



Montgomery Planning

Pedestrian Audit Training

September 28, 2021



Introductions



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Jim Elliott, AICP

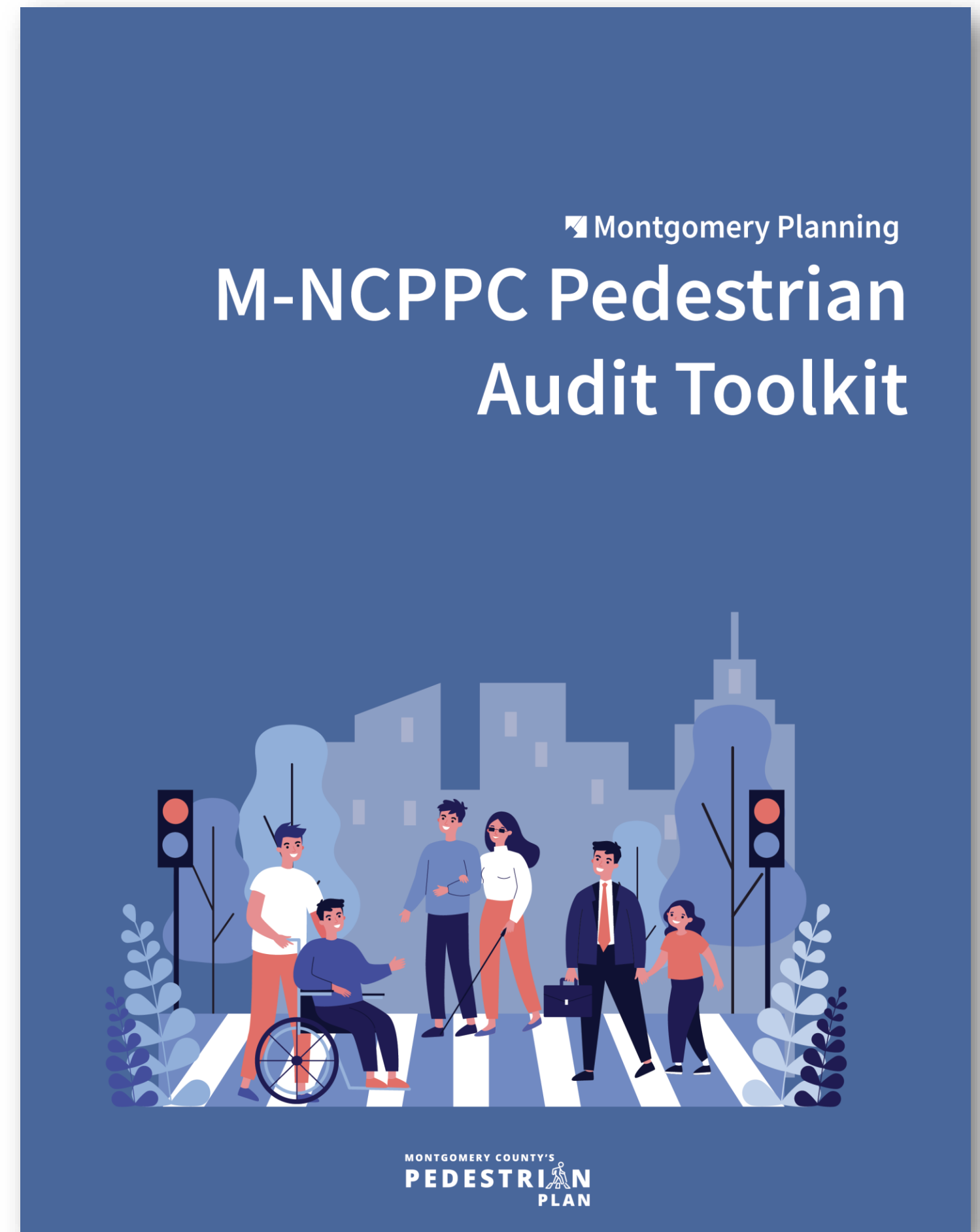


Katie Heuser



Why a pedestrian audit toolkit?

- Educate about the language of pedestrian concerns/potential fixes
- Empower communities to band together to focus on priority issues
- Provide direction about the appropriate agencies/elected officials to connect with to make change



What's Montgomery Planning's role?

- Create tools to help community members more effectively advocate for pedestrian improvements
- Develop design guides and make master plan recommendations to direct the design and construction of streets, pedestrian pathways and crossings moving forward
- Ensure design guidance and master plan recommendations are followed in both private and public projects

Why conduct a pedestrian audit?

- In-person effort by a group of people to assess pedestrian conditions
- Goal is to identify issues that ID issues that negatively impact pedestrian safety, comfort, and accessibility
- Can help community members identify and build consensus about pedestrian issues



What does a pedestrian friendly community look like?

- Wide, well-maintained, and connected pedestrian facilities
- Frequent opportunities to cross the street
- Connections to commercial and residential areas, as well as other destinations
- Connections to other transportation modes (transit, biking, etc.)
- Low motor vehicle speeds



What does a pedestrian friendly community look like?

- Well-maintained trees and landscaping
- Proper lighting, so that drivers and pedestrians can see each other and for pedestrian navigation and safety
- The ability to walk roll at all times of day and night without fear of crime, harassment, or racial profiling
- Other ideas?



Planning the audit

- Step 1: Determine the type of pedestrian audit
- Step 2: Determine the goals of the pedestrian audit
- Step 3: Determine relevant stakeholders
- Step 4: Determine the pedestrian audit study area
- Step 5: Determine the route
- Step 6: Select the day, time, and meeting venue

Step 1: Determine audit type

Pedestrian audits can focus on:

- Schools
- Transit stops
- Pedestrian crash locations
- Neighborhoods
- Commercial areas



Step 2: Determine goals

Example goals include:

- Identify barriers to pedestrian travel
- Build consensus among community stakeholders
- Collect evidence to support requested improvements
- Educate community members
- Understand disparities



Step 3: Determine stakeholders

- Neighbors
- Pedestrian or active transportation advocacy groups
- Disability advocacy groups
- Community and civic groups
- Local businesses or developers
- Homeowner/neighborhood associations
- Health and safety groups
- Faith organizations
- Safe Routes to School coordinators
- School staff
- Parents, PTAs, or PTOs
- Crossing guards
- Local institutions Representatives from state and local agencies
- Elected officials

Recommended stakeholders by walk audit type provided in toolkit

Step 4: Determine study area

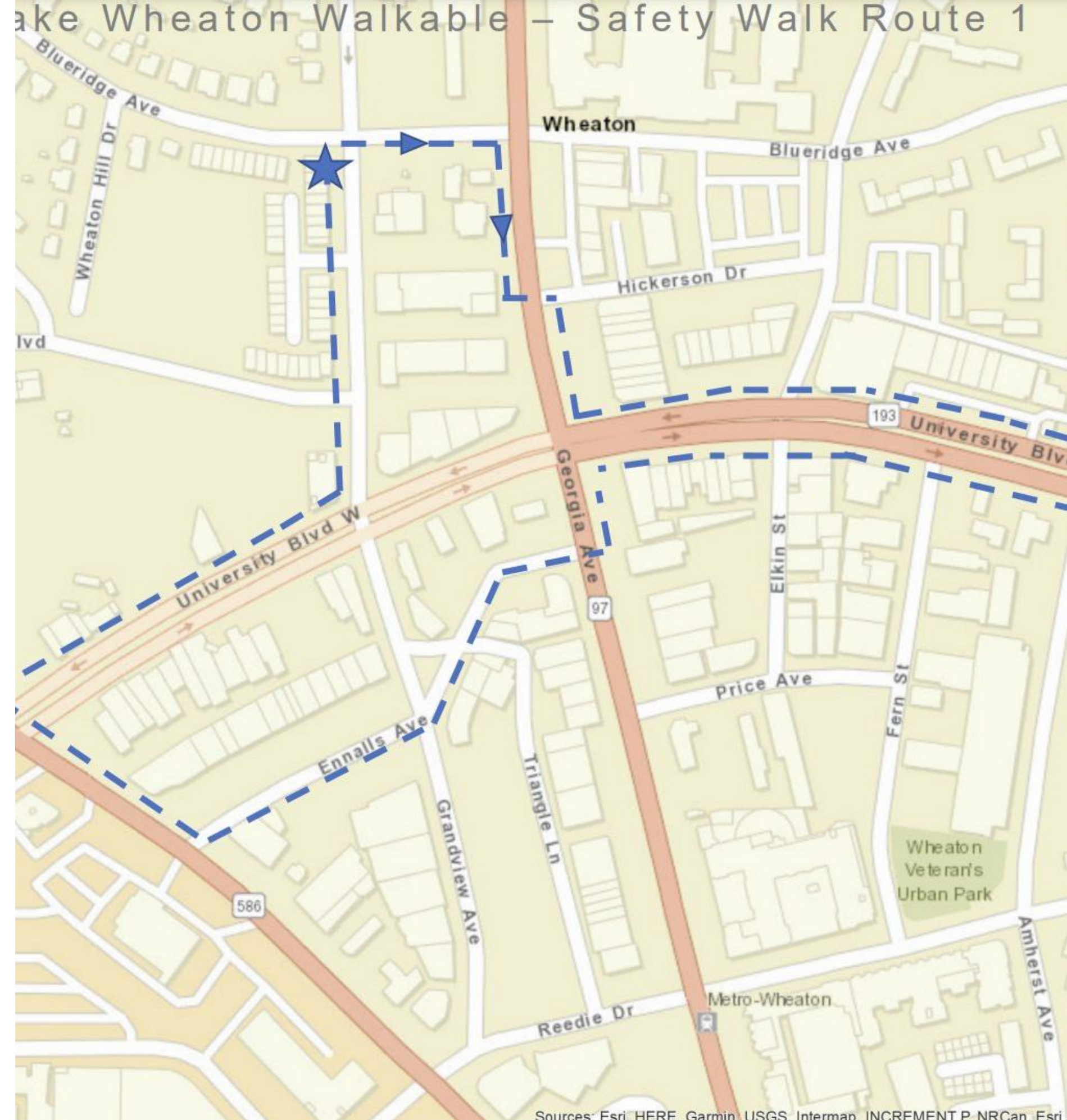
Examples include:

- Single block or a few blocks along a corridor
- $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius around a destination
- Small area with known pedestrian issues
- Route between destinations

When in doubt, keep study area small!

Step 5: Determine route

- Routes are usually 1 mile or less
- Should start and end in the same place
- Preview the route to determine how long it will take and where to stop



Step 6: Select the day, time, and meeting venue

- Audits typically take 1.5-2 hours
- Day/time considerations include:
 - Weather
 - Participant availability
 - Meeting venue availability
 - Time of day you wish to observe (e.g., rush hour or school dismissal)
- Meeting venue needed for pre- and post-meetings
 - Can reserve through Active Montgomery or Montgomery County Recreation



Steps 7 : Invite stakeholders

Need to communicate:

- Purpose
- Meeting location
- Date/time
- Dressing for weather and walking

Stakeholder invitation template provided



Step 8: Prepare

- Prepare talking points or short presentation
- Research pedestrian issues in study area
- Review Montgomery County interactive crash map
- Gather materials

Example Materials

- Data collection form
- Clipboard
- Pens
- Name tags
- Reflective vests
- Camera or smartphone

Conducting the audit

Pre-audit meeting

Safety training (or talk)

Conducting the audit and recording observations

Post-audit debrief



Pre-audit meeting

Cover the following:

- Participant introductions
- Pedestrian audit study area and route
- Known safety conditions
- What to look for during the pedestrian audit. Reference the Key Pedestrian Safety Issues
- How to use the data collection form

Consider assigning specific roles to each walk audit participant

Safety training (or talk)

- Participants should not take risks
- Participants are responsible for their own safety
- Use common sense
- Follow traffic laws
- Be aware of sight lines and obstructions
- Don't enter street between parked cars
- No cell phones, texting, or headphones
- Don't block sidewalk



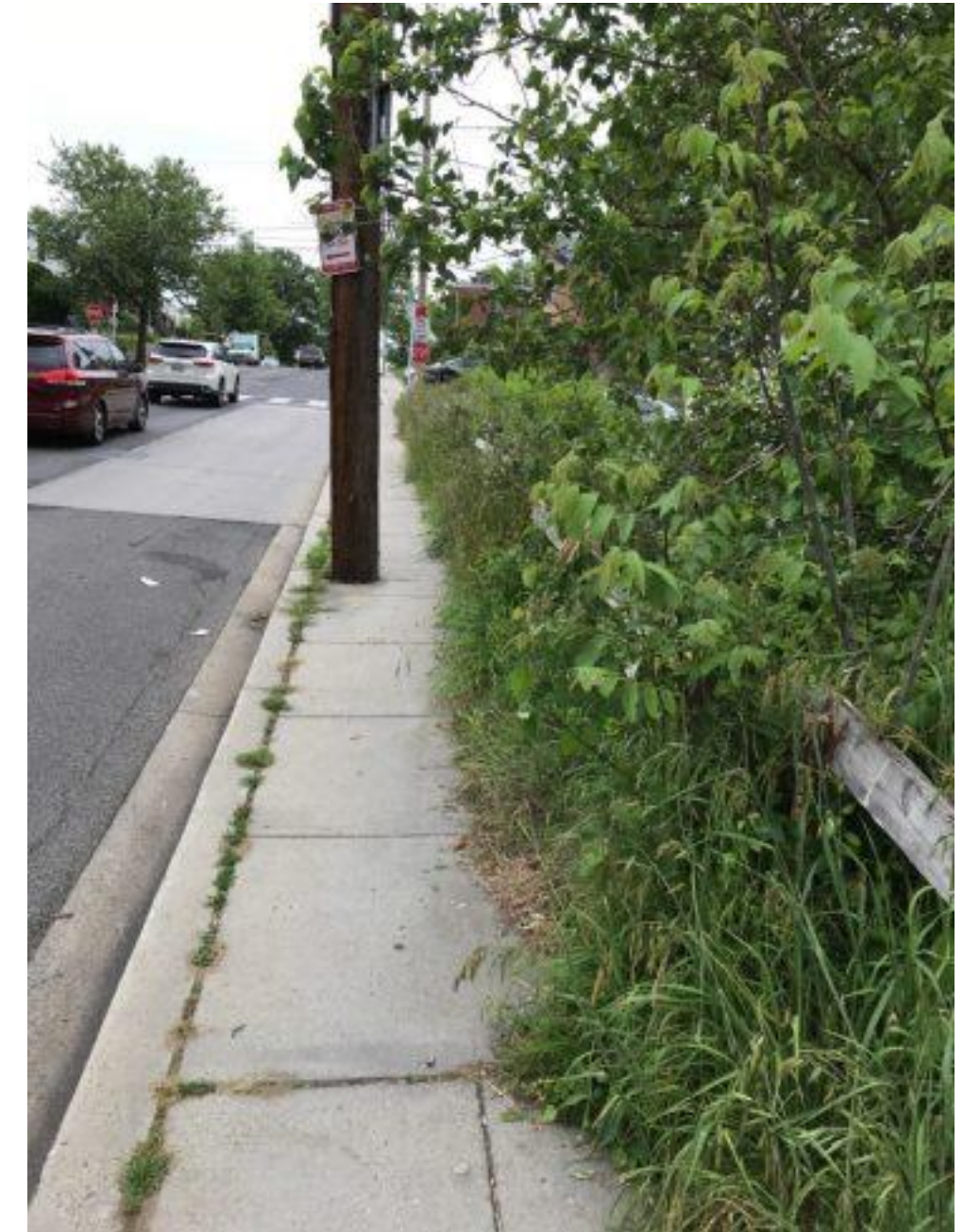
Conducting the audit and recording observations

- Use information from Key Pedestrian Safety Issues section to understand what to look for
- Record observations using data collection form
- Record observations using photos and videos



Key Pedestrian Safety Issues--Sidewalks

- Missing sidewalks
- Narrow sidewalks
- Driveways/alleys
- Sidewalk slope
- Sidewalk maintenance
- Physical barriers
- Sidewalk buffer



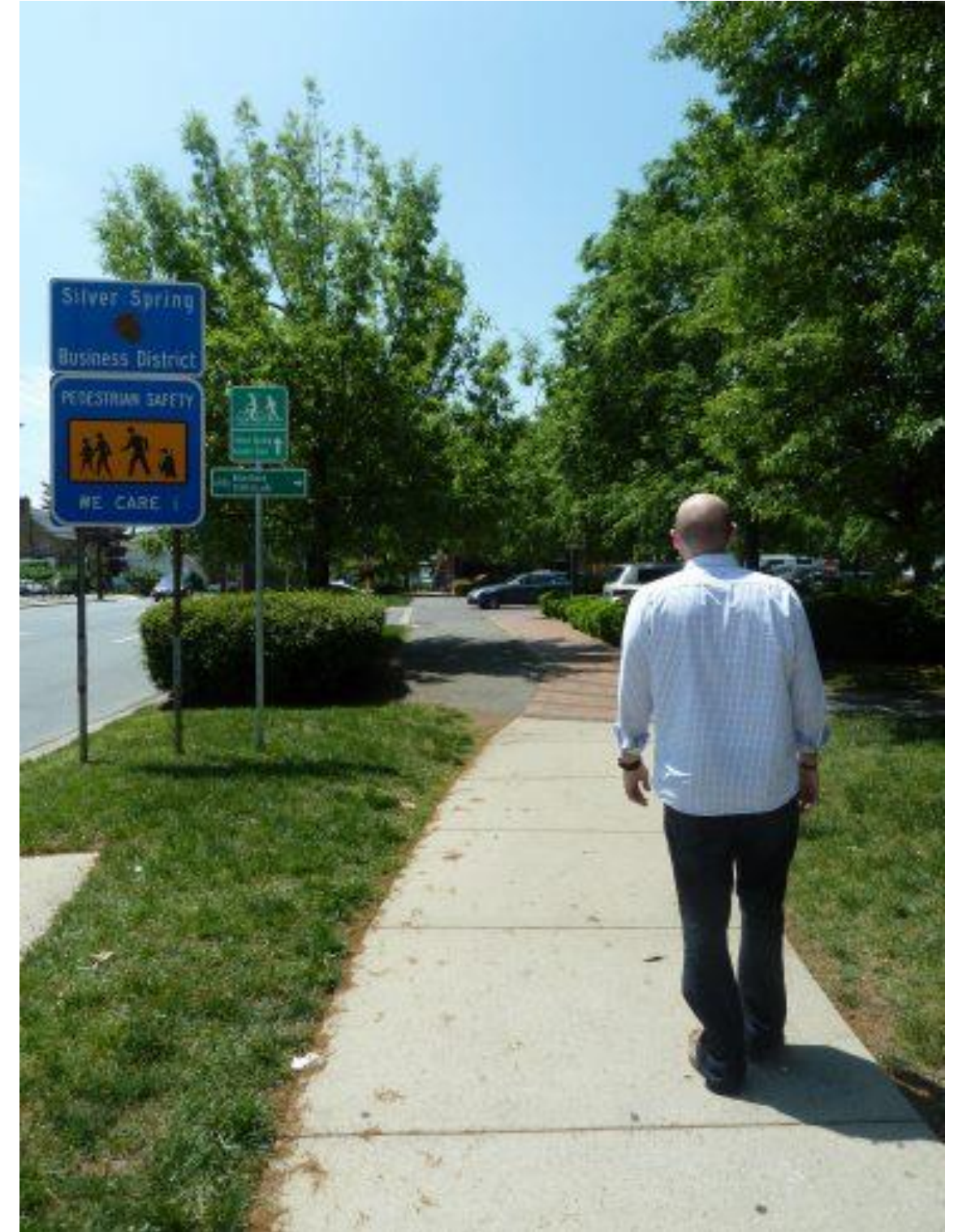
Key Pedestrian Safety Issues--Crossings

- Marked crosswalks
- Traffic control
- Pedestrian signals
- Crossing distances
- Curb ramps
- Visual barriers
- Crossing frequency
- Driver speeds
- Risky driver behaviors



Key Pedestrian Issues—Personal Security and Comfort

- Wayfinding
- Landscaping
- Benches/seats
- Lighting
- Dogs
- Litter
- Personal security



Key Pedestrian Safety Issues—Connections to Transit

- Bus stop presence
- Shelter presence and condition
- Accessibility from sidewalk
- Nearby crossings



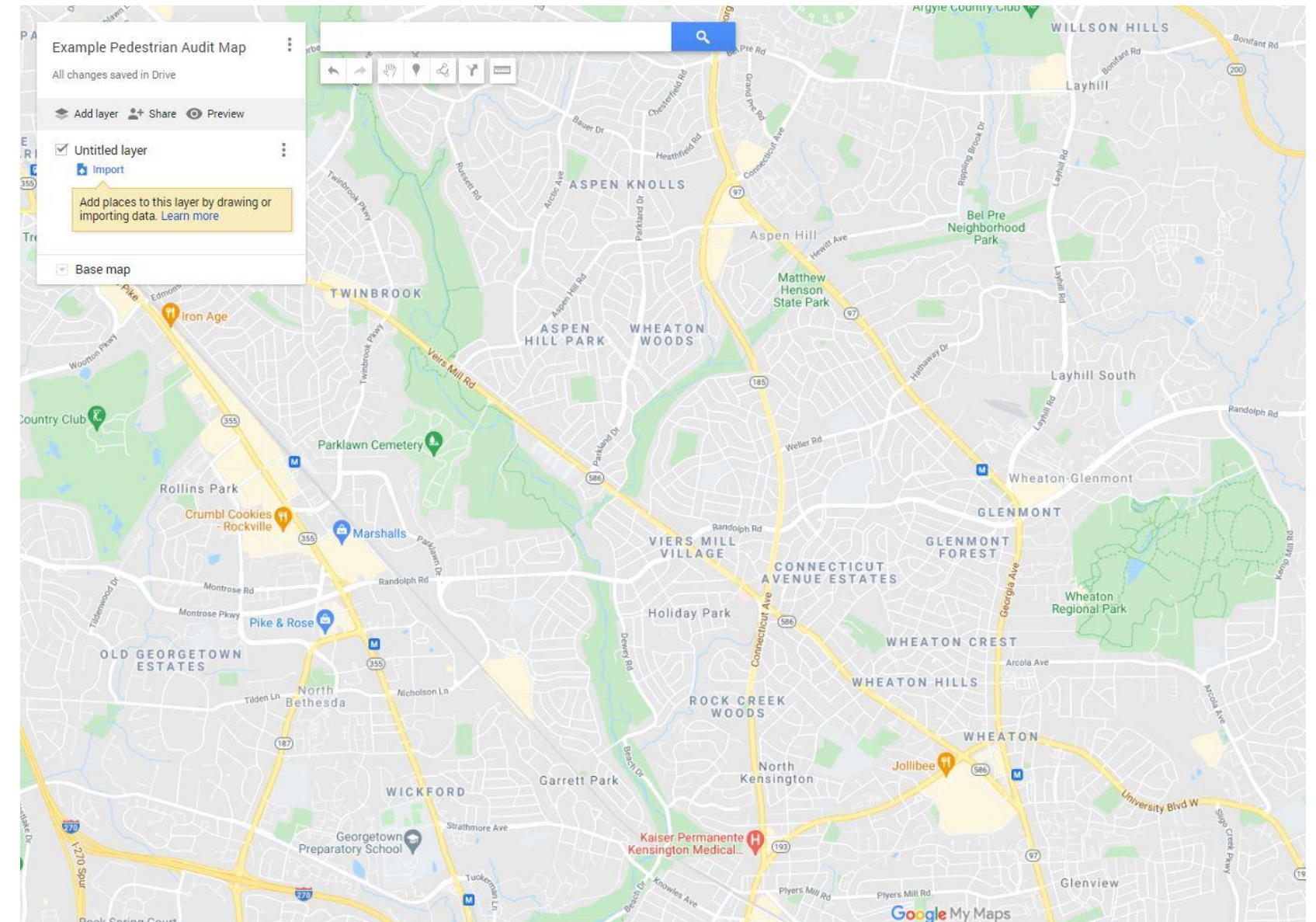
Post-audit debrief

- Important for building consensus
- Ask:
 - What are the key pedestrian safety issues?
 - What are the key pedestrian accessibility issues?
 - What key issues discourage pedestrian travel?
- Discuss:
 - Priorities
 - Next steps
 - Who is responsible for doing what



Post audit steps

- Summarize findings
- Build community support
- Report findings to government agencies and elected officials
 - Use County Decision Tree to how to best report specific findings

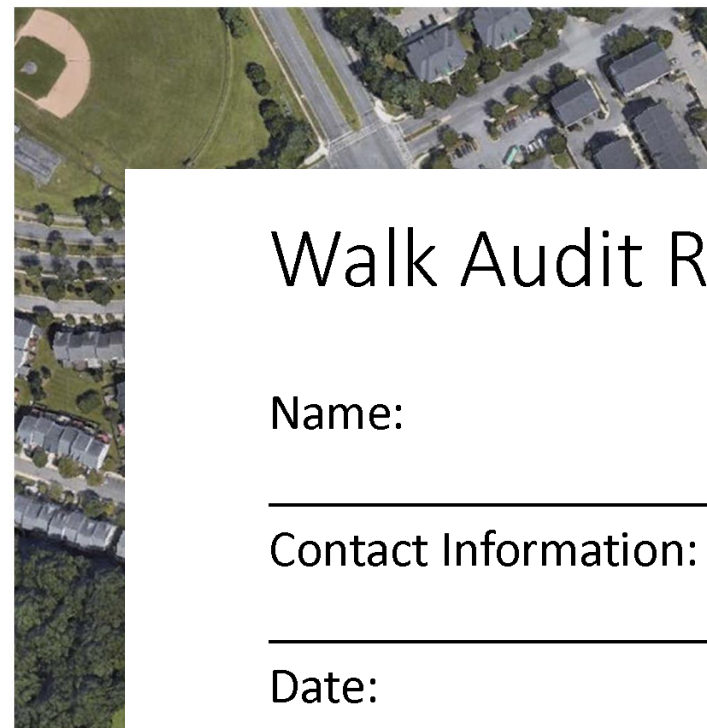


What does the toolkit include?

- Steps by step guidance
- Stakeholder lists
- Stakeholder invitation template
- Agenda for the pre-audit meeting
- Question prompts
- Data collection form
- Intro to potential solutions (countermeasures)
- Report template
- Decision tree

Data Collection Form Instructions

Sample Map- Sidewalks



Issues observed:

*1 - Sidewalk is very narrow.
Not enough room for two*

t-hand side of
crossings, etc.).

Walk Audit Record

Name:

Contact Information:

Date:

Location:

Start Time:

End Time:

Weather:

- ☐ Sunny/Mostly Sunny
- ☐ Cloudy/Mostly Cloudy
- ☐ Light Rain
- ☐ Heavy Rain/Storms
- ☐ Snow
- ☐ Other

Demonstrations

Demonstrations

- Navigating the site
- Using the interactive crash map
- Using the data collection form
- Creating a Google My Map
- Using the County Contacts Decision Tree

Questions?

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