USVI Walkability Action Institute

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Post-institute webinar

August 2017

WAI participants completing an ambitious walk audit near the hospital, St. Croix.
The 2017 USVI Walkability Institute is made possible through a partnership with TEPHINET, a program of The Task Force for Global Health (TFGH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the USVI Department of Health (USVIDOH). Its contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of The Task Force for Global Health, Inc., TEPHINET, or the CDC.
Topics:

• The goal: from projects to policy!
• Epi-Aid data – using it to make the case.
• Discuss island action plans.
• Next steps, further TA.

St. Thomas walk audit
Environment: settings supporting active transportation!

Destinations

Network

Safety & Access

Site Design

www.markfenton.com
The “stealth” team:
Trials, pilots & demonstration projects build momentum.

Curb stops & planters
Goal: Policies & practices that make these designs the standard!
The big “policy” ideas . . .

- Create villages, centers.
- Connect them with Complete Streets & transportation trails.
- Design details to be safe, functional, and inviting for pedestrians (and cyclists) of all ages, abilities, incomes.
Development close to existing centers & services.

Safe, accessible, & inviting for everyone.

Well connected for all users.
Questions for each action plan:

• Are you convening the stealth team?
• Will the demo project make a difference?
• What are the bigger policy & practice goals?
• Are the plan & demo project moving you toward those goals?
Availability of Street-Level Supports for Walking — US Virgin Islands, 2016

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Physical Activity and Health Branch
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Questions

1. What purposes can walkability audits serve?

2. What was the goal of the USVI walkability audit?

3. How did we choose which streets to audit? Why did we do it this way?

4. How can data from the USVI walkability audit be used...and what are its limitations?
What purposes can walkability audits serve?

- **Planning tool** to identify and characterize specific problem areas in a community

- **Advocacy tool** to raise awareness among community stakeholders and promote community engagement

- **Surveillance tool** to systematically assess the prevalence of built environment features in a defined area
What was the goal of the USVI walkability audit?

- To collect data on community design features to describe the walkability of streets across the USVI
How did we choose which streets to audit? Why did we do it this way?

“50% of American adults get enough physical activity...”

What percentage of street length in the USVI has sidewalks?
46 Estates
1550 Street Segments
99.2 km (16.2%)
How can data from the USVI walkability audit be used...and what are its limitations?

- **Potential uses**
  - Identify overarching needs in the territory
  - Prioritize strategies for improving walkability
  - Highlight existing positive features
  - Provide baseline estimates that can be used to monitor change

- **Limitations**
  - Cannot identify specific sites for improvement
  - No gold standard or defined benchmark for each measure
How can data from the USVI walkability audit be used...and what are its limitations?

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<td>Consider zoning practices that encourage mixed use development.</td>
<td>20% of street length in the USVI should have mixed used development.</td>
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<td>23.9% of street length in the USVI has <strong>speed bumps</strong>, but other traffic calming features are rare.</td>
<td>Highlights existing traffic calming measures, but other more effective approaches could be used to enhance pedestrian safety.</td>
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<td>6.1% of street crossings in the USVI have <strong>marked crosswalks</strong>.</td>
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<td>Five Points intersection on St. Croix needs more visible crosswalks.</td>
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Availability of Street-Level Supports for Walking — US Virgin Islands, 2016

A report for the US Virgin Islands Department of Health

By the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Physical Activity and Health Branch
Thank you!

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For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
St. Croix Demo project area.
St. Thomas Demo project area.
St. John: Fish Fry Road area
The challenges – finding the balance between nature & infrastructure, cost & reality, now vs. later, etc.

But you can do it!