or marked for people with visual impairments? Yes No N/A Please describe:
19) OVERALL RATING OF SIDEWALKS	oblems Good Very good Excellent	

(check all that apply) acc None □ Bus stop □ Rail □ Senior transit/paratransit 23) Do the transit stops provide the following? 24) Are (check all that apply)	e the transit stops clearly marked and essible? Yes No N/A e there places to rest?	22) Does the sidewalk go to the transit stops? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
ALL LUCELUS REPORT	eck all that apply)	25) Are there features to support orientation? (e.g. signage, tall structures, ocean, park)
□ Seating □	None Bench/street furniture Covered shelter Other (e.g., low wall)	☐ Yes ☐ No Please describe:
wayfinding? are Directional sign or marker (chi Landmark Information kiosk Advance street name signs Information kiosk Neighborhood flag or marker Information kiosk Advance street name signs Information kiosk Addvance street name signs Information kiosk Advance street name signs Information kiosk Information kiosk Information kiosk Information kiosk Information kiosk Information kiosk Information kiosk Information kiosk Information ki	hat other assets and amenities are in the ha? eck all that apply) Well maintained buildings Painted crosswalks Trees that offer shade Bike lanes Bicycle racks Working drinking fountains Accessible public restrooms ADA features, such as curb ramps Other:	

SAFETY 29) Did you observe any drivers who did any of the following? (check all that opply) Did not stop at stop sign Did not stop at stop sign Did not obey traffic signal Appeared to be speeding, did not yield to pedestrian Did not stop behind crosswalk Did not look when leaving or backing out of driveway Made unexpected turns/maneuvers Were distracted (e.g., using cellphone) 31) Are street lights installed? (check one) None Some (overhead lights on utility poles) Ample (pedestrian lampposts)	 30) What conditions did you observe? (check all that apply) Graffiti Abandoned cars Broken/boarded windows Litter in yards, street or sidewalk Gangs Hostile behavior Homeless individuals Substance abuse/drug activity Air pollutants (e.g. diesel fumes) Heavy vehicles (e.g. large trucks) 32) What opportunities exist for people to be seen when walking? (check all that apply) None Windows facing street Homes Businesses Parking lots 	 Loud ambient sounds (e.g. construction, factories) Railroad tracks Aggressive drivers Extremely crowded/ chaotic sidewalks Competing use of sidewalks Unleashed dogs Vacant or rundown buildings Other: 33) Did you feel safe walking through the area? Yes No
34) OVERALL RATING OF SAFETY Awful Many problems Some pro	oblems 🗆 Good 🗆 Very good 🗆 Excellent	IIIID

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ges and abilities	
ems but still accessible, walkable, navigable	
to avoid; requires attention/judgement	
barriers, safety hazards or navigational challenges	
	_
Weaknesses	
1)	
1) 2)	
	to avoid; requires attention/judgement barriers, safety hazards or navigational challenges

D – Additional Resources

- 2013 PRC Miami-Dade County Community Health Needs Assessment Household Survey Report: <u>http://assets.thehcn.net/content/sites/miamidade/2013_PRC_Miami_Dade_County_C HNA_Report.pdf</u>
- 2. For measures and treatments to improve pedestrian safety and mobility: <u>http://www.pedbikesafe.org/pedsafe/index.cfm</u>
- 3. Case studies on revitalization of vacant properties: <u>http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.188.9674&rep=rep1&type=pdf</u>
- 4. Case studies and examples of transforming underpasses into vibrant public spaces:
 - a. <u>http://spacestoplaces.blogs.realtor.org/2018/05/07/transforming-dead-spaces-under-freeways-to-vibrant-destinations/</u>
 - b. <u>https://www.curbed.com/2017/1/9/14183876/freeway-underpass-park-public</u>
- 5. Further examples of walking audits: <u>http://www.feetfirst.org/what-we-do/walking-audits</u>
- 6. Case studies for promotion of housing diversity: <u>http://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/design-features/housing-diversity</u>
- 7. Resources for promoting revitalization of historic buildings:
 - a. Smart Growth America, "(Re)Building Downtown: A Guidebook for Revitalization" – <u>https://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/app/legacy/documents/rebuildingdowntown.pdf</u>
 - b. "Creative Uses for Downtown Buildings in Small Towns" <u>https://fyi.uwex.edu/innovativedowntownbusinesses/files/2017/03/Creative-Uses-for-Downtown-Buildings-030317.pdf</u>
 - c. "Historic District Revitalization Strategies" http://www.villageoffrankfort.com/docs/20070717masterplan.pdf
- 8. Resources for promoting better relations between residents and law enforcement:
 - a. "Importance of Police-Community Relationships and Resources for Further Reading" – <u>https://www.justice.gov/crs/file/836486/download</u>
 - b. National League of Cities, "Building Trust Between Police and the Communities They Serve" – <u>https://www.nlc.org/article/building-trust-between-police-and-the-communities-they-serve</u>
 - c. "Building Trust in Law Enforcement Through Service" https://www.firescience.org/building-trust-in-law-enforcement/
 - d. Everyday Democracy, "Protecting Communities, Serving the Public" <u>https://www.everyday-democracy.org/resources/protecting-communities-</u> <u>serving-public#.U_u2wmNW7Zg</u>
- 9. Resources for promoting tactical urbanism:
 - a. <u>http://tacticalurbanismguide.com/</u>

- b. Plan 4 Health <u>http://plan4health.us/tactical-urbanism/</u>
- 10. For resources on first mile/last mile improvements Smart Growth America, "Rethinking First & Last Mile: Transit-Driven Complete Streets": <u>https://smartgrowthamerica.org/app/uploads/2017/07/Rethinking-First</u> -Last-Mile -<u>Transit-Driven-Complete-Streets.compressed.pdf</u>
- 11. Example of a Construction Mitigation Plan <u>http://www.sjredevelopment.org/PublicationsPlans/360Residences_CIMP_31Jan07.p</u> <u>df</u>
- 12. Linked and Livable Miami Report 8 80 Cities: <u>https://www.dropbox.com/s/gyt0ovz9rovgyhy/Immersion%20Summary%20Report%</u> <u>20V12.pdf?dl=0</u>
- 13. For resources on traffic-calming measures:
 - a. Institute of Transportation Engineers <u>https://www.ite.org/technical-</u> <u>resources/traffic-calming/traffic-calming-measures/</u>
 - b. Project for Public Spaces <u>https://www.pps.org/article/livememtraffic</u>
 - c. Federal Highway Administration <u>https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/univcourse/pdf/swless11.pdf</u>

E – Walking Audit Observations and Comments

Route 1 Strengths

- "Wider sidewalks around new buildings"
- "Many local businesses"
- "Bust stop with shelter by the park"
- "There are trash cans by bus stops"
- "The Library is a great resource"
- "Latinos Unidos in Action"
- "New sidewalk by Checkers"
- "New senior building"
- •

Route 1 Weaknesses and Challenges

- "Lots of trash"
- "tree trims needed"
- "[Bus stop] with no shelter across Presidente"
- "Uneaven sidewalks"
- "Need to add more ramps"
- "No cross signals"
- "No crosswalks"
- "Traffic was fast"

Route 2 Additional Comments and Observations

Route 2 Strengths

- "Park"
- "New trees on 17th"

Route 2 Weaknesses

- "Lighting"
- "Litter trash"
- "No safety"

Route3 Additional Comments and Observations

- "Saw more dogs than people"
- "Many overgrown yards"
- "Bus bench does not have a ramp"
- "Sidewalk had many uneven spots"
- "No real shade until about NW 20th Avenue"

• "No resting spots besides bus stop"

Route 3 Strengths

- "Signage visible"
- "Some sidewalks showed some repairs"
- "Crosswalks visible with street lighting"

Route 3 Weaknesses

- "Uneven sidewalks"
- "Overgrown grass, shrubs, trees blocking sidewalk"
- "Graffiti and severl loose dogs"
- "Dirty, lots of trash on the street"
- "Not enough signage"

F – **References**

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³ "Get to Know Your Neighborhood With a Walk Audit." *Safe Routes to School.*

https://www.saferoutespartnership.org/sites/default/files/get to know your neighborhood with a walk audit. pdf

⁴ "Walking audit: See things in a different way." *Feet First.* <u>http://www.feetfirst.org/what-we-do/walking-audits</u> ⁵ Thornton CM, Conway TL, Cain KL, Gavand KA, Saelens BE, & Sallis JF. Disparities in pedestrian streetscape environments by income and race/ethnicity. *SSM Popul Health.* 2016(2):206-216. <u>https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4905604/</u>

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⁷ "Walkability and Disabilities." 1000 Friends of Wisconsin. <u>http://www.1kfriends.org/walkability-disabilities/</u>

⁸ Ashmead D, Guth D, Wall RS, Long RG, and Ponchillia PE. 2005. Street Crossing by Sighted & Blind Pedestrians at a Modern Roundabout. *Journal of Transportation Engineering*, 131(11): 812-821. DOI: 10.1061/(ASCE)0733-947X(2005)131:11(812)

⁹ "About Tactical Urbanism." *Tactical Urbanist's Guide to Getting It Done*. http://tacticalurbanismguide.com/about/

¹⁰ Garvin E, Branas C, Keddem S, Sellman J, & Cannuscio C. 2013. More than just an eyesore: Local insights and solutions on vacant land and urban health. *J Urban Health.* 90(3): 412-426.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3665973/

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¹³ Kingston E. "Housing Diversity = Community and Economic Success." Prepared for the Fair Housing Forum. https://fairhousingforum.org/wp-content/uploads/Needs-Assessment Housing-Plan-6 15.pdf

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<u>https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2018/1/16/why-walkable-streets-are-more-economically-productive</u> ¹⁵ WalkBoston. "Better walking, better business."

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¹⁶ Benfield K. "What neighborhoods need to succeed at walkability." *CityLab*.

https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2012/01/what-neighborhoods-need-succeed-walkability/922/

² Linked and Livable Miami Summary Report. 8 80 Cities.