



November 17, 2009

Pedestrian Activity in Columbus

Just last week the [Dispatch](#) reported on a [Transportation for America](#) report about [pedestrian safety](#). The report states that pedestrian safety is not enough of a priority in the United States.

Agreed that we need more focus on pedestrian safety! Columbus has great plans for the built environment just waiting to be implemented such as the [SafeWalks](#) program and [Bicentennial Bikeways Plan](#). We have a [Mayor](#) who is excited about biking, a [Public Service Division of Mobility Options](#) who is dedicated to all users of the road and several programs here at Columbus Public Health who are working as hard as we can to change the built environment and encourage safe walking and biking. Check out the [Institute for Active Living](#), [Franklin County Safe Communities](#), the [Cardiovascular Health Project](#), and [Healthy Places](#) for more information. The most powerful statement pedestrian statement would be to attach funding to infrastructure to create a pedestrian and cycling friendly environment.

Transportation for America also ranked [pedestrian danger](#) in the largest 52 metro areas. Columbus is ranked 35 out of 52 with #1 being the worst metro for pedestrians. Columbus is, however, the lowest ranked metro in Ohio but just by a little. Cleveland is ranked 42 and Cincinnati is ranked 46. So we are doing well and on the cusp of doing even better!

The Dispatch article is on the heels of another article showing that paying attention to the pedestrian environment is also [good for economic development](#). This would be the second time that walkability and economic development was recently linked (see our [October 9th post](#)).

And sadly, last week we also had a report of a pedestrian fatality on Cleveland Avenue south of Morse. The article reports the pedestrian on Cleveland Avenue was crossing near Belcher Drive and not in a crosswalk. I did a quick look on Google Maps. There is not marked crosswalk on Cleveland Avenue from Innis Road to Morse Road which makes a safe crossing difficult. However, there are roadway intersections. It is important that we remember that road intersections are crosswalks even if they are unmarked. Just a reminder to pedestrians to cross carefully at intersections and to drivers that intersections are crosswalks even if they are unmarked (see [Columbus City Code Title 9 Article 1](#)).

