



## **RAPID CITY AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Sandy Smith, Long Range Planner I

DATE: June 18, 2015

RE: 15TP021 – Walk Audit Report

Attached for your information is the Walk Audit Report. The City of Rapid City was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the South Dakota Department of Health to facilitate a walk audit throughout Rapid City. The grant process was from May 2014 – May 2015. During this time community members volunteered to participate with scoring the current walking conditions in Rapid City. There were eleven routes located throughout the City, with one hundred and five participants, and three different walking months.

The process began with planning meetings to discuss the route locations. The routes were created around the areas of interest; some routes had perfect walking conditions – while other routes had poor walking conditions.

While walking the designated routes, the participants scored the area based on how comfortable or uncomfortable they felt walking in this area. The scores were determined after asking the participants a series of questions. Once the walks were completed the results were compiled and analyzed.

The final results from the walk audits are shown on the maps in the report. The final maps review the average score for each question and each street segment. The results from the walk audits will go into the City of Rapid City's future Long Range Transportation Plan.

Summary of results:

- Deadwood Avenue area (Routes 1 and 2) are in need of sidewalks
- Sidewalk connections from the bike path to the Deadwood Avenue area should be made
- Sidewalks should be installed near Feeding South Dakota, as well as sidewalk connection to the nearest bus stop
- Beautification near the downtown area creates a nicer walk and sense of place
- Countdown timers for crosswalks make walkers more comfortable
- Uneven and cracked sidewalks are dangerous and difficult, especially for the elderly and disabled
- Kansas City Street and the bike path are areas that walkers felt the most comfortable; and believed to have the best walking conditions

**Recommendation: Staff recommends acknowledging the report.**