

## I2 Walk Audit at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue

December 1, 2023

**Attendees:** Greg Wirth (NMTAC member), Sarah Sandau (Lewis and Clark Public Health and walk audit facilitator), Joel Peden (Lewis and Clark Public Health), Kevin Rechhoff (NMTAC member), Charles Alvarez (Ability Montana), Andreas Haladay (Community Member), Ann Hausrath (Community Member)

The Non-Motorized Travel Advisory Council to the Helena City Commission (NMTAC) requested that Lewis and Clark Public Health assist in coordinating an Inclusive Interdisciplinary Walk Audit (I2 Walk Audit) at and around the 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. NMTAC wanted to have a walk audit after the work that was done to see if a recommendation is needed.

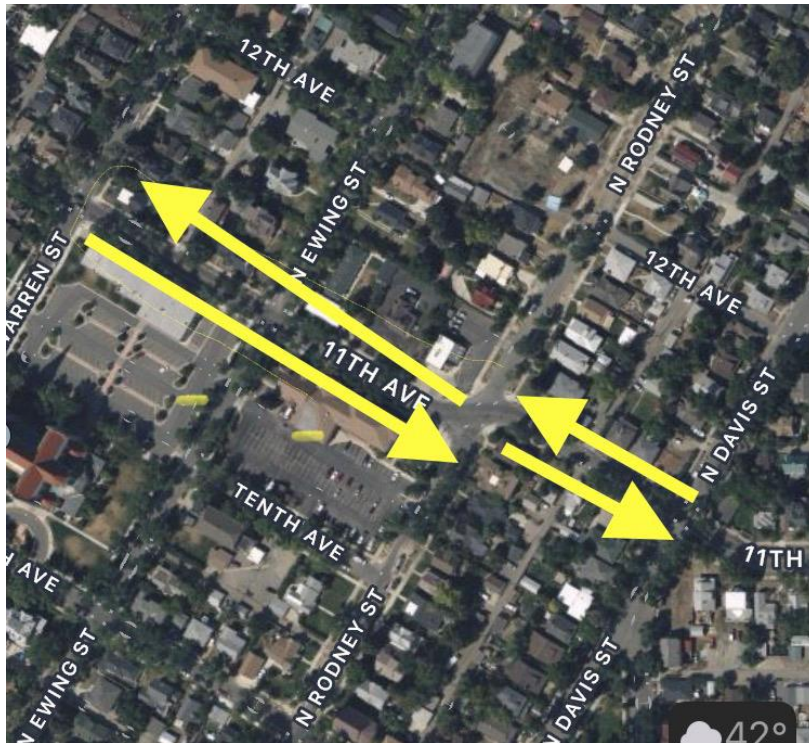
In that area of town, there are numerous housing options, schools, churches, non-profits, businesses, offices, and parks. This route is owned by the City of Helena.

The team scored each stop with a rating of 1-10. 1 being awful, scary, and unsafe. 10 being a perfect city design.

Route:

The Walk Audit started at the corner of N Davis and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The group walked west on 11<sup>th</sup> avenue till Warren St. Then turned around.

The map of the route:



Observations, questions, and ideas from the I2 Walk Audit are as follows:

**Stop #1:** Intersection of N Davis and 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. At the first stop the team assessed the area as an average score of 5. Comments on the first leg of the walk are as follows:

*Positive aspects:* Sidewalk, boulevard, corners were redone, mix of housing, trees, lighting

*Needs Improvement:* Areas where the sidewalk still needs to be redone. Joel mentioned that 5 years ago he made the complaint for the section and 44 issues were cited. About 80% of those have been fixed, but still sections that were not. Fast, blind corner for cars.

*Ideas:* Improve those sections of sidewalk, add more trees, slow traffic around the corner, bulbouts on Davis

**Stop #2:** Intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> and Rodney. At the second stop the team assessed the area as an average score of 5. Comments on the second leg of the walk are as follows:

*Positive aspects:* Trees, sidewalks, crosswalks, open line of vision

*Needs Improvement:* sections of sidewalk

*Ideas:* Bulbouts and sidewalk fixing

**Stop #3:** Intersection of N Warren and 11th. At the third stop the team assessed the area as an average score of 6.75. Comments on the third leg of the walk are as follows:

*Positive aspects:* diversity of businesses, school route, sidewalks, crossing, trees,

*Needs Improvement:* fast moving cars,

*Ideas:* Bulbouts, pedestrian automated flasher, potentially add a bike lane or parking on one side so you slow down traffic and can have bulbouts.

**Stop #4:** Intersection Rodney and 11<sup>th</sup>. The group scored this section as a 7.75.

*Positive aspects:* newly done, crosswalks, visible from most sides, lighting

*Ideas:* Make the stoplights have a pedestrian only light

**Summary suggestions:**

1. Improve those last bits of sidewalk.
2. Add in parking or a bike lane on one side of 11<sup>th</sup> so you can add in bulbouts and slow down traffic.
3. On Warren/11<sup>th</sup>, add in a pedestrian activated flashing light.
4. On Rodney/11<sup>th</sup>, change the stoplights to have a pedestrian only time.
5. Use the Complete Streets policy when looking at redesign.

**Next Steps:**

This summary account will be provided to all participants in addition to NMTAC. This will be discussed at the next NMTAC meeting on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Community members can always make requests to the City on their own through the My Helena App.