

VIRTUAL WALKING AUDIT

ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

This activity aims to illustrate the role of streets and community design in enhancing rural character and economic development potential. Participants will learn the different components of the street and how to audit and evaluate a street for elements such as pedestrian accessibility, design, and safety.

BACKGROUND

Walkability is defined as “how comfortable an area is for walking.” Walkability is based on four criteria:

1. **How Accessible** – the degree to which the built environment allows and encourages all users
2. **How Welcoming** – user comfort and attractiveness of the environment
3. **How Convenient** – how conducive an area is to walking
4. **How Safe** – how secure and protected users feel

We have the opportunity to choose how walkable our community will be by making decisions about what types of streets we build. This activity will expose you to many different types of streets, and help you discover how streets can enhance or detract from rural character and a community’s economic development potential.

INSTRUCTIONS

The instructor will lead you through a series of photos of various types of streets found in rural communities. For each photo, please rate each street in terms of its how accessible, welcoming, convenient, and safe you perceive it to be. Walkability ratings include: needs improvement, adequate, and high quality. Record any notes and observations about each criterion in the notes and observations section of the worksheet.

Street Photo	Walkability Criteria	Walkability Rating			Notes and Observations
		Needs Improvement	Adequate	High Quality	
1. Main Street	Accessibility				
	Welcoming				
	Convenience				
	Safety				
2. Gridded Street	Accessibility				
	Welcoming				
	Convenience				
	Safety				
3. Curvilinear Street	Accessibility				
	Welcoming				
	Convenience				
	Safety				
4. Highway	Accessibility				
	Welcoming				
	Convenience				
	Safety				
5. Rural Road	Accessibility				
	Welcoming				
	Convenience				
	Safety				