

## Overview

- How did we start?
- Partnerships
- What's Next?

# What is a block talk?

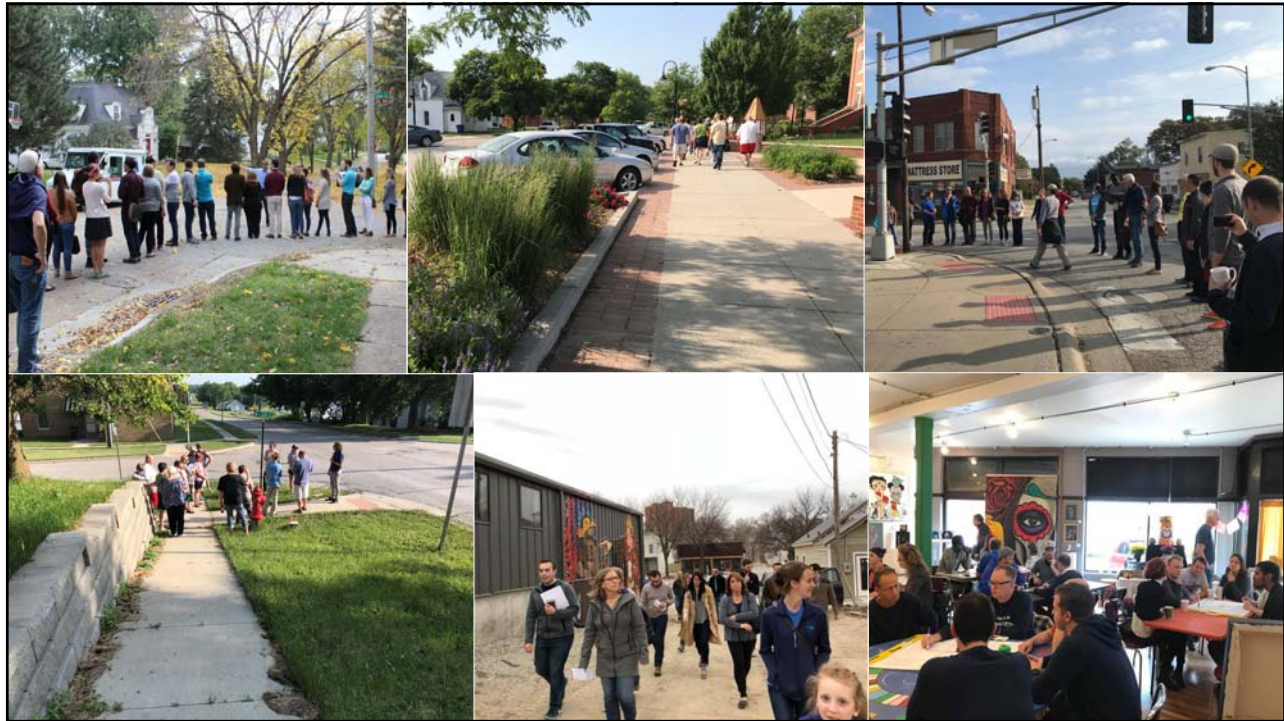
- Block Talks, the Greater-Omaha-specific program of walk audits, are an “effective tool for education, inspiration, and practical planning.
- General Purpose of a Block Talk
  - to “identify concerns for pedestrians and bicyclists related to the safety, access, comfort, and convenience of the environment”
- The routes that block talks follow showcase the best and worst parts of a neighborhood's active transportation environment through a mile-long walk.

**Active Living** – a way of life and a community culture that integrates physical activity into daily routines through transportation, recreation, and neighborhood choices that support walking, biking, active play and healthy options for all abilities and ages

# Block Talk Program

- First two Block Talks and Block Talk facilitator training
  - October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> with Mark Fenton, Transportation and Planning Consultant
  - 32 neighborhood leaders, business community members, elected officials, and planning staff participated
- MAPA Conducted 5 Add'l Block Talks
  - Omaha Block Talks – Corridor Studies
    - Dahlman, Deer Park, Downtown, North 24<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Avoca, IA Block Talk
  - Many more in the works with partners





# Post-Walk Workshop

- Program
  - Community driven efforts to raise awareness and create support and demand for improvements in the neighborhood environment
  - Programs are usually quick to start and low cost
- Project
  - Neighborhood level actions that work to change the behavior of residents and others who use the streets, sidewalks, and space within the neighborhood
- Policy
  - Meant to reflect the long term goals of the neighborhood and address things that may have been poorly designed in the first place

During the Post-Walk Workshop, participants split into three groups: Programs, Projects, and Policies. Each group identifies goals for that category. Once completed, the three groups come together to identify two main goals for each category for the time frame and cost.

	Fast & Cheap	Longer & More Expensive
<b>Programs</b>	Local art pieces Local market on street (street fair) Weekly litter pick-up walk	Bike lane education Planters
<b>Projects</b>	Planters as model curb extension Cones for temporary bike lanes	City directed cement curb extension Painted bike lanes
<b>Policies</b>	Enforcement of city codes Involving neighborhood and residents	City/private funding for enforcement of complete streets Sidewalk funding ordinance

# Partnerships



- Block talks as part of engagement with urban school districts
- What factors contribute to kids feeling safe at home, at school, and along the way?
- Students, staff, administrators, neighborhood representatives, and local officials participated



- Block talks provide a useful means of engaging neighborhood leaders
- Developed Block Talk tool-kit to have a uniform process for conducting and reporting
- Tool-kit provided an understanding of what types of recommendations and input will be provided following the report



- Block Talks to set foundation of priorities for a three-year Community Revitalization Plan
- Partner with AARP to provide community grants to fund small projects
- 24<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor & 13<sup>th</sup> Street Walkability Study

# Where are we going?

- Working with communities during Comprehensive Planning
  - Urban, Rural and Suburban communities
  - Finding new partners to engage as part of the process
- Implementation – How do neighbors move projects forward?
  - Coordination with Street Superintendents
  - Mayor’s Grants & Foundation Neighborhood Grants
  - “Tactical Urbanism Tool-Kit”
- Story Maps and People Miles Engaged
  - “Experiential engagement”
  - Measuring progress