

Block Talks

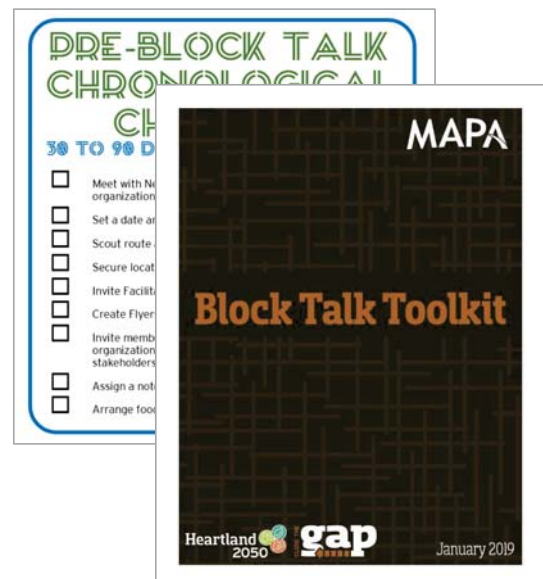
Virtual Engagement During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)
MPO/RPA Quarterly Meeting | March 22, 2021

MAPA Omaha - Council Bluffs
Metropolitan Area
Planning Agency

What is a Block Talk?

- MAPA's name for a walk audit
- Based on methodology developed by Mark Fenton
 - Programs
 - Projects
 - Policies
- Developed in partnership with ONE Omaha and other community organizations



Programs

Projects

Policies



COMPLETE STREETS OMAHA

Power the movement toward vibrant communities.

No matter how you choose to move around the city, Complete Streets can make life better for Everyone – whether we're walking, riding a bike, driving our cars or taking the bus.

Omaha, Let's Complete Our Streets!

[GET INVOLVED](#)





Block Talk Tool-Box

Facilitation



Input Gathering



Recording



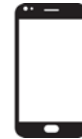
Virtual Block Talk Tool-Box

Facilitation



zoom

Input Gathering



momento360

Recording

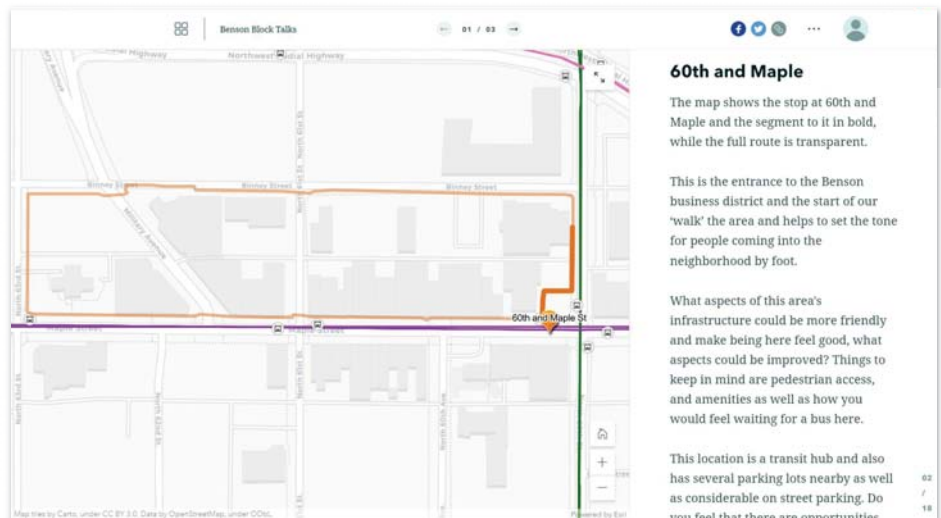


Benson Block Talks - StoryMap

Serious and fatal pedestrian crashes

Coordinated with BID, Neighborhood Association, and City of Omaha

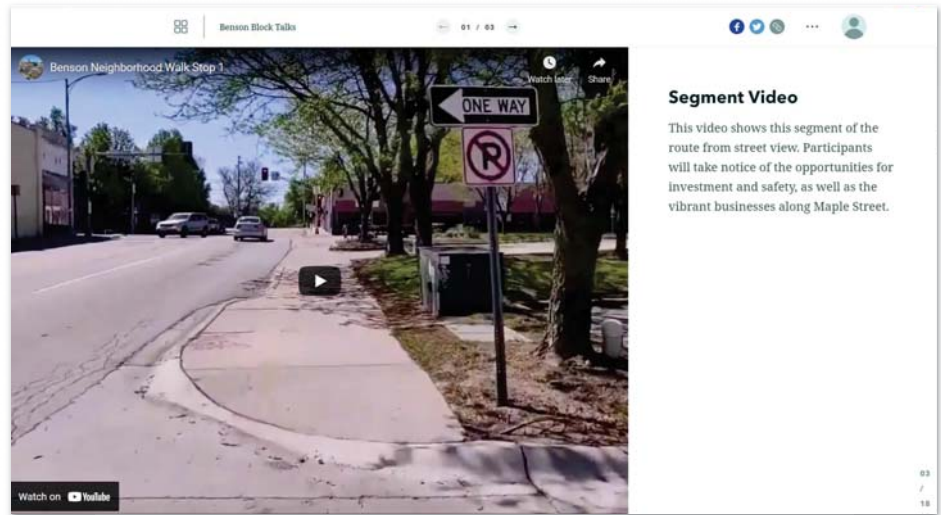
Public Surveys and Public Virtual Meeting



Video Recordings of Routes

Simulates the walks between the stations

People able to review the videos and identify key issues or assets

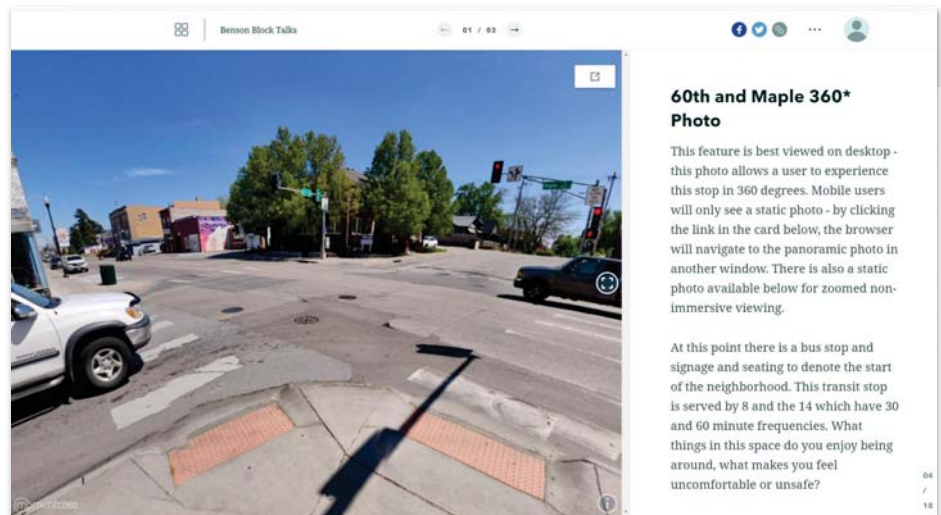


360° Photospheres – Momento360

Pre-determined locations to guide discussion

Surveys allowed input to be tied to a specific location

DIY StreetView

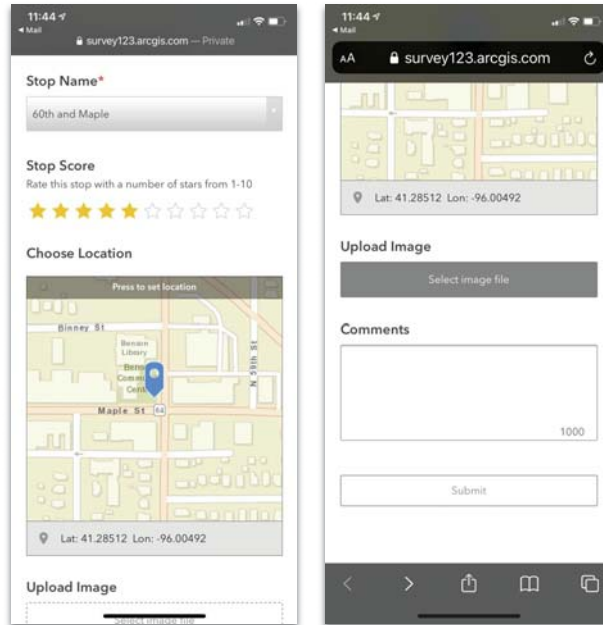


Survey Embedded in StoryMap

Survey123 allowed mapped comments

Way to participate without joining the Zoom meeting

Survey responses guided facilitators in public meeting



Virtual Block Talk by the Numbers



30 participants (85 registered)

Facilitators led conversations in 6 groups

75-minute Zoom Meeting

10 minutes – Introductions

15 minutes – Location 1 (Breakout)

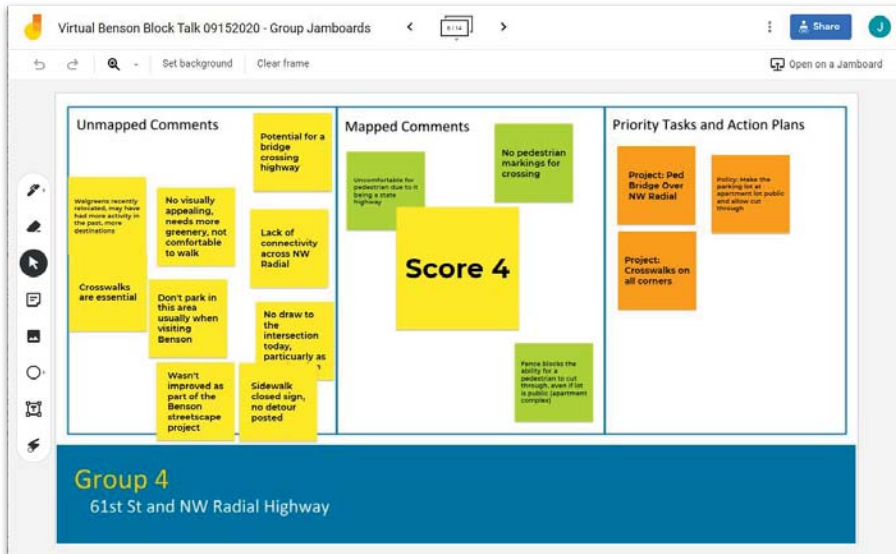
15 minutes – Location 2 (Breakout)

20 minutes – Action Plan (Breakout)

15 minutes – Debrief



Virtual Block Talk Facilitation Tools



Group facilitators led discussion of two locations

Used photospheres guide discussion

Captured input in Jamboard, entered it into a Survey123 form



Final Block Talk Report

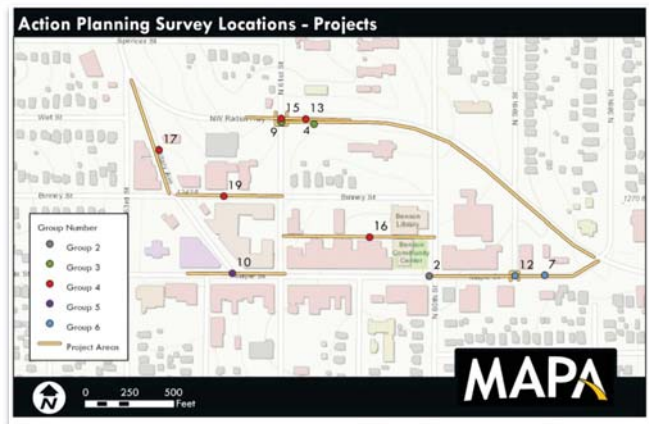
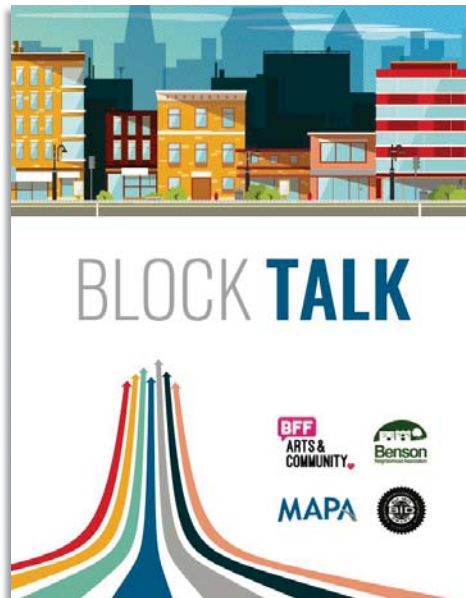


Table 7: Proposed Action Planning Program Responses

Time Frame	Assign To	Support By	ID	Project Description
Short Term	Benson Neighborhood Association	Benson BID	6	Community action to pick up litter along NW Radial.
	Benson BID	City of Omaha	8	Limit access in alleyways to bike/ped in alleys as a pilot.
Long Term	NDOT	City of Omaha	11	Implement Complete Streets Guidance and include wider 8' sidewalks.



Lessons Learned

- Lots of interesting options for online engagement, including many free tools
- Consistent reporting format is helpful for MAPA and stakeholders
- Simplify multimedia for mobile users, streamline the overall process for all users
- Different format, similar problems as in-person meetings



Thank You!

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