

Complete Streets

TOD University 2013

Instructions for Exercise 1: A Complete Streets Walkabout

Objectives:

- Put the concepts discussed in the presentation to use on the street by identifying changes that need to be made to create a better environment for walking and biking

Materials:

Notepad and pens

Map of area around the classroom facility (optional)

Camera (optional)

Instructions:

Split into groups of 5 or 6 and identify a note taker. You might also want to bring a camera if this is part of an event where you are collecting information for future use. Take the groups outside for 20 minutes or so and have them walk around the block. Ask the following questions:

- What are people doing out here? Are they walking? Biking? Driving? Waiting for the bus?
- Are there barriers that are affecting the way people are behaving? Are bikes on the sidewalk or in the street? Does the street feel safe enough for biking?
- What are other barriers to walking? How are the sidewalks?
- Are there uneven sidewalks, or potholes?
- On a hot, sunny day, would you feel comfortable walking out here? How would it feel to wait for the bus? What if it were raining?
- What if you were in a wheelchair? Could you cross the street safely?
- Watch how the cars drive – does it feel too fast to you as someone walking?
- Are there unsightly things you would get rid of – garbage, graffiti, etc?
- How do the buildings feel to you? Do they make the sidewalk feel more pleasant or less pleasant? Do you feel safe? What about parking lots and driveways – how do they change the way you feel about walking or biking?

When you return to the classroom, revisit the questions above.