

When in doubt, go for a walk!

Got a traffic safety concern? Want to improve walking and biking to improve children's health? Here's how you can help!

The San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative (COI) is partnering with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to collect feedback on the [Vision Zero Action Plan](#) to make our streets safer.

We invite community members and partners to **plan, conduct, and share a walk audit** - a traffic safety assessment of an area. The purpose of a walk audit is to identify barriers to walking or bicycling along the route between home (or other starting point) and school, work, grocery stores, healthcare facilities, or other critical community spaces.

How to Conduct a Walk Audit

Watch a quick walk audit training video: [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

Plan

Step 1: Identify a specific location (school, park, health clinic, library, intersection, etc.). Print out an aerial map of the location with ¼ mile radius ([google maps](#)). Plan your route.

Step 2: Identify participants. You can do this by yourself or involve staff at your organizations or other partners.

Step 3: Select day and time, preferably choose a time when there is a lot of traffic to better capture challenges.

Step 4: Gather your materials. Bring the printed aerial map, clipboard, pen, camera, checklist, and reflective vest (recommended).

Conduct

Step 5: The goal of the walk audit is to share your knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about traffic safety about a specific area. You can handwrite or type up your observations on the printed map using highlighters and pens (see example). Here are some things you can ask yourself when conducting the walk audit:

- What do I notice on my walk about people walking, biking, or driving?
- What did I notice about the built environment (sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting, roads, etc.)?
- What did I notice about the natural environment (trees, bushes, sun, heat, cold, etc.)?
- What "feels" unsafe? What "feels" safe?
- Do I/Would I feel comfortable walking, biking, or driving around here?

Share

Step 6: Share your findings with COI, SANDAG, your elected officials. COI can help you with that. Email us at sd-coi@ucsd.edu

Thank you, Kristin Haukom for sharing your expertise on how to do conduct a walk audit. She is the Government Domain Co-Chair and Senior Planning Associate at Alta Planning + Design.

The San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative is implemented by UCSD Center for Community Health in support of the Live Well San Diego vision for healthy, safe, and thriving communities. For more information, visit [LiveWellSD.org](#).

EXAMPLE WALK AUDIT

Note: Nobody walked these streets. This is an example of how to take walk audit notes on a map.

