CDC-NACDD Walkability Action Institute (WAI)

- CDC & NACDD recognize that “place” affects health, including how a community’s built infrastructure and environment fosters access and opportunity to eat healthy and be physically active, how safely pedestrians can participate in safe, active transportation -- like walking, biking, or rolling to and from places of interest.

- These and many related issues were detailed in both the 2015 release of the United States Surgeon General’s *Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities* and the *2017 Community Guide Recommendation* to combine interventions to improve pedestrian or bicycle transportation systems with one or more land use and environmental design interventions to increase physical activity.
Objectives of the Walkability Action Institute (WAI)

- **Objective #1**: Using a Course Steering Committee comprised of CDC and national experts, NACDD develops, implements, and evaluates the WAI course.

- **Objective #2**: Through a competitive application process, NACDD and the Course Steering Committee selects interdisciplinary teams comprised of public health, transportation, planning, elected officials, and other relevant partners to participate in the WAI to increase walkability and walkable communities.

- **Objective #3**: NACDD implements pre- & post-course webinars as required deliverables for all selected teams.

- **Objective #4**: NACDD coordinates the design, training, & development of team action plans to be submitted by all participating interdisciplinary teams for aligning each team’s cross-disciplinary efforts toward walkability.

- **Objective #5**: Through collaboration with Active Living by Design, NACDD establishes and implements ongoing Community of Practice groups for each WAI cohort of teams to foster peer engagement and address ongoing implementation concerns.
Reach of the Walkability Action Institute
CDC-NACDD Walkability Action Institute (WAI)

- During the last three years, **32 teams have been selected from 23 states** to participate in the WAI project. After WAI, the teams have participated in an ongoing, virtual, Community of Practice groups (CoP). Through these virtual CoP groups, teams received technical assistance and were able to learn and share their implementation strategies.

- This includes the establishment of **23 new policies, 19 new systems improvements, 73 new environmental change, four new tools developed, seven new resources, 91 new non-PSE outcomes, and 25 additional outcomes** still in progress.

- To date, teams from WAI have **enabled more than 117 improvements impacting more than 13.6 million people.** Collectively, WAI participants have **leveraged $13,843,000** to implement and sustain walkability efforts. Based on the project funding amounts, this yields an approximate **28:1 return on investment (ROI) ratio**!
CDC-NACDD Walkability Action Institute

- A diverse team of course faculty will help Mr. Fenton and NACDD throughout the four days with expert presentations, large group facilitation, roundtable topic discussions, and team action planning assistance.

- The Course Faculty Team serve as leaders in outdoor walk audit and scavenger hunt activities focusing on aspects of the built environment that promote or hinder active transportation. This year’s team includes the following experts:
  - Karma Edwards, NACDD
  - Phil Bors, Active Living By Design
  - Charles Brown, Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy
  - Ian Lockwood, Toole Design Group
  - Leslie Meehan, Tennessee Department of Health
  - Hugh Morris, National Realtors Association
  - Amy Rauworth, National Center on Health, Physical Activity, & Disability
  - Ian Thomas, America Walks

Mark Fenton, Lead Course Director, for NACDD’s Walkability Action Institute
CDC-NACDD Walkability Action Institute

Faculty and Participant Quotes:

- “By getting back to that [to the basics], we can help people live healthier lifestyles. But we can also create better cities…spend less on infrastructure, have a better economy, and have leftover money for other things” – Ian Lockwood P.E., Transportation Engineer for Toole Design Group

- “Walkability is definitely now the focus of all physical activity efforts.” – Heather Gramp, Oregon Team Lead

- “We realized we had a good base for that multi-sector approach … we thought this [WAI] would be a great way to build our capacity…I think there is just a wealth of creativity, passion, and knowledge [from the WAI meeting] that I am really happy to go back to Honolulu with.” – Danielle Schaeffner, Hawaii Department of Health