A Study on Walkability

Tom Farnsworth
Director, Parks and Recreation
July 26, 2016
Demographics – Who We Are

Population: 13,646
Households with people under 18 years old: 29%
Households with people over 65 years old: 23%

Capitol City
Class I Municipality
Located on Missouri River

Median Household Income: $52,961
Percent HS graduate or higher: 91%
Individuals below poverty level: 11.7%
Comprehensive Plan

- Locate in compatible areas
- **Provide access**, parking & **safety**
- Partner to maximize the financial resources
- **Maintain the river greenway corridor** for public use & protect encroachment
It is important to have a sense of community ownership.

Team members included Public Health Officials, Pierre School District, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Bike Club, Parks and Recreation Board members.

Meetings were open to the public so others could give input.
Two Primary Goals

Promote design to make healthy living easy and accessible

Promote “Let’s Move!” lifestyle
IBE forms interdisciplinary teams of faculty and students with off-campus professionals to take research to practice.
What We Studied

Walkability Factors

Street connectivity
Land use
Residential density
Trees / vegetation,
Buildings variety
Street entrances
Street experiences
Pedestrian Experience

Great!

Not So Great
No pedestrian trail

Well defined curb, color, railing
Riverfront Trails

CITY OF PIERRE

Flood Damage

Well Defined Curb & Signage
Sidewalks

Poor Condition

ADA Ramps
Capitol Creek Trail – Inner City Connector

- Damaged by Flood
- Deteriorating Surface
2015-16 RTP Grant Project

Redi Rock Design & Safety Railings

New Signage & Visitor Friendly
Walkability Benefits

- Improved health
- Fewer traffic injuries
- Better access
- Higher property values
- Better air quality
- Attracts and retains younger people
Outcomes of Our Work

Landscape Ordinance Adopted

2017 - 2018 Appropriations

New Design Standards

Improved Citizen Access

2 major trail improvements 2018

Grants for walkability improvements

SDPTV feature segment
• Continue to evaluate community needs
• Utilize our “Let’s Move Team”
• Engage decision makers – City Commission
• Follow the Strategic Plan
• Request funding for projects
• Incorporate design strategies to new projects
• Celebrate our success!
• Keep moving as a Healthy, Active Community!