WALKABLE WASHINGTON

Transformation towards walkability is taking place all over the state of Washington. From urban, suburban and small town initiatives, the program showcases the effects of a renewed focus on creating great places for people to walk. The case studies are exceptional projects and programs showcasing how cities, counties, school districts, and community organizations throughout the state are making it safer, easier, and more inviting for people to walk.

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

We promote walkable communities and empower people throughout Washington to connect to the world by foot.

CASE STUDY

WALKABLE COWLITZ

COWLITZ COUNTY, WA

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE: Walkable Cowlitz began when the county received a 1422 Diabetes Prevention Grant. The objective is to develop and promote community plans to improve walkability in order to better the health and well being of its residents. It began in January 2015 led by the Health Department which held meetings with government, business and community stakeholders and community organizers for several months and get valuable input. The next step was to get a group together to identify the changes they’d like to see and then prioritize them as well as build public support through outreach. This project is in it’s beginning phases and has not yet made any concrete plans.

PROGRAM TIME-FRAME: Phase 2a of the Infrastructure Improvements is on-going and is expected to be completed in the near future. Phase One was completed in October 2010, and Phases Three and Four are expected to begin at a later date.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: At this time, community involvement is just getting started but there was high attendance and a diverse group at their first Walkable Cowlitz meeting in October.

COST AND FUNDING: Funding for the project is provided by the 1422 Diabetes Prevention Grant, the Washington State Department of Health, and the Healthy Living Collaborative.
**CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS:** City officials felt like there was no public support for this program and Walkable Cowlitz had to find constituents interested in walkability and create community support. To develop more interest in the local government, they hope to train decision makers on complete streets ordinances and the benefits of walkable communities.

**BENEFITS AND RESULTS:** This program aims to create a healthier community for residents of Cowlitz county and make it easier, safer and more pleasant to be active.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**
http://healthylivingcollaborative.org/2015/09/walkable-cowlitz/
https://www.facebook.com/Walkable-Cowlitz-907173542654353/