SAINT PAUL PEDESTRIAN PLAN

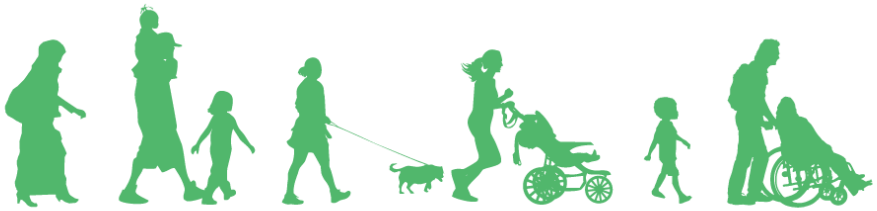
Steering Committee Kickoff
January 31, 2018

SAINT PAUL

RAMSEY COUNTY
Working with you to enhance our quality of life

Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions
2. Plan Overview
3. Existing Policies and Programs Review
4. Discussion



Introductions

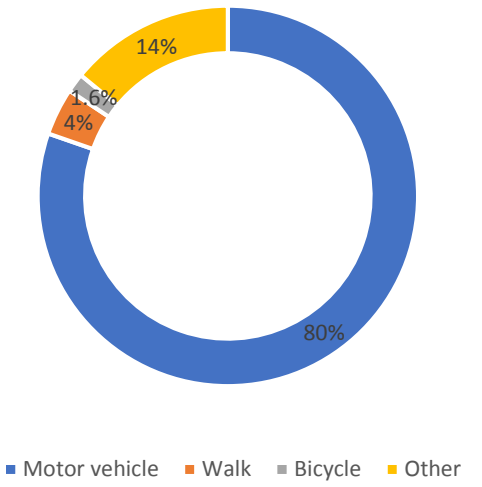
Why have a pedestrian plan?

- Set policies so that decisions reflect community values
- Promote consistency in how we make choices
  - Streamlined responses
  - Transparency
  - Equity
- Start conversations; change culture

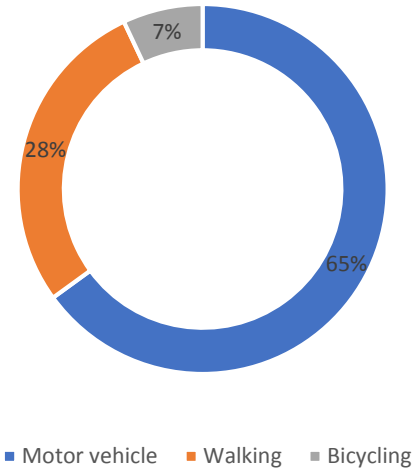
Saint Paul Snapshot

- **1083** miles of sidewalk
- **6-8** miles replaced annually
- **394** miles of gaps
- 2016-2017 spike in annual pedestrian crashes

How Saint Paul Commutes (2015)



Saint Paul Traffic Deaths and Serious Injuries (2004-2015)

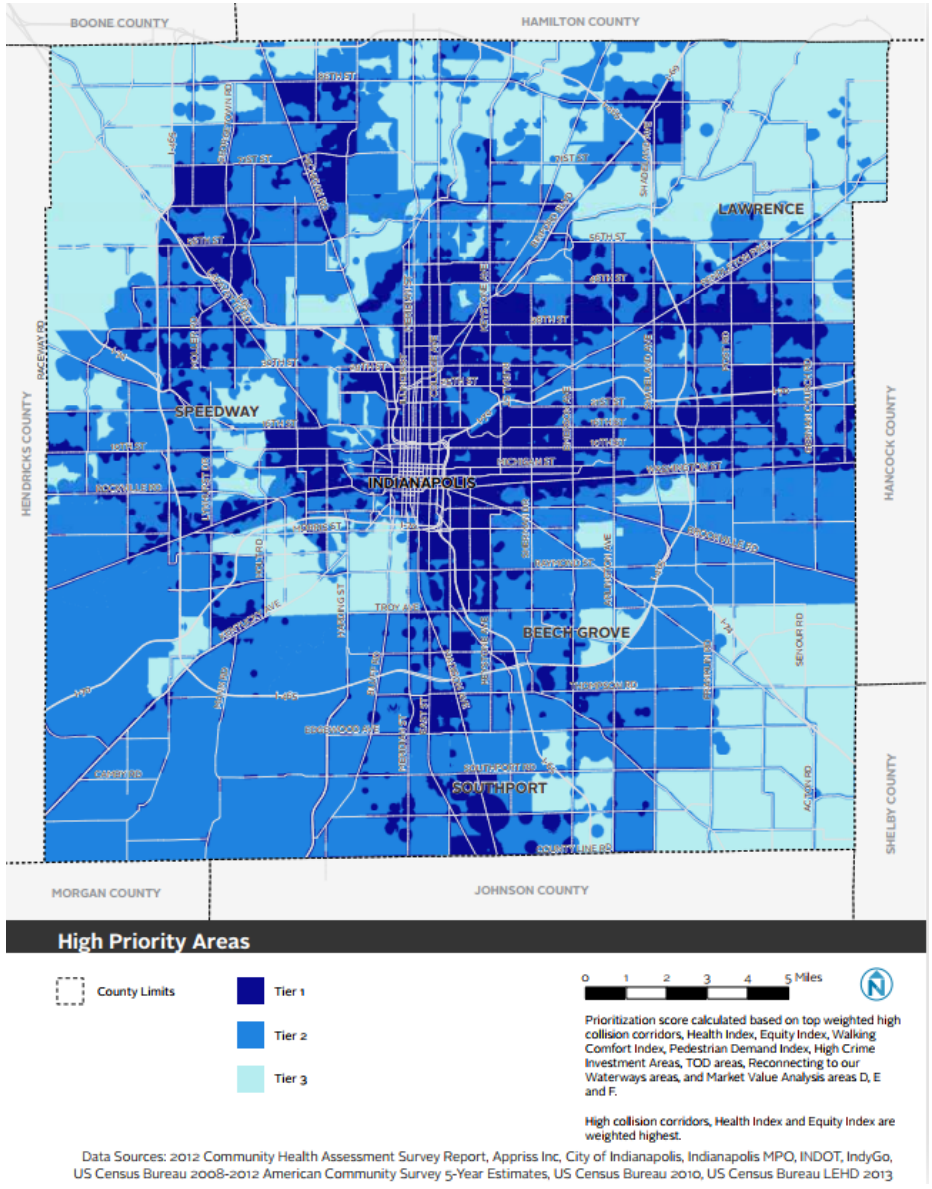


Desired Outcomes

- Build capacity to support safe walking everywhere in Saint Paul
- Identify proactive policies for equitable safety improvements
- Develop priorities for investments in walking, based on equity and safety
- Identify programs to support safe walking: education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation
- Promote and energize a culture of walking

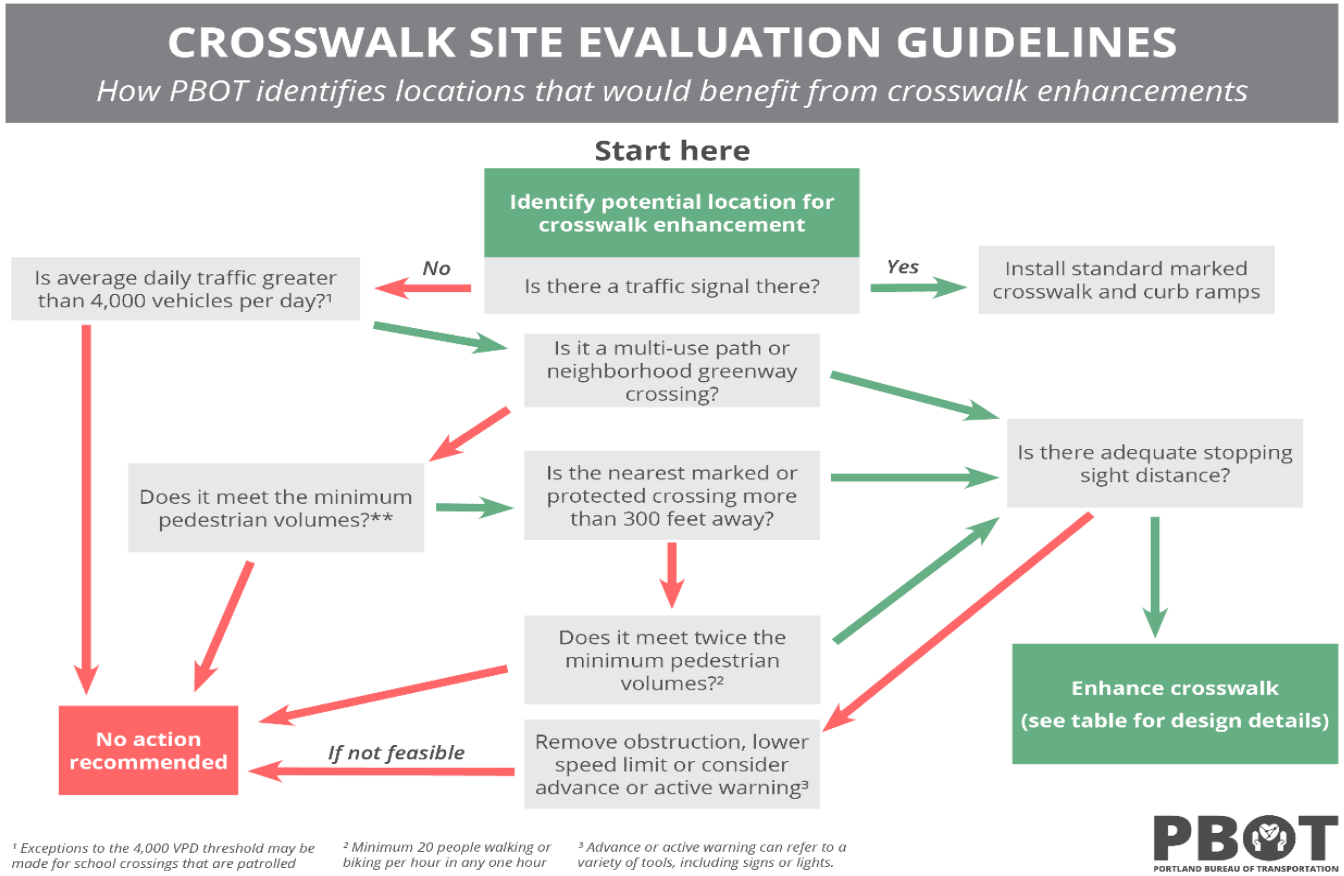
Example Work Products

- High priority pedestrian areas
  - Equity
  - Safety
  - Demand
  - Health
  - Comfort



Example Work Products

- Crosswalk Site Evaluation Guidelines



Example Work Products

- Review of funding availability and funding needs
  - Discussion of existing programs and what they fund (engineering)
  - Potential prioritization of existing funding based on plan findings
  - Identification of priority improvements if funding levels increased
- Review of programmatic capacity
  - Discussion of existing programs and City staff participation in these (encouragement, education, enforcement, evaluation)
  - Identification of new or existing programs that merit increased levels of staff support

Taking the plan to the community

- Summer 2017 events
- E-mail updates
- Web page
- City social media channels
- Small group discussions
- Prioritization survey
- Community group presentations
- Open houses (March and Sept.)

Why Walk?: What We Heard (from 1500 residents)

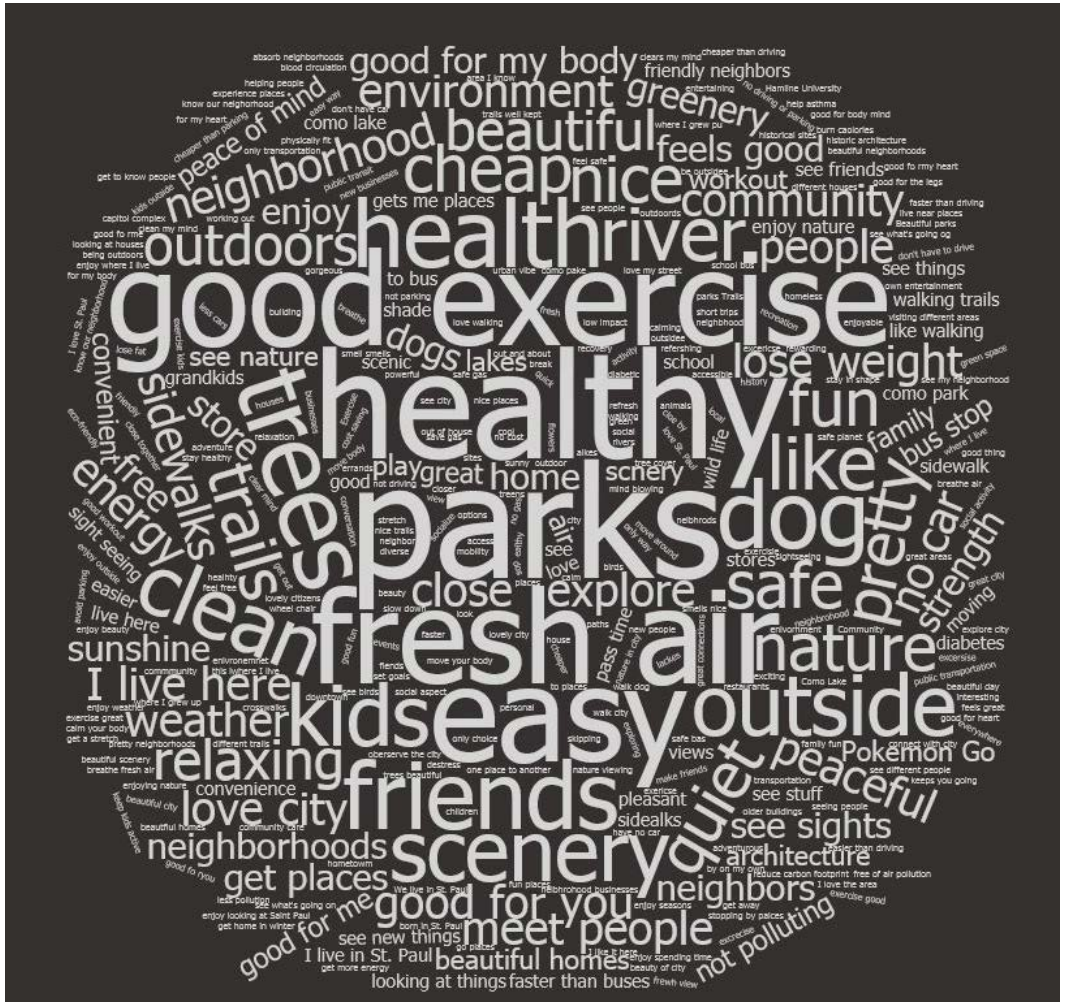
"It allows me to enjoy the weather and explore the city more; also lets me be on my own."

"I like walking in the parks and checking out new businesses opening."

"It is friendly."

"It's fun.

"It helps you calm your body."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friendly neighbors
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walking trails
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I live here
weather
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easy
outside
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friends
scenery
quiet
peaceful
Pokemon Go
see sights
architecture
neighbors
meet people
good for you
not polluting
beautiful homes
looking at things
faster than buses
get places
love city
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gets me places
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peace of mind
como lake
gorgeous
urban vibe
love my street
school bus
homeless
parks Trails
short trips
neighborhood
visiting different areas
like walking
school
lose weight
como park
bus stop
sidewalk
stores
sightseeing
great areas
public transportation
beautiful day
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good for heart
everywhere
connect with city
see different people
keeps you going
transportation
older buildings
seeing people
have no car
adventurous
easier than driving
reduce carbon footprint
free of air pollution
I love the area
exercise good
stopping by places
enjoy spending time
beauty of city
fresh view
born in St. Paul
I like it here
go places
see new things
I live in St. Paul
get more energy
fun places
We live in St. Paul
neighborhood businesses
enjoy seasons
get away
by on my own
lets pollution
what's going on
enjoy looking at Saint Paul
get home in winter
hometown
good to you
good for me
lovely citizens
wheel chair
slow down
look
lovely city
paths
new people
pass time
walk dog
walk city
skipping
nature viewing
make friends
children
community cafe
beautiful homes
beautiful city
beautiful scenery
breathe fresh air
enjoying nature
different trails
observe the city
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one place to another
trees beautiful
only choice
exercising
safe bus
family fun
Coma Lake
restaurants
Community
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Great city
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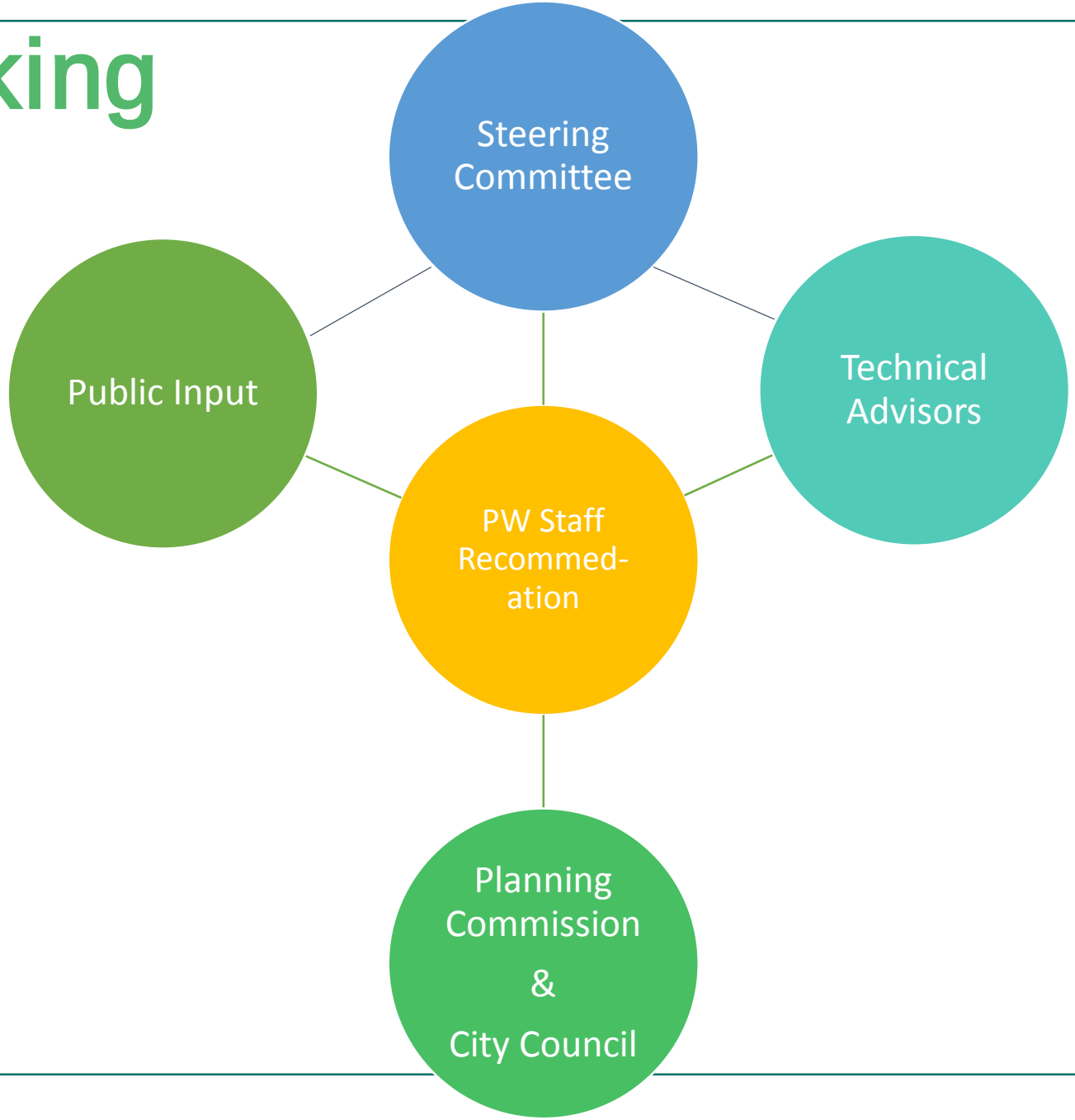
Decision-Making Structure



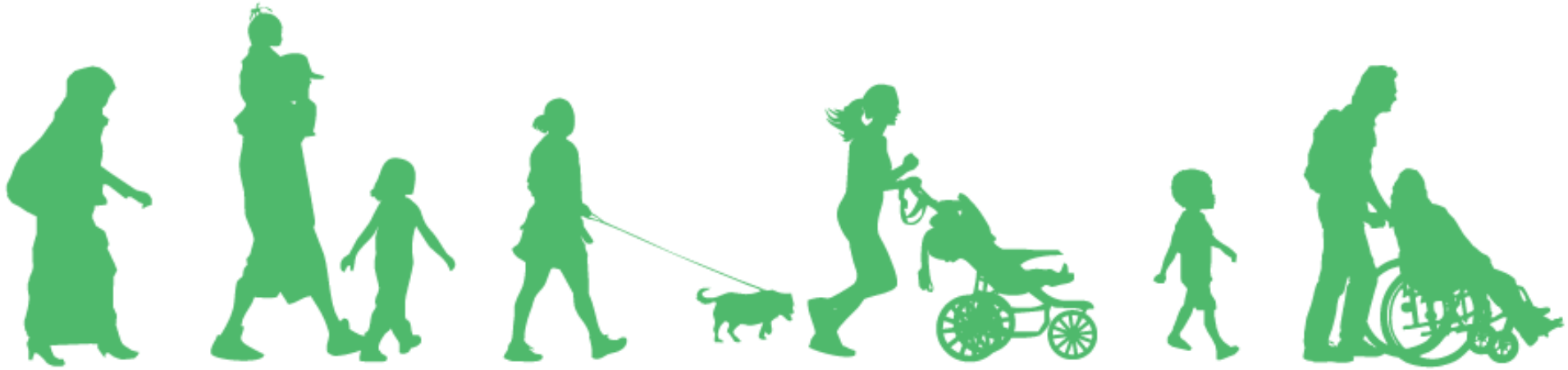
Steering Committee Roles

- Inform city staff's recommendation to the Planning Commission and the City Council of pedestrian policies to be adopted as an addendum to the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.
- Forum to discuss issues and ideas related to Saint Paul's pedestrian network
- Broaden and expand staff's thinking on key plan decisions and provide additional expertise in generating recommendations
- Proposed policies are vetted by the steering committee, though group consensus is not necessarily attained
- Share discussions with other groups
- Come prepared, and prioritize meetings!

Technical Advisor Roles

- Identify key issues and concerns regarding how pedestrian safety is delivered today. Discuss desired outcomes.
  - Identify policy needs that the SC can help answer.
- Test policy recommendations against projects and real-world situations.
- Develop crosswalk site improvements flowchart.
- Inform cost estimates and funding needs.
- Implement plan recommendations.

Key Milestones - 2018



Plan Kickoff

Community conversations; Set Priorities

Develop Plan

Public Review of Plan

Plan Adoption

Winter **Spring** **Summer** **Fall** **Winter**

Next Steps

- Technical Working Group begins crosswalk site evaluation flowchart
- Develop community survey of priorities based on equity definitions
- Small group discussions about walking needs
- Steering Committee Meeting 2
  - Draft vision and goals
  - Discuss potential priorities
  - Review tools

Existing Conditions Overview

Memo: How Saint Paul Supports Walking

- Infrastructure
  - Plans and Policies
  - Crossing Policies and Practices
  - Funding
- Programs
  - Enforcement
  - Engagement and Communications
  - Evaluation and Performance Measures
- Challenges for Walking in Saint Paul

Transportation Plans and Policies

High-Level Direction:

- Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan
- Saint Paul Bicycle Plan
- Ramsey County All Abilities Transportation Network Policy
- Ramsey County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Design Guidance:

- Saint Paul Street Design Manual

Detailed Recommendations:

- Saint Paul Complete Streets Action Plan
- Saint Paul Safe Routes to School Policy Plan
- Saint Paul Roadway Safety Plan
- Ramsey County Roadway Safety Plan
- City of Saint Paul Department of Public Works ADA Transition Plan

Pedestrian Crossings

Existing policies and practices:

- Crossings considered as part of larger transportation projects
- Request-based system is used for stand-alone crossing improvements
- City is adjusting signals to include Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPI)

Resources currently used to evaluate crossings:

- City Traffic Engineering Policy and Procedure Manual
- MnDOT Pedestrian Crossings on State Highways flowchart
- Safe Routes to School plans

Pedestrian Crossings

Recommendations from SRTS Policy Plan

- Create an unsignalized crossing guidelines flowchart
- Create guidance specific to school crossings
- Adopt crossing policy at signalized intersections

Existing Programs

Enforcement

- Stop for Me campaign
- School Patrol

Engagement and Communications

- Pedestrian Safety Advocate
- Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity
- Safe Routes to School Steering Committee

Evaluation and Performance Measures

- Pedestrian counts
- Pedestrian crashes
- School transportation tallies

Challenges to Walking in Saint Paul

Funding

- Wide gap between infrastructure needs and available funding
- No dedicated source for crossing improvements

Equity in Prioritization and Decision-Making Processes

- Lack of defined process creates a perception of inequities

Programs

- Lack of full-time staff
- Existing programs rely on grant funding and volunteers
- No home for programs within City departments

Attitudes and Norms

- Drivers do not routinely stop for pedestrians
- As a result, people feel less safe and comfortable crossing

Challenges to Walking in Saint Paul

Internal Coordination

- Lack of formal process for pedestrian coordination between City divisions
- This can result in differing standards and lost opportunities for pedestrian improvements

Creative Design Solutions

- Lack of use of low-cost, temporary, or alternative treatments and design for pedestrian infrastructure

Maintenance and Reporting

- Inconsistency in quality of maintenance
- Lack of data on infrastructure condition

Policies and Procedures

- Existing policies and procedures are difficult to find and hard for the public to understand
- Lack of procedures and guidance

Challenges to Walking in Saint Paul

Arterial Roadway Jurisdiction

- Ramsey County and MnDOT operate most of the higher traffic and higher speed roadways in Saint Paul
- Typically there are higher rates of pedestrian crashes on these streets, but the City has limited control over changes to improve safety for walking

Winter Maintenance

- Snow, ice, and long nights create challenges
- Patchwork of conditions due to property owner responsibility to clear snow
- Winter is very challenging for people with mobility impairments

Discussion Ground Rules

- Write down small group discussion outcomes
- Share the air time
- Use the “playground” aka the parking lot

Question 1

What does equity mean when we talk about walking in Saint Paul?

Question 2

What inequities exist in Saint Paul's walking network today?

Question 3

What outcomes demonstrate success?