

DESIGNING FOR SAFETY WALKABOUTS AS AN EXPERIENTIAL TOOL



Deborah Murphy Urban Design + Planning

Will our cities future
depend on the people
or the cars?



Designing for Safety - Walkabouts as an Experiential Tool 10.13.10

Transportation and Urban Design

“The City exists for the care and culture of people not for the movement of cars”

Lewis Mumford

“The street is a room by agreement”

Louis Kahn

What is a Walkabout?

Is it a band?

It is a film?

The title of a song from the Red Hot Chili Peppers?

An episode of the TV show *Lost*?

A chain of Australian-themed bars in the UK or an activity?

It means all of these, but for us it means bringing people together to discover the benefits and pleasures of walking for transportation, recreation and community building

What is a Walkabout?

Wikipedia - is an Australian pidgin (or perhaps quasi-pidgin) term referring to the belief that Australian Aborigines "go walkabout" at the age of thirteen in the wilderness for six months as a rite of passage. They then trace the path of the ceremonial ancestors of their tribe, following the exact route that those ancestors took, and imitating in a fashion, their heroic deeds. These paths are known as the Songlines.

Also refers to a person's desire to travel without a planned itinerary or set destination (enjoy the journey not just the destination)

Requirements for Great Streets

Allan Jacobs *Great Streets*

accessibility

bringing people together

publicness

livability

safety

comfort

participation

responsibility

The 5 Es of Walkable Streets

Engineering

Education

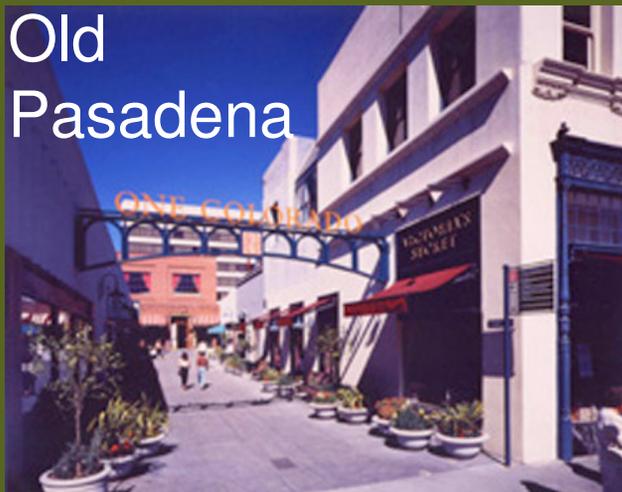
Enforcement

Encouragement

Evaluation

Downtown Pasadena Walkabout

Old Pasadena



Civic Center/Mid Town



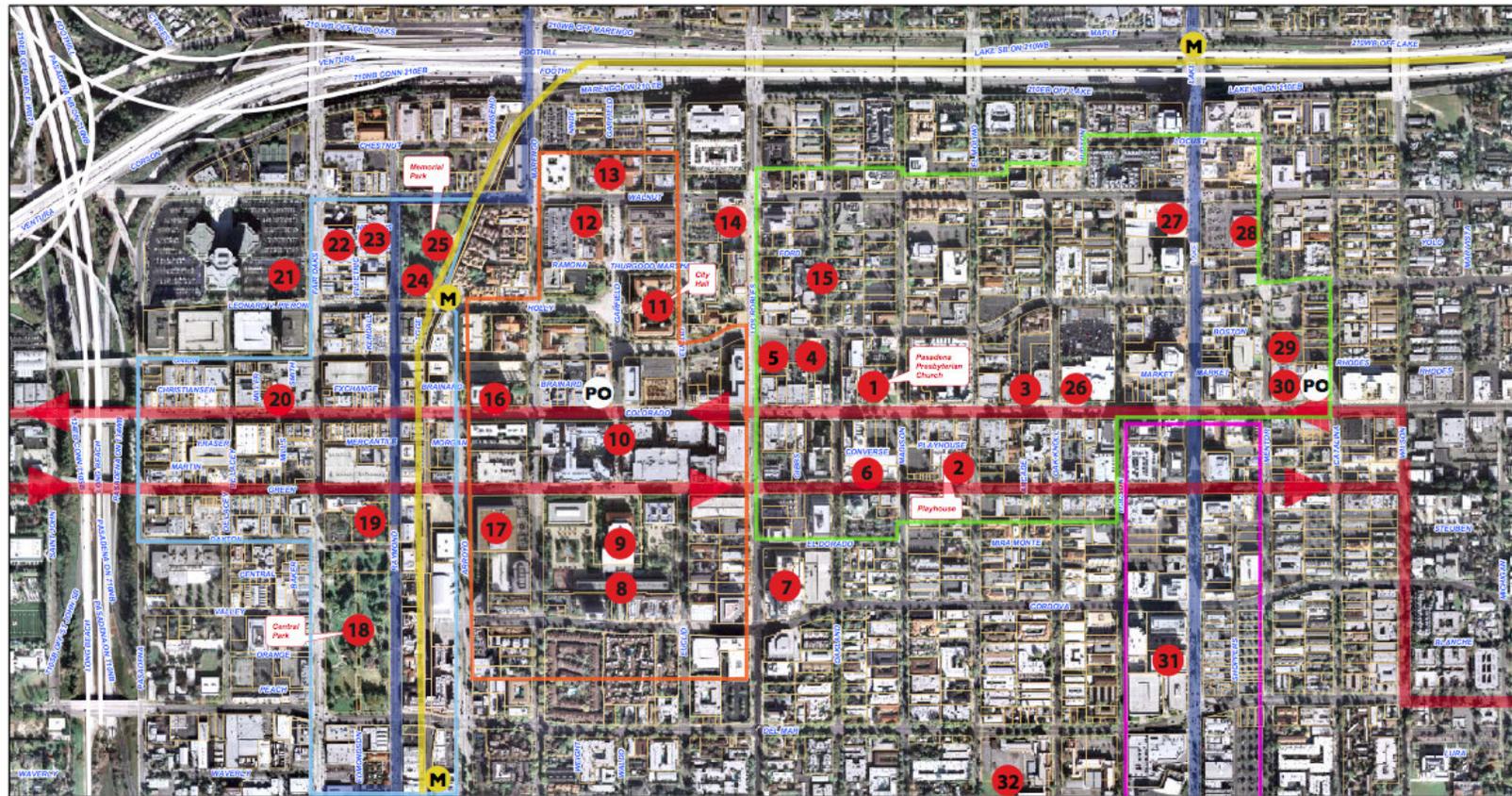
Playhouse District



South Lake



Walkabout Area Map



Prepared By:
John Reimers
Dec. 10, 2007
Walking Tour-B



Coordinate System:
State Plane California Zone V
FIPS 405 (Feet), NAD 1983

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Downtown Pasadena Walkabout Area Map

Deborah Murphy Urban Design + Planning January 26, 2008



Legend

Parcel

Walkabout Goals

- Elevate Walking as the Preferred way to Enjoy Downtown
- Support “Park Once”
- Build a Downtown Walking Constituency
- Promote Economic Vitality to Provide Jobs, Services, revenues and Opportunities
- Promote Pasadena as a Healthy Family Community
- Encourage a Sustainable Transportation System

Day of the Walkabout



Welcome by Erlinda Romo
of Playhouse District Assoc.

Keynote Speech by Mayor
Bill Bogard



Walkabout Training by
Deborah Murphy

Day of the Walkabout



120 participants/25 Routes of 4-6 people each

Route Map on Aerial Photograph

Landmarks Map

Walkability Checklist

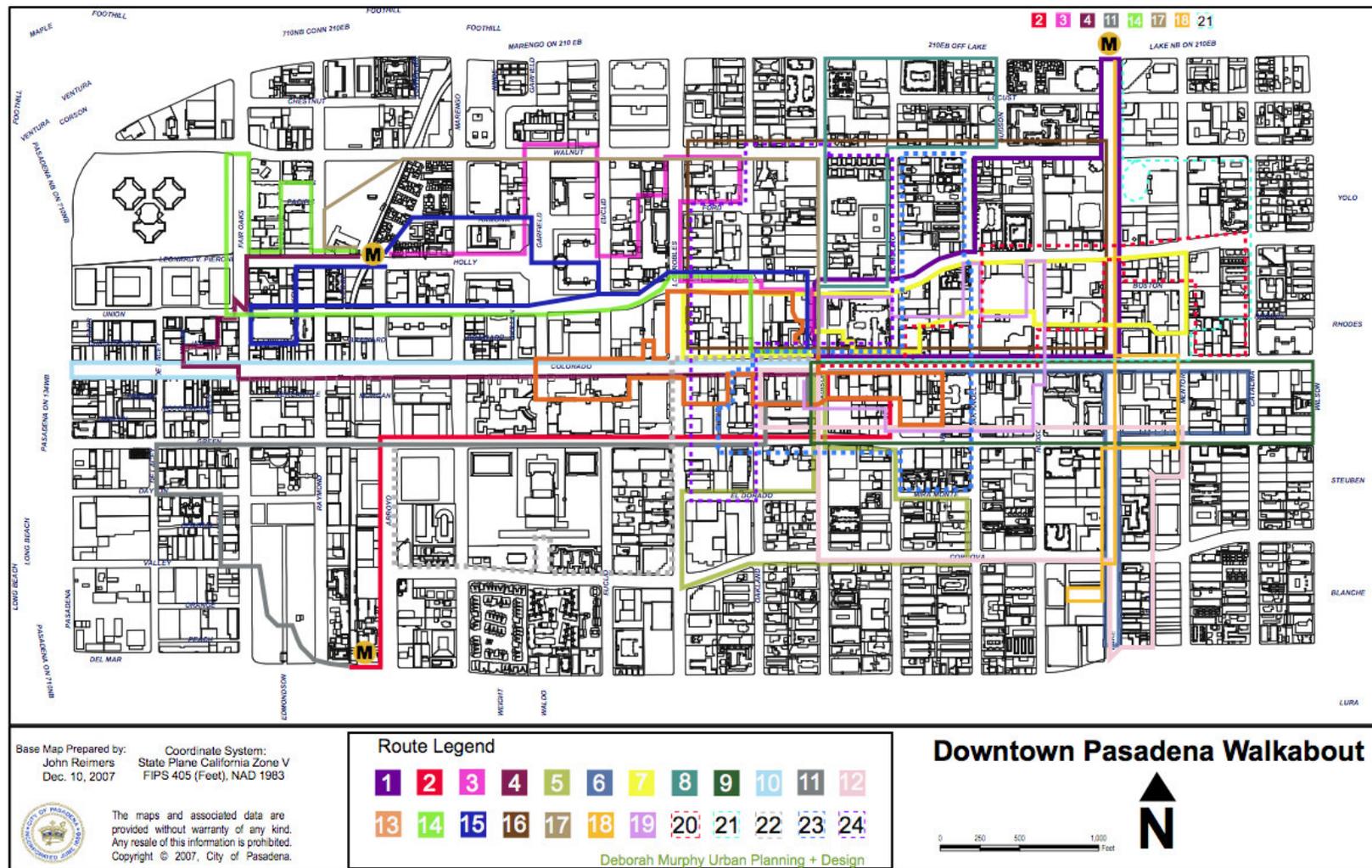
Photographic Assignments

Overall Rating Sheet

Covered over 30 miles of Downtown Pasadena Streets from the 210 Freeway to Del Mar Boulevard and from Pasadena Ave to Wilson Ave



Map of Walkabout Routes



Walkabout Routes

Pasadena Playhouse District
Downtown Pasadena Walkabout
Routes and Assignments

Saturday, January 26, 2008
Prepared By Deborah Murphy
updated 1/22/08

#	route description	miles	team leader	photographer	participants
1	n/s colorado/ e/s lake/ w/s lake/ s/s walnut/ e/s oak knoll/ n/s union/ w/s madison	1.4	Pat Smith	Paul Jacoy	Jim Harnagle
2	arts bus to lake ave gold line to del mar gold line/ station w/s arroyo/ n/s green/ w/s el molino/playhouse alley	0.9	Wayne Hunt	Anita Cerna	Fred Dock
3	arts bus to lake ave gold line to holly st gold line/ n/s holly/ w/s garfield/ ns/ walnut/ w/s euclid/plaza las fuentes/ w/s los robles/ n/s union/ s/s union/ w/s madison	1.2	Laura Stetson	Elizabeth MacKillop	Mary Macias
4	arts bus to lake ave gold line to holly st gold line/ ns/ holly/ smith-hucus-miller alleyways/ s/s colorado	1.1	Alex Wong	Linda Centell	Chris Holden
5	w/s madison/ n/s el dorado/ e/s los robles/ s/s cordova/ w/s oak knoll/ w/s el molino/ s/s mira monte/ s/s green/ e/s madison	1	Scott Reimers	Christle Balvin	
6	s/s colorado/ w/s catalina/ n/s green/ e/s lake/ w/s lake/ s/s colorado	1.3	Sam Gennaway	roger gray	Steve Winningham
7	n/s colorado/ e/s los robles/pac asia museum/ s/s union/ e/s mentor/market alley/alleyways	1.4	Lisa Padilla	Andrew Clayton	Hema Hatti
8	e/s madison/ s/s corson/ w/s hudson/ n/s walnut/ w/s el molino/ n/s union/ w/s madison	0.9	Mark Smutny	Eve Rappoport	
9	n/s colorado/ w/s wilson/ s/s green/ w/s madison	1.3	Mic Hansen	Larissa De La Cruz	John Smith

Detailed Route Descriptions

Pasadena Playhouse District Association
Downtown Pasadena Walkabout
Route #1 Description

Saturday, January 26, 2008
Prepared By Deborah Murphy
updated 1/22/08

I street by street route description

walk east on the north side of colorado blvd to lake avenue

cross to the east side of lake avenue

walk north on the east side of lake avenue

walk past the entrance to the gold line station to maple avenue

cross lake avenue on maple avenue

walk south on the west side of lake avenue to walnut street

cross walnut street

walk west on the south side of walnut street

walk south on the east side of oak knoll avenue to union street

cross oak knoll avenue at union street

walk west on the north side of union street to madison avenue

cross madison avenue at union street

walk south on the west side of madison avenue back to the church

Walkability Checklist

Pasadena Playhouse District Association
 Downtown Pasadena Walkabout
 Walkability Checklist

Saturday, January 26, 2008
 Page 1 of 4
 prepared by Deborah Murphy updated 1/17/08

Route #	Street Name/Side of Street		
Cross Street	Cross Street		
along the street	yes	no	comments
general			
1 Is the sidewalk comfortable to walk along? (explain response)			
What is the width of the sidewalk (back of curb to property line)?			
2 Are there locations with broken, uplifted or uneven sidewalks?			
3 Are there obstructions (signage/poles/utilities, etc) within the pedestrian path? pedestrian path = walking area of sidewalk not area next to curb w/trees, etc			
alley walkways/driveways/parking			
4 Do driveways impede pedestrian movement (too many, too steep, etc)?			
5 Are there alley walkways? If so, do they enhance or detract from pedestrian movement? Do vehicles block the fire lane?			
6 Is the alley walkway safe and clean? Are there improvements that are needed?			
7 Do drivers yield to pedestrians at the driveways? If not, where?			
8 Are there clear signs on where to park and the parking restrictions?			
9 Is there signage for public parking at private buildings?			
10 If there are parking lots next to the sidewalk, how do they relate to the pedestrian environment?			
11 Can vehicles obstruct the sidewalk?			
12 If there is metered parking, are the instructions/time limits easily understood?			

Photographic Assignments

Pasadena Playhouse District Association
 Downtown Pasadena Walkabout
Photo Assignments/Index

Saturday, January 26, 2008
 page 1 of 4

route #	photographer:	phone #
✓	photo assignments	
1	typical street lights or other lighting	
2	typical types of street trees	
3	typical street tree wells/parkways	
4	typical transit stops	
5	poorly-marked crosswalks	
6	typical sidewalk, alleyway or walkway conditions	
7	obstructions on pedestrian path	
8	blighted conditions (litter, overgrown/unkept landscape, fences, inactive storefronts, et	
9	good examples of private property landscaping	
10	good examples of pedestrian-friendly businesses(active store fronts) and/or residential properties	
11	unique characteristics/landmarks	
12	any other attributes that you would like to document	

photo #	attribute/issue	precise location - address/block/side of street
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

Overall Rating and Comments

Pasadena Playhouse District Association
 Downtown Pasadena Walkabout
Overall Rating and Additional Comments

Saturday, January 26, 2008
 Page 1 of 1
 prepared by Deborah Murphy updated 1/17/08

Route #	rate your street section	names of walkers, identify photographer
	1 = awful 2 = many problems 3 = some problems 4 = good 5 = very good 6 = excellent	
<input type="checkbox"/>	overall rating of your experience walking along the street (was it comfortable?)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	overall rating of your experience crossing the street (Did you feel safe?)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	overall rating of driver behavior	
<input type="checkbox"/>	overall rating of street amenities: lights, benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	overall rating of public transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/>	overall rating of area maintenance	
<input type="checkbox"/>	if you lived or worked within walking distance, how often would you walk any portion of this route? daily/weekly/monthly/rarely? (circle one)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	how many destinations on this route would you expect a local person to visit more than once a month?	
special characteristics		
What are the interesting characteristics of this route or portions of the route?		
.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		
additional comments (key issues to address) other side too		
.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		

The Report

Downtown Pasadena Walkabout Report



Pasadena Playhouse District Association
August 2008

DRAFT

Report Available online
at playhousedistrict.org

The Report

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

2. Downtown Pasadena

3. Playhouse District

4. Old Pasadena

5. Civic Center/Mid-town

6. South Lake Avenue

7. Metro Gold Line Stations

8. Organizational Collaboration

Appendices – Forms, Detailed Comments, Summary of Comments, Existing City Plans, Maps, List of Participants, Summary of Part II Community Meeting

Downtown-wide Implementation

Slow-down Speeding Drivers

- Traffic Calming

- Driver Educational Programs

- Pedestrian Signal Prioritization

Improve Crosswalk Safety and Experience

- Crosswalk Markings/Paving

- Traffic Signal Timing/Phasing/Pedestrian-Demand Signals

- Restrict Right-turn on Red

- Signage

Enhance Pedestrian Experience in and Around Metro Gold Line Stations

- Install Directional and Wayfinding Signage at Stations

Provide Enhanced Bus Stops/ARTS Bus Information

- Install signage with route and schedule information at Bus stops, Gold Line Stations, Parking Garages

District-by-District Implementation

Improve Storefronts/Landscaping

- Playhouse District Walkability Award

- Funding Assistance

Install Bike Racks

- BIDs work with City and Metro on Bike Rack Program

Plant Street Trees

- BIDs and City to work with specialists on Tree Program

Provide More Trash Receptacles

- BIDs and City to develop District-wide Programs

Install Pedestrian Lighting

- Coordinate program across all districts

Level Sidewalks

- Develop Coordinated Repair and Widening Program

- Widen Sidewalks where sidewalks are currently the narrowest and where roadways can handle the widening

District-by-District Implementation

Provide Wayfinding and Directional Signage

- Develop a landmark location and wayfinding signage program to create pedestrian route network

Improve Alleyways and Plazas

- BIDs work with City to install lighting, trash, bike racks

Parking Facilities as Gateways

- Pedestrian and Cyclist Information at parking Garages
- Develop more “Park Once” Opportunities

Encourage Cycling and Walking

- Install more Bike Racks & Bike Storage Facilities

Other Pedestrian Improvements

- Prioritize Pedestrian Crossings at times of high activity
- Provide Audible and Tactile Features
- Traffic Calming

Playhouse District

Top Three Observations/Recommendations

- Improve Storefronts/Landscaping
- Install Bike Racks
- Plant and Restore Street Trees



Oakland and Mentor Avenues have good human-scale buildings and character



Mixed feelings about Green Street – Shade canopy of mature trees appreciated but not the dangerous sidewalk conditions

Playhouse District



Signage needed for ARTS and Metro Buses, Gold Line and Wayfinding



Need more street furniture – benches, trash receptacles and less utility boxes and newspaper racks
Walnut Street is “Loud, scary and noisy”



Union Street is an auto-dominated one-way street where drivers travel at high speeds and sidewalks are extremely narrow and there are very few street trees

Old Pasadena

Top Four Observations/Recommendations

- Improve Storefronts/Landscaping
- Slow Down Speeding Vehicles
- Install Metro Gold Line Directional Signs
- Improve ARTS Bus Stops



Slow-down Speeding Drivers and Plant Street Trees as a Buffer for Pedestrians



Complete Alley Improvements Throughout the District

Old Pasadena



Signage needed for ARTS and Metro Buses, Gold Line and Wayfinding not just Vehicular access to the Freeway



Colorado Blvd needs a Bike Lane and should be Considered for Part-time Closure to Vehicles making it a Pedestrian-Only Street for Special Occasions

Civic Center/Mid-town

Top Three Observations/Recommendations

- Improve Storefronts/Landscaping
- Slow Down Speeding Vehicles
- Install More Trash Receptacles



Holly Street is a major asset to the district and links the Gold Line to City Hall, but it could use pedestrian lighting and more trash receptacles



Garfield Avenue from Colorado Blvd to the Central Library is Pedestrian-Oriented Street

Civic Center/Mid-town



Paseo Colorado Loading Dock on Green Street is Unsafe and Pedestrian-Unfriendly



Bank of America on Green Street has Blank Pedestrian-Unfriendly Facade



Los Robles Avenue needs Street Trees to Buffer Pedestrians from the Roadway and Reduce the Scale of the Buildings

South Lake Avenue

Top Four Observations/Recommendations

- Improve Storefronts/Landscaping
- Install Pedestrian Lighting
- Level the Sidewalk on Green Street
- Install Trash Receptacles



District needs more Bike Racks, Pedestrian Lighting and Trash Receptacles



Improve Storefronts/Landscaping

South Lake Avenue



Although Prohibited, Cyclists and Skateboarders are Often on Lake Avenue Sidewalks



Lake Avenue's Distinctive Median gives the District a Unique character and Sense of Place

Metro Gold Line Stations

Del Mar Blvd
Memorial Park
Lake Avenue



Observations/Recommendations at All Stations

- Lack of clear signage to ticket machines
- Lack of Route and Schedule Information and Connections Transit Services
- Lack of Information on Local Services and Amenities near the Stations
- Lack of Trash Receptacles, Seating and Lighting
- Too much ancillary street furniture - newspaper racks, utility boxes, etc.

Del Mar Metro Gold Line Station



The approach to the station is not Pedestrian-friendly, appears to be a dead end and no signage is provided designating station



Station Entrance Courtyard is Attractive

Memorial Park Metro Gold Line Station



The pedestrian approach to the station is friendly and clear



Provide Transit Connection Information at the Station and at nearby Metro and ARTS Bus Stops

Lake Avenue Metro Gold Line Station



The station's location in the middle of the freeway is noisy and dirty

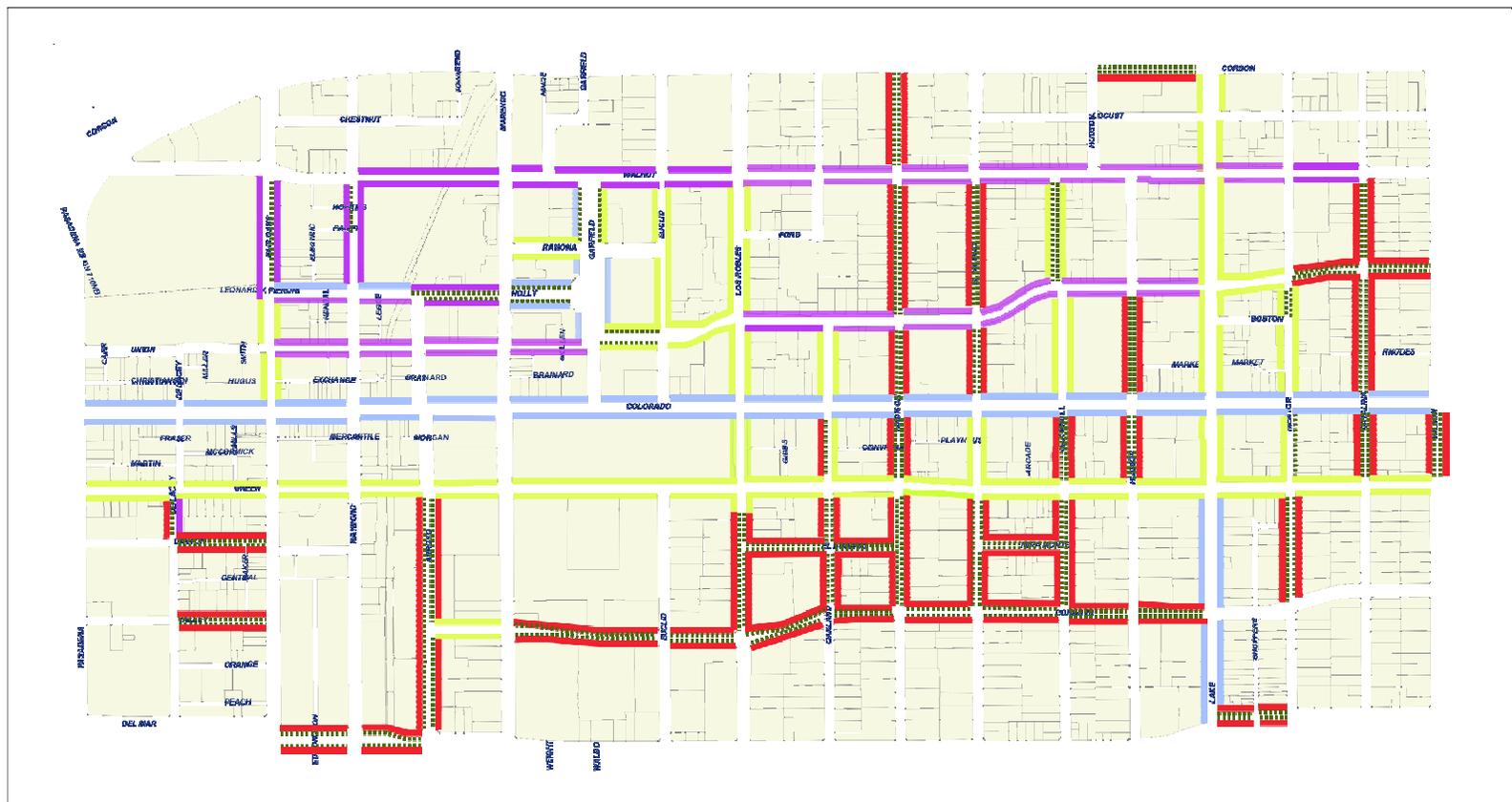


Unmaintained Planters with trash and numerous newspaper racks clutter the station entrance

Organizational Collaboration

Coordinated Approach between City and BIDs
City of Pasadena Parking Meter Revenue
Metro Call for Projects
Caltrans Planning Grants
State of California and Federally-Funded Safe Routes to School
State of California Housing & Community Development Dept
 TOD Housing Program
 Infill Infrastructure Grant Program
City of Pasadena Storefront Improvement Funds
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC)
Cyclists Inciting Change through Live Exchange (CICLE)
Historic Properties Incentives and Special Provision
 Mills Act Program
 Rehabilitation Tax Credit
 Façade Easements

Existing Sidewalk Widths Map



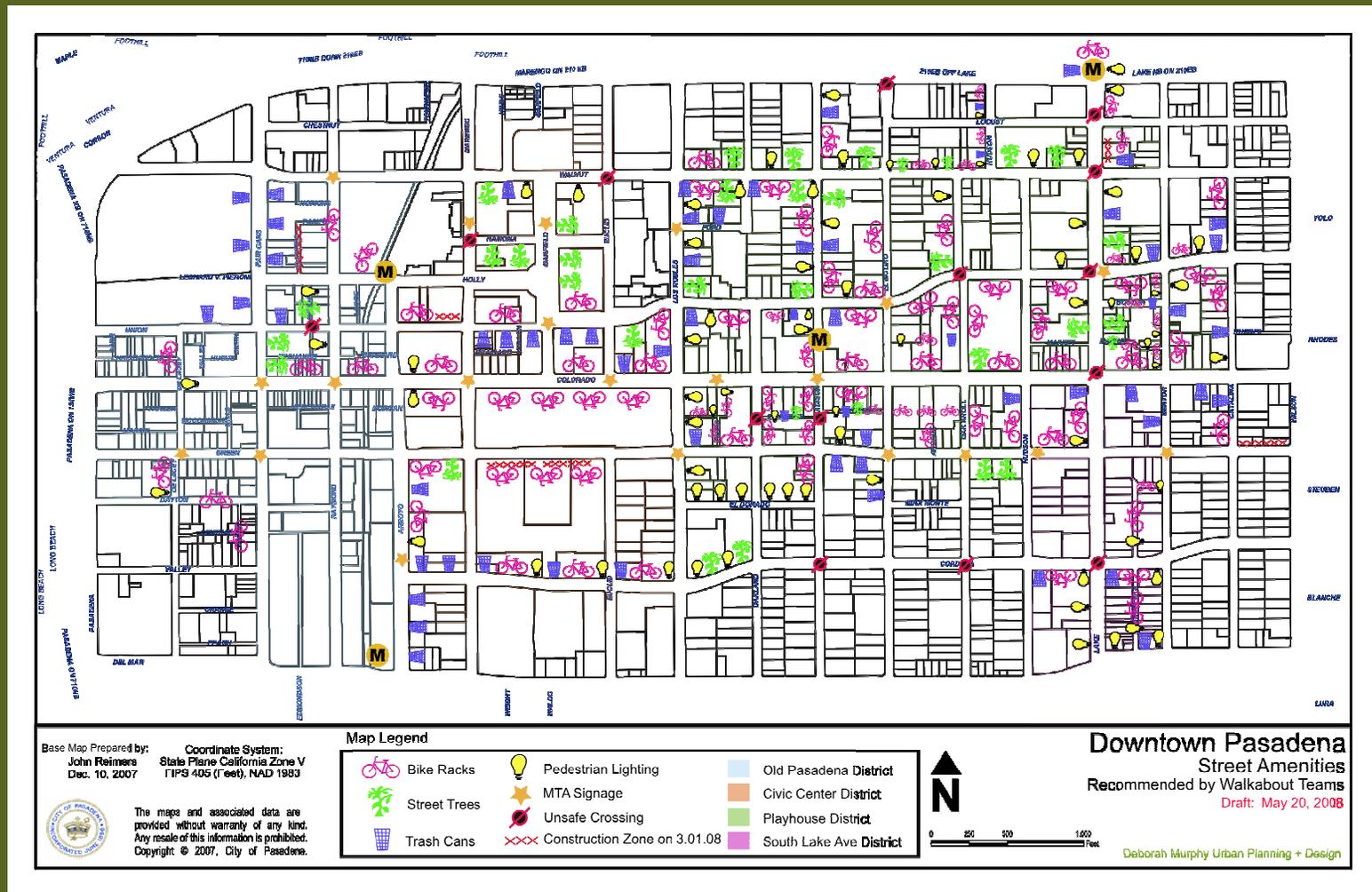
Downtown Pasadena Walkabout
Sidewalk Widths Map



Sidewalk Width Legend	
Red	8' and less
Purple	7' - 9'
Yellow	10' - 14'
Blue	15'
Dotted line	parkway

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Street Amenities Map



Walkabout Preference Survey

Walkabout Preference Survey

Downtown Pasadena

Mark your top 3 recommendations for improvements which would improve the entire Downtown Area from Old Pasadena to South Lake Avenue

Downtown Overall Improvements	Mark Top 3 Priorities
Slow Down Speeding Vehicles	
Install Pedestrian Signs for Metro Gold Line	
Level Sidewalks	
Provide Enhanced Bus Stops / ARTS Bus Info	
Enhance Pedestrian Crossings	
Widen Sidewalks	
Provide Wayfinding and Directional Signs	
Other Downtown Wide Improvement/s Please Describe:	

Use your 3 colored dots to show your preferences for your priority improvements in each district, in Downtown as a whole and at the Metro Gold Line Stations

Use the your Post-it Notes to add other needed improvements at the bottom of the posters

Downtown-wide Preferences

Downtown Overall Improvements	Survey Results
Slow Down Speeding Vehicle	15
Install Pedestrian Signs for Metro Gold Line	17
Level Sidewalks	5
Provide Enhanced Bus Stops / ARTS Bus Info	18
Enhance Pedestrian Crossings	15
Widen Sidewalks	5
Provide Wayfinding and Directional Signs	20
Other Downtown Wide Improvement/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Streetcar – 20 votes *Signage "Bikes entitled to full use of lane" for all Districts *Transitions between Districts *Catch and fire drivers who run red lights *Signs indicating time/distance to adjoining Districts *Pocket green park on parking lots instead of apartments or condos *Pedestrian pushbuttons: in most cases, these are detrimental to pedestrians. The walk signal should turn green automatically except when there's a reason not to

Playhouse District Preferences

Playhouse District Improvements	Survey Results
Improve Storefronts / landscaping	16
Slow Down Speeding Vehicles	4
Install Bike racks	4
Plants Street Trees	11
Provide More Trash Receptacles	9
Install Pedestrian Lighting	10
Level sidewalks	6
Enhance Pedestrian Crossings	8
Widen Sidewalks	4
Install Tree Grates	1
Improve Alleyways	11
Provide Wayfinding and Directional signs	12
Other Playhouse District Improvement/s	*Make Green and Union 2-way streets or send streetcar down middle lane or each in loop *Head-in angle parking as traffic calming

Old Pasadena Preferences

Old Pasadena Overall Improvements	Survey Results
Improve Storefronts / landscaping	4
Slow Down Speeding Vehicles	12
Install Bike racks	4
Plants Street Trees	10
Provide More Trash Receptacles	11
Install Pedestrian Lighting	0
Level sidewalks	0
Enhance Pedestrian Crossings	7
Widen Sidewalks	10
Install Tree Grates	3
Improve Alleyways	16
Provide Wayfinding and Directional signs	22
Other Old Pasadena Improvement/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Close Raymond Ave. to vehicles (think Las Ramblas), from Memorial Park to Central Park *Head-in angle parking as traffic calming *Plan to eliminate cars from District *Signs indicating time/distance to other Districts

Civic Center/Mid-town Preferences

Civic Center / Mid-Town Improvements	Survey Results
Improve Storefronts / landscaping	13
Slow Down Speeding Vehicles	8
Install Bike racks	13
Plants Street Trees	7
Provide More Trash Receptacles	11
Install Pedestrian Lighting	2
Level sidewalks	1
Enhance Pedestrian Crossings	8
Widen Sidewalks	4
Install Tree Grates	3
Improve Alleyways	6
Provide Wayfinding and Directional signs	17
Other Civic Center/Mid-Town Improvement/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Tell Macy's to do something about the huge, ugly wall facing S. Los Robles *Time/distance signage to adjacent districts *Cleaner sidewalks – no gum!

South Lake District Preferences

South Lake Improvements	Survey Results
Improve Storefronts / landscaping	9
Slow Down Speeding Vehicles	4
Install Bike racks	14
Plants Street Trees	8
Provide More Trash Receptacles	10
Install Pedestrian Lighting	9
Level sidewalks	0
Enhance Pedestrian Crossings	13
Widen Sidewalks	1
Install Tree Grates	3
Improve Alleyways	2
Provide Wayfinding and Directional signs	19
Other South Lake District Improvement/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Convert Macy's to Bloomingdale's *Maintain clean parking lots *More trash cans *Maintain/trim parking lot trees *Add "Tivoli" lights to parking lot trees

Metro Gold Line Preferences

Metro Gold Line Improvements	Survey Results
Improve information on fare & route	12
Improve maintenance of stations	10
Install bicycle racks	5
Install noise mitigation measures (i.e. noise screen)	6
Install Pedestrian Signs for Metro Gold Line	20
Provide More Trash Receptacles	2
Remove excessive station amenities (i.e. planters and news racks)	1
Improve pedestrian access	10
Provide enhanced ARTS Bus Info	18
Install directional signage to ticket booth/bicycle racks	2
Install benches	6
Install more lighting	2
Other Metro Gold Line Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Diagonal crossing *Fire the MTA Board *Connect the streetcar/trolley with all Goldline stations *Much better platform for Lake Ave. metro stop *Lake Ave./Corson crosswalk *Better info linking ARTS bus system to Gold Line & FlyAway *Work to redo fare structure – either free or one fare for entire Metro system

Next Steps

Plan for Action for Each District

Coordination between Districts and with the City of Pasadena

- Planning and Development - Overall Vision for Streets
- Public Works - Construction and Maintenance of Public Right of Way - Roadways, Sidewalks, Street Trees, Street Lighting, Street Furniture
- Transportation - Operations of Streets - Lane Widths, Signalization, Traffic Control, Crosswalks and Arts Bus and Transportation Advisory Committee
- Police Department - Enforcement of Traffic Laws
- Neighborhood Connections - Homeowner Organizations

Create a Downtown Pasadena
where residents, workers, shoppers
and visitors choose to walk more
often and for longer journeys where
they discover the great resources
the districts have to offer.