Community Walking and Bicycling Audit Tool

The tool consists of three parts:
- **Part 1: Audit Tool**. A two-sided audit tool to score the features in the area being reviewed.
- **Part 2: Audit Map**. A two-sided map with a sample on one side and space on the other side to paste the area being reviewed and make notes and references on specific features.
- **Part 3: Reference Guide**. A seven-page reference list to assist with completing the 2-page audit and/or to record more detail on what you see as part of the audit.

DIRECTIONS:
The benefits of walking and bicycling include improved health, cleaner air and more social interaction in the community. Walking and bicycling audits can help identify key intersections or areas where physical and environmental changes could make a big difference in improving opportunities to be more physically active. This tool can guide you on what to look for in selecting and evaluating site(s).

Key Steps:
1. **Identify key players** who should be involved. The list of key players may vary depending on your goals, but a list of possible members could include: Public health officials, city planners, law enforcement, school representatives and neighborhood or community groups. Depending on who is initiating this effort and what you hope to see as an outcome, you should have a variety of stakeholders at the table when you start considering sites you want to audit.

2. **Site Selection**. Your sites can be chosen for a specific goal, like instituting a Safe Routes to School program at the elementary school or a broader goal of making the community more pedestrian and bicycling friendly. Depending on your goals and resources, you may have to limit the audit to just a few sites, so you want to choose sites that are pivotal to your goals. That might mean an area where a connecting trail could increase walker and biker numbers a great deal because it would provide a bridge over a stream or it could mean an approach area to a school that has high traffic volume that needs to be slowed or requires providing a different route for walkers and bikers. Another important consideration for site selection is whether there are areas where access to walking and bicycling is limited due to lack of resources or safety issues (real or perceived), or where residents have limited access to other modes of transportation.   In any case, you want key players involved to maximize your chance of selecting sites wisely.

3. **Audit Team**. Ideally, each audit should be done by at least two people. Having two people allows for easier recording and provides for some give and take about what each person is seeing. If possible, the team should consist of people with a variety of skill sets or experiences (e.g. pair a "health" person with a "planning" person).

4. **How to Audit**. You can use the audit tools in whatever manner works for you. If you have two reviewers auditing a site, the recommended distribution of duties would be for one person to record on the two-sided audit tool, and the other person provide background information from the seven-page reference document and record on major features on the map. Consider using photos, videos and voice memos to supplement your audit results.

5. **Using the Audit Tools.**

Audit Area

The suggested audit area is a two block radius around the key intersection that is the center point. Because the area a block or two off of a major street could be considerably different that the main street that you are looking at, use the main intersection as the deciding factor if a score could either go up or down for each question.
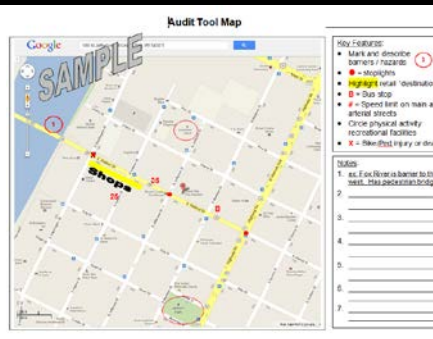

Audit Tool

The two-sided audit tool is the main recording document while you are out evaluating the route. You can make marks on the document as you tour the route and then meet afterwards with your partner to record your final answer and score for each question. Two of the questions (#1 & #10) require an online search which you can do before or after touring the route.
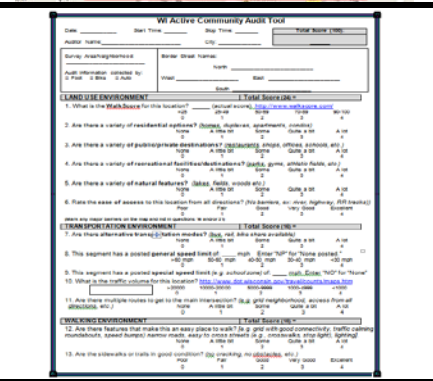
Scoring Example:

LAND USE ENVIRONMENT	Total Score (24) = 15

1. *What is the **WalkScore** for this location? _____ (actual score)* http://www.walkscore.com/

<25	25-49	50-69	70-89	90-100
0	1	2	3	4

2. *Are there a variety of **residential options?** (homes, duplexes, apartments, condos)*

None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
0	1	2	3	4

3-6. + questions 3-6. Score each section as you go and place the total for the section at the top.

Audit Map

The map is a way to visually mark key areas from your audit. You will need to go online and copy and paste a map of your audit area (ex. Google or Bing maps) prior to doing the audit. While on the audit, mark any key aspects of the area right on the map. This will assist you in your final scoring and will help others looking at the results to see where the key aspects are that you recorded.

Reference Guide (use is optional)

The seven-page reference guide provides additional information for each of the 28 questions. The guide can be used prior to the audit as a learning tool, during the audit to clarify the criteria or after the audit to help select a final score for each item.

WI Active Community Audit Tool

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Stop Time: _____

Total Score (100):
_____

Auditor Name:_____ City: _____

Survey Area/Neighborhood: _____	Border Street Names:
Audit information collected by: ☐ Foot ☐ Bike ☐ Auto	North _____ West _____ East _____ South _____

LAND USE ENVIRONMENT | Total Score (24) =

1. What is the **WalkScore** for this location? _____ (actual score) http://www.walkscore.com/

<25	25-49	50-69	70-89	90-100
0	1	2	3	4

2. Are there a variety of **residential options?** *(homes, duplexes, apartments, condos)*

None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
0	1	2	3	4

3. Are there a variety **of public/private destinations?** *(restaurants, shops, offices, schools, etc.)*

None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
0	1	2	3	4

4. Are there a variety **of recreational facilities/destinations?** *(parks, gyms, athletic fields, etc.)*

None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
0	1	2	3	4

5. Are there a variety **of natural features?** *(lakes, fields, woods etc.)*

None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
0	1	2	3	4

6. Rate the **ease of access** to this location from all directions? *(No barriers, ex: river, highway, RR tracks)*

Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
0	1	2	3	4

(Mark any major barriers on the map and list in questions 16 and/or 21)

TRANSPORTATION ENVIRONMENT | Total Score (16) =

7. Are there **alternative transportation modes?** *(bus, rail, bike share available)*

None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
0	1	2	3	4

8. This segment has a posted **general speed limit** of: _____ mph Enter "NP" for "None posted."

>60 mph	50-60 mph	40-50 mph	30-40 mph	<30 mph
0	1	2	3	4

9. This segment has a posted **special speed limit** *(e.g. school zone)* of: _____ mph Enter "NO" for "None"

10. What is the traffic volume for this location? https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/data-plan/traf-counts/default.aspx

>20000	10000-20000	5000-9999	1000-4999	<1000
0	1	2	3	4

11. Are there multiple routes to get to the main intersection? *(e.g. grid neighborhood, access from all directions, etc.)*

None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
0	1	2	3	4

WALKING ENVIRONMENT | Total Score (16) =

12. Are there features that make this an easy place to walk? (*e.g. grid with good connectivity, traffic calming roundabouts, speed bumps, narrow roads, lighting, easy to cross streets e.g., crosswalks and stop light)*

None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
0	1	2	3	4

13. Are the sidewalks or trails in good condition? *(no cracking, no obstacles, etc.)*

Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
0	1	2	3	4

14. Are intersections easy to navigate? *(can see traffic, signals, signs, space, etc.)*

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
	0	1	2	3	4

15. Are there buffers between pedestrians and traffic? *(terraces, parking, bike lane, etc.)*

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
	0	1	2	3	4

16. List any <u>key walking issues</u> or problems (ex: bridge) encountered and their <u>location</u>:

1. _____   _____
2. _____   _____
3. _____   _____
4. _____   _____
5. _____   _____

BICYCLING ENVIRONMENT	**Total Score (16) =**

17. Are there features that make this an easy place to bike? *(bike lanes, signs, bike racks, few hazards, etc)*

	None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
	0	1	2	3	4

18. Is the surface that you rode on in good condition? *(no potholes, debris, bad surface, etc.)*

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
	0	1	2	3	4

19. Are intersections easy to navigate? *(can see traffic, signals, signs space, etc.)*

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
	0	1	2	3	4

20. Are there accommodations for all wheeled devices? *(curb cuts, wheelchair access, etc.)*

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
	0	1	2	3	4

21. List any <u>key bicycling issues</u> or problems (ex: bridge) encountered and their <u>location</u>:

1. _____   _____
2. _____   _____
3. _____   _____
4. _____   _____
5. _____   _____

FACILITIES & AESTHETICS	**Total Score (28) =**

22. Is there **recreational equipment** visible (playground equipment, sports equipment, etc.)?

	None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
	0	1	2	3	4

23. Are there **service amenities** visible (restrooms, water fountains, vending, etc.)?

	None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
	0	1	2	3	4

24. Are **attractive features** visible (e.g. architectural design, building variety, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, vegetation, signage)?

	None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
	0	1	2	3	4

25. Are **comfort features** visible (e.g. shade trees, benches, etc.) ?

	None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
	0	1	2	3	4

26. Is **air or noise pollution** visible (e.g. diesel fumes, factory emissions, trains, constructions)?

	A lot	Quite a bit	Some	A little bit	None
	0	1	2	3	4

27. Is the **physical environment safe and attractive** (no debris, no graffiti, no crime, etc.)?

	None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
	0	1	2	3	4

28. Are **people visible** (kids, adults, older adults)?

	None	A little bit	Some	Quite a bit	A lot
	0	1	2	3	4

Audit Tool Map

Location _____
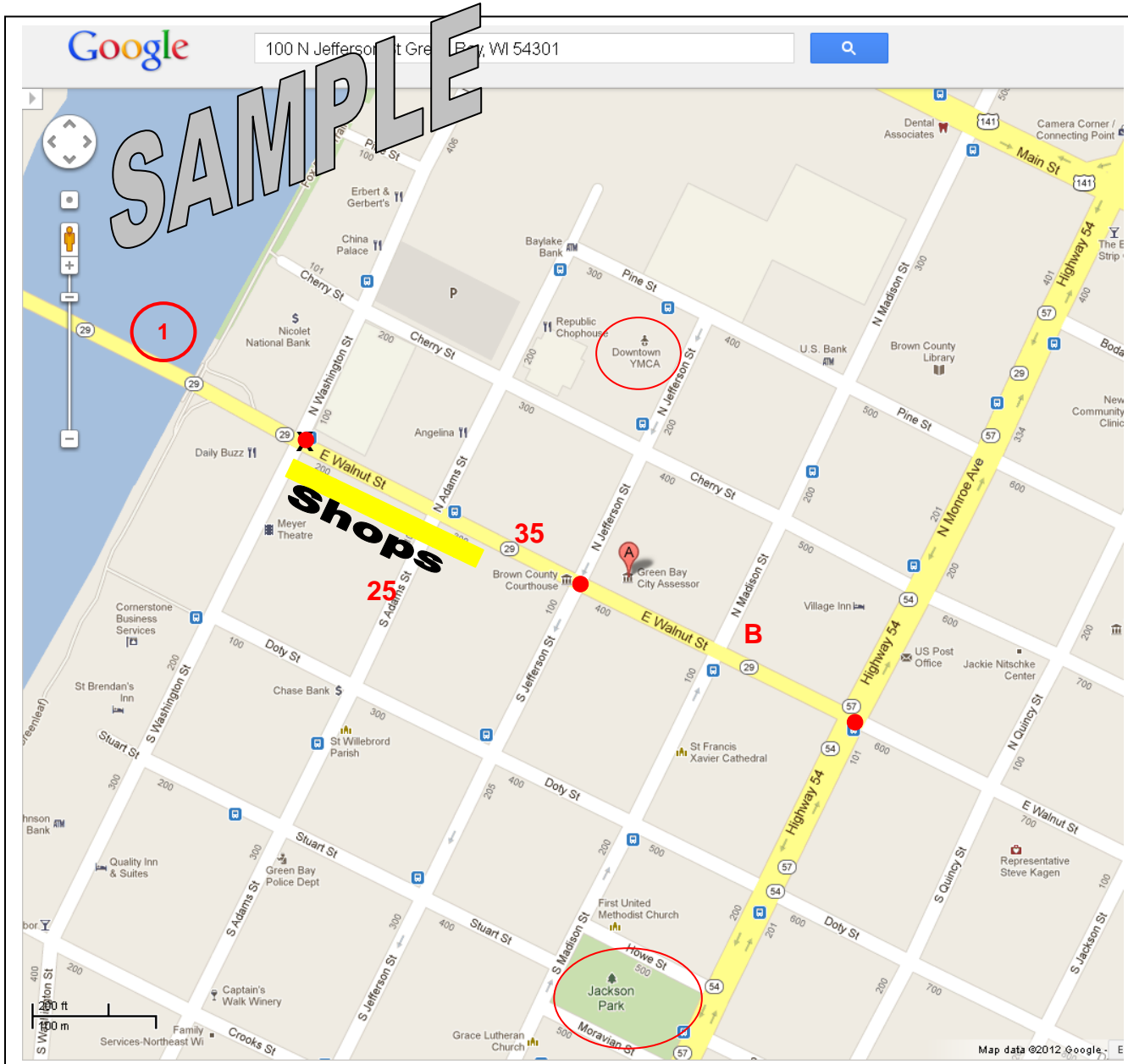
Key Features:
- Mark and describe barriers / hazards ①
- ● = stoplights
- Highlight retail "destinations"
- B = Bus stop
- # = Speed limit on main and arterial streets
- Circle physical activity recreational facilities
- X = Bike/Ped injury or death

Notes:
1. ex: Fox River is barrier to the west. Has pedestrian bridge.
2. _____
_____
3. _____
_____
4. _____
_____
5. _____
_____
6. _____
_____
7. _____
_____

Audit Tool Map
(Insert map of area)

Location: _____

Key Features:
- Mark and describe barriers / hazards
- ● = stoplights
- Highlight retail "destinations"
- **B** = Bus stop
- **#** = Speed limit on main and arterial streets
- Circle physical activity recreational facilities
- **X** = Bike/Ped injury or death

Notes:
1. ex: Fox River is barrier to the west. Has pedestrian bridge.

2. _____
   _____

3. _____
   _____

4. _____
   _____

5. _____
   _____

6. _____
   _____

7. _____
   _____

WI Active Community Reference Guide for Walk/Bike Audits (optional)

Date: _____   Start Time: _____   Stop Time: _____ | **Total Score (100):** |
Auditor Name:_____   City: _____ | _____ |

| Survey Area/Neighborhood: _____

 Audit information collected by:
 ☐ Foot ☐ Bike ☐ Auto | Border Street Names:

 North _____
 West _____   East _____
 South _____
 Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Stop Time: _____ |

LAND USE ENVIRONMENT

1. What is the **WalkScore** for this location? _____ (actual score) http://www.walkscore.com/

   Note: WalkScore provides a general idea of how many destinations (stores, schools, etc.) are nearby, which is one measure of how "walkable" the area is. You should view this score as just one measure toward your total score for the audit.   However, you could use this score in the following ways in implementing change:

   A low score would mean that the area has a limited number of nearby destinations to walk or bike to. This is one factor that should be considered with all the other components in deciding what to do as a whole for the neighborhood. Specifically in terms of how a low Walkscore might influence their strategies, a neighborhood group might focus on things like:
   - Keeping sidewalks in good repair
   - Establishing trails and paths thru the neighborhood
   - Emphasizing walking as exercise vs. walking to do errands, etc.
   - Promoting safety within the neighborhood

   Whereas, if you have a higher WalkScore, you might emphasize strategies such as:
   - Improving links to the existing destinations
   - Promoting local, neighborhood businesses
   - Improving storefront appeal

2. Are **residential and non-residential land uses** visible in this **segment**?   ☐ **Yes**   ☐ **No**

2a. What types of buildings or features are present in this **segment**?

Types of residential destinations Visible Not Visible	**Yes**	**No**
a. Single-family home?	☐	☐
b. Two-, three-, four-, five-, or six-family home ("walk-ups")?	☐	☐
c. Apartment building/complex or condominium?	☐	☐
d. Apartment over retail in multi-story building?	☐	☐
e. Mobile home or trailer?	☐	☐
f. Mobile home or trailer park/community?	☐	☐
g. Other? Specify: _____	☐	☐

3. What **types of public/private destinations** are visible in this **segment**? (Land Use Diversity)

Types of commercial destinations	Visible	Not Visible
a. Gas station (i.e., any destination that sells gasoline)?	☐	☐
b. Fast food restaurant?	☐	☐
c. Other restaurant?	☐	☐
d. Convenience or small grocery store?	☐	☐
e. Supermarket?	☐	☐
f. Bank or credit union?	☐	☐
g. Pharmacy or drug store?	☐	☐
h. Coffee shop (e.g., Starbuck's)?	☐	☐
i. Movie theater?	☐	☐
j. Hotel or motel?	☐	☐
k. Indoor mall or super center (e.g., Super Walmart)?	☐	☐
l. Strip mall or shopping center (i.e., multiple shops in same area?	☐	☐
m. Department store or "big box" store (e.g., Home Depot, Sears)?	☐	☐
n. Warehouses, factories, or industrial buildings?	☐	☐
o. Office buildings?	☐	☐
p. Bar? Liquor store?	☐	☐
q. Other retail (e.g., bakery, card shop, video rental, florist)?	☐	☐
r. Other services (e.g., beautician, lawyer, accountant)?	☐	☐
s. Post office?	☐	☐
t. Library?	☐	☐
u. Place of worship (e.g., church, synagogue, convent, chapel)?	☐	☐
v. Day care or preschool?	☐	☐
w. School?	☐	☐
x. Health or social services (e.g., hospital, care facility, health dept)?	☐	☐
y. Airport, train station, bus station, or other transportation facility?	☐	☐
z. Community Center?	☐	☐
aa. Other (courthouse, utilities, real estate, military)?	☐	☐

Specify: _____

4. What **types of recreational facilities/destinations** are visible in this **segment**? (Land Use Diversity)

Types of recreational facilities/destinations	Visible	Not Visible
a. Indoor fitness facility (e.g., YMCA, Bally's, New Lady Fitness)?	☐	☐
b. Park?	☐	☐
c. Playground (i.e., park or school)?	☐	☐
d. Outdoor pool?	☐	☐
e. Beach?	☐	☐
f. Golf course?	☐	☐
g. Sports/playing field, basketball or tennis court (i.e., park/school)?	☐	☐
h. Sports track (i.e., park or school)?	☐	☐
i. Marina?	☐	☐

j. Community gardens?

k. Theater?

j. Other recreational facility? Specify: _____ ☐   ☐

5. What **types of natural features** are visible in this **segment**? (Land Use Diversity)

Type of feature	Visible	Not Visible
a. Large body of water (e.g., lake, large river)?	☐	☐
b. Small body of water (e.g., pond, stream)?	☐	☐
c. Open natural space (e.g., wooded area, swamp, meadow – not a vacant lot)?	☐	☐

6. Is there **easy access** to and from this location or are there major barriers preventing access to or from this area?

Access features	Visible	Not Visible
a. Body of water (river, pond, etc.) prevents or limits access?	☐	☐
b. High speed highway borders this neighborhood & limits access?	☐	☐
c. Railroad tracks with frequent traffic cuts thru this neighborhood?	☐	☐
d. Other _____		

TRANSPORTATION ENVIRONMENT

7. Is **availability of alternative transportation modes** visible in this **segment**?

	Yes	No
Bus service	☐	☐
Rail service	☐	☐
Bike share (ex. B-Cycle)	☐	☐

8. This segment has a posted **general speed limit** of: _____ mph   Enter "NP" for "None posted."

9. This segment has a posted **special speed limit** of: _____ mph   Enter "NP" for "None posted."

10. What is the [traffic volume](#) for this location? https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/data-plan/traf-counts/default.aspx

	>20,000	10,000-20,000	5,000-9,999	1,000-4,999	<1,000
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

11. Are there multiple routes to get to the main intersection? *(e.g. grid neighborhood, access from all directions, etc.)*

	Visible	Not Visible
a. Grid neighborhood with intersections every block	☐	☐
b. Access from all directions with good connections	☐	☐
c. Special features to improve access (e.g. trails, paths, bridge, etc.)	☐	☐

WALKING ENVIRONMENT

12. Please indicate your answer to the following statements about **walking characteristics** for this **segment**. **(List any specific hazards and their locations in Q16.)**

Rating Criteria	Yes	No
a. Is the **street type** less than or equal to two narrow lanes?	☐	☐
b. Does the segment have other **street design characteristics** to reduce volume or speed (e.g., roundabouts)?	☐	☐
c. Does the segment have **traffic calming devices** to reduce volume or speed (e.g., traffic signals, speed humps)?	☐	☐
d. Does the segment have **crossing aids** for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the street safely. (e.g., crosswalks, stop light, overpass, traffic island, curb extension)?	☐	☐
e. Does the segment have **street lighting** for sidewalks, street shoulders, and/or bike lanes at night?	☐	☐
f. Does the segment have a railroad track, bridge, tunnel, highway, or overpass?	☐	☐

13. Are the sidewalks or trails in good condition and do you have room to walk?

	Yes	No
a. No sidewalks, paths, or shoulders	☐	☐
b. Sidewalks or paths started and stopped	☐	☐
c. Sidewalks are broken or cracked	☐	☐
d. Sidewalks were blocked with poles, signs,shrubbery, dumpsters, etc.,	☐	☐
e. Too much traffic	☐	☐
f. Other _____		

14. Was it easy to cross streets?

	Yes	No
a. Road was too wide	☐	☐
b. Traffic signals made us wait too long or did not give us enough time to cross	☐	☐
c. Needed striped crosswalks or traffic signals in order to cross without risk	☐	☐
d. Parked cars blocked our view of traffic	☐	☐
e. Trees or plants blocked our view of traffic	☐	☐
f. Needed curb ramps or ramps needed repair	☐	☐
g. **Aggressive drivers** (e.g., speeding, not giving pedestrians/bicyclists right-of-way)?made crossing dangerous	☐	☐
h. Other _____		

15. Are there buffers between pedestrians and traffic?

	Yes	No
a. Terraces	☐	☐
b. Bike lanes	☐	☐
c. On street parking	☐	☐

16. List any <u>key walking issues</u> or problems encountered and their <u>location</u>:

<div align="center">Issue   Location</div>

1. _____   _____
2. _____   _____
3. _____   _____
4. _____   _____
5. _____   _____

BICYCLING ENVIRONMENT

17. Did you have a place to bicycle safely …

On the road, sharing the road with motor vehicles?   **Yes**   **No**

a. No space for bicyclists to ride ☐ ☐
b. Bicycle lane or paved shoulder disappeared ☐ ☐
c. Heavy and/or fast-moving traffic ☐ ☐
d. Too many trucks or buses ☐ ☐
e. No space for bicyclists on bridges or in tunnels ☐ ☐
f. Poorly lighted roadways ☐ ☐
g. Other problems: _____

On an off-road path or trail, where motor vehicles were not allowed? **Yes** **No**

a. Path ended abruptly ☐ ☐
b. Path didn't go where I wanted to go ☐ ☐
c. Path intersected with roads that were difficult to cross ☐ ☐
d. Path was crowded ☐ ☐
e. Path was unsafe because of sharp turns or dangerous downhills ☐ ☐
f. Path was uncomfortable because of too many hills ☐ ☐
g. Path was poorly lighted ☐ ☐
h. Other problems: _____

(List any specific hazards and their locations in Q21)

18. How was the surface that you rode on? The road or path had:

                                                    Yes   **No**

a. Potholes ☐ ☐
b. Cracked or broken pavement ☐ ☐
c. Debris (e.g. broken glass, sand, gravel, etc.) ☐ ☐
d. Dangerous drain grates, utility covers, or metal plates ☐ ☐
e. Uneven surface or gaps ☐ ☐
f. Slippery surfaces when wet (e.g. bridge decks, construction plates, road markings) ☐ ☐
g. Bumpy or angled railroad tracks ☐ ☐
h. Rumble strips ☐ ☐
i. Too hilly ☐ ☐
j. Other problems: _____

19. How were the intersections you rode through?

	Yes	No
a. Had to wait too long to cross intersection	☐	☐
b. Couldn't see crossing traffic	☐	☐
c. Signal didn't give me enough time to cross the road	☐	☐
d. Signal didn't change for a bicycle	☐	☐
e. Unsure where or how to ride through intersection	☐	☐
f. Other problems: _____		

20. Are there accommodations and support for all wheeled devices?

	Yes	No
a. Curb cuts	☐	☐
b. Wheelchair access	☐	☐
c. Bike parking / racks	☐	☐
d. Maps, signs, or road markings to help me find my way	☐	☐
e. A way to take my bicycle with me on the bus	☐	☐

21. List any key bicycling issues or problems encountered and their location:

	Issue	Location
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____

FACILITIES & AESTHETICS

FACILITIES

22. What **types of recreational equipment** are visible in this **segment**?

Type of equipment	Visible	Not Visible
a. Playground equipment (e.g., swings, slide)	☐	☐
b. "Complete" sports equipment (i.e., all necessary elements are visible – posts, nets, etc.)	☐	☐
c. "Incomplete" sports equipment (i.e., missing elements)	☐	☐

23. What **types of service amenities** are visible in this **segment**?

Type of service amenity	Visible	Not Visible
a. Equipment rental	☐	☐
b. Sports stands/seating	☐	☐
c. Picnic tables and/or grills	☐	☐
d. Water fountains	☐	☐
e. Restrooms	☐	☐
f. Vending machines	☐	☐
g. Public telephones	☐	☐
h. Trash bins	☐	☐

AESTHETICS

24. Are **attractive features** visible in this **segment**? Presence of attractive features (e.g. architectural design, building variety, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, vegetation, signage)?	**No attractive features**	**A few attractive features**	**Some attractive features**	**A lot of attractive features**
	☐	☐	☐	☐

25. Are **comfort features** visible in this **segment**? Presence of comfort features (e.g. shade trees, benches, or other types of amenities)?	**No attractive features**	**A few attractive features**	**Some attractive features**	**A lot of attractive features**
	☐	☐	☐	☐

26. a. Is **air pollution** visible or detectable through odors in this **segment**?   ☐ **Yes**   ☐ **No**

   b. Is **noise pollution** audible in this **segment**? (e.g. trains, construction, etc) ☐ **Yes**   ☐ **No**

27. Is the **physical environment safe and attractive** in this **segment**?

Rating Criteria	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
a. Is there debris such as whole or broken beer or liquor bottles or cans visible in streets, sidewalks, yards, or alleys?	☐	☐
b. Is there graffiti n the buildings, signs or walls?	☐	☐
c. Are there a lot of empty store fronts or abandoned housing?	☐	☐
d. Are there abandoned cars?	☐	☐
e. Are there known crime issues associated with this segment?	☐	☐
f. Are there stray dogs or animals in the segment)?	☐	☐

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

28. Are **people** visible in this **segment**?

Rating Criteria	<u>None</u>	<u>a Few</u> (1-5)	<u>Some</u> (6-10)	<u>a Lot</u> (>10)
a. Are there any people visible in this segment?	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Are there any children visible in this segment (i.e., <age 13)	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Are there children engaging in active behaviors (e.g., playing a sport, running, climbing)?	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Are there any teenagers or adults visible in this segment (i.e., 13 to 65 years old)?	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Are there teenagers or adults engaging in active behaviors (e.g., walking, bicycling, playing a sport)?	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Are there any older adults visible in this segment (i.e., 65 years or older)?	☐	☐	☐	☐
g. Are there older adults engaging in active behaviors (e.g., walking, bicycling, jogging, playing a sport)?	☐	☐	☐	☐