

## Walkability In Worcester: Summary and (Potential) Solutions

### **Community:**

- Build unity on the issue of walkability and sustainable transport in general (**Easier**)
  - o Posters
  - o Online outreach and awareness promotion (website, ads, etc.)
  - o Get WPI involved, send out surveys

Why are we choosing this solution?

- It's very simple to do, and in today's world, it is very effective to advertise and promote over the internet.

What does success look like?

- Posters across campus, QR codes on telephone poles around the city, good website traffic

### **Commuting:**

- Incentivize walking and public transportation (especially walking) (**Easier**)
  - o Make walking around Union Station easier by adding walk lights where they're missing
  - o Add bus stops near WPI Campus
  - o Put a lot of e-bike stations on the main hilly roads like Highland and Institute
- Incentivize carpooling
  - o Create an app that would allow people to know if people would like to carpool.  
(**Simple, but little costly**)

Why are we choosing this solution?

- It is easily measurable and would make a difference in pedestrian safety and convenience. As an added bonus, it is not extremely expensive.

What does success look like?

- Walk signals at every major intersection in the city, specifically near the DCU Center, Union Station, and near WPI Campus. Also put bike stations and bus stops near hilly areas such as around campus.

### **Affordable Housing:**

- Lower the cost of housing in the urban and suburban areas around Worcester (**Very Difficult**)
  - o Implement policies that help this cause

Why are we choosing this solution?

- Housing being at a low cost makes it so that commuting to certain areas and jobs becomes easier as opposed to those who were forced to choose another place to live due to budget.

What does success look like?

- Success with affordable housing will see a increase in safety and reduction in long distance accidents. Along with the general reduction of carbon emissions and cluster while moving
- You will also see a reduction in traffic due to less people needed to commute further distances.

### **Recreation:**

- Promote green spaces such as parks, as well as easily accessible gyms to minimize car use (Doable, but costs a good amount of money)
  - o Convert old unused parking lots and plazas into small parks (near industrial sector)
  - o Build recreation facilities closer to denser living spaces
- Create an application that rewards people for the number of steps or the distance they travelled. (Possible to implement, but requires a lot of time, money and reward)
  - o Incentivizes people to walk to places more, especially places that would closer.

Why are we choosing this solution?

- It promotes a healthy lifestyle among the city populace and makes the city more beautiful and attractive to potential residents.

What does success look like?

- An increase in people walking around the green areas and commuting on foot to work or for errands.

### **Safe Pedestrian Infrastructure:**

- Make more straightforward intersections with less middle sections and appropriate walk signals
  - o Eliminate middle sections of crosswalks (Doable but a lot of money and time)
  - o Minimize verticality (Very difficult)
  - o Make sidewalks wide enough as well as maintain them (Doable)
- Add more cameras on streets. (Possible, but costly and time consuming)
  - o This would reduce crime fear within people, making it more likely for people to walk.
  - o It would help police stop crime and prove criminals guilty in court.

Why are we choosing this solution?

- An efficient urban layout would ideally be inexpensive and reduce the amount of accidents and confusion at intersections.

What does success look like?

- Less middle sections in intersections on Highland, near the station, and around downtown.

### Questions from the Assignment:

- What communities will be engaged in the recommendations and implementation actions?
- Why are you choosing this solution? How does what you know about your topic/problem and the community lead you to this being the best solution (that is what in your research took you to this)?
- What would success look like? How would you know your solution helped?
- Review the other main points we are looking for in the S&R section.