

I am proposing to do a walkability data integration for downtown Los Angeles. This would serve several purposes: to illustrate the value of living in an urban center, to motivate people to contribute data to OSM, and to serve as a model to be applied to other areas.

I am going to focus on walkability because I believe that there are several benefits to this approach: people on foot can gather better data, less vehicles on the road, traveling by train and foot yields a richer experience. Moreover, I would like to see the OSM data improved for walkable areas in the downtown area. I am going to include rail lines and stops, but exclude buses because of they pose a volume problem.

I believe that a project like this can illustrate the value of contributing to a project like OSM, inspire people to explore the city, and potentially get people to walk more thereby improving their health. I have chosen downtown Los Angeles because it is my home, I have local knowledge, I intend to contribute to my own project, and I am familiar with some of the data. I would expect that anyone who uses my application would realize all of the valuable experiences available to them in the area, without the need for a vehicle.

I intend to use Open Street Map as my base map and include layers from LA Metro that include rail lines and stops. I will also potentially include points of interest from LA County and any other business data that I can acquire. It seems that the business data will be the hardest to come by; however, it is also essential to the project. Consequently, it will likely be the focus of my research.