



# **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY WORKSHOP**

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*It's time for solutions.*

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Transportation Safety Subcommittee

Item #3

June 23, 2008

# Background

- A workshop on pedestrian safety was held on April 29, 2008 at the National Press Club
- Sponsored by WMATA, MWCOCG, AAA
- Over 200 regional leaders and subject matter experts discussed problems
- Breakout sessions produced recommendations for specific actions
  - Education, Engineering, Enforcement

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# Defining the Problem

- Pedestrians account for one fifth of all traffic fatalities in the Washington region, more than 80 deaths per year, and 2300 injuries.
- Crosswalks have lost much of their meaning
  - Motorists don't stop for pedestrians
  - So pedestrians have little incentive to use crosswalks
  - “The safe pedestrian route needs to be made convenient or the convenient route needs to be made safe”
- Walkability, encompassing both safety and access, is important for economic development
  - But free parking and subsidized roads encourage driving and low density development

# State and Regional Policies and Philosophies

- Pedestrian safety is fundamental to transportation safety
  - Every trip begins or ends with a pedestrian trip
  - Walking is increasing with transit ridership
  - More walking means better health, more social interaction, less pollution
- Increase the reach and duration of the Street Smart Campaign
- Develop walkable communities for the future that reflect past successes.

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# Best Practices

- **Establish regional bus stop siting guidance**
- **Use multimodal performance measures for land use and transportation projects**
- **Improve crosswalk design**
- **Consistently adhere to ADA guidelines**
- **Enhance traffic enforcement**
  - **Dedicated traffic units**

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# Best Practices (cont'd)

- **Collect better data**
- **Establish Pedestrian-Safe Speed Limits**
- **Establish consistent laws across the region**
- **Improve education for drivers and pedestrians**

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# Recurring Themes

- Improve data collection and use, including performance measures
- Expand “Street Smart”; start education early and provide it often
- Have consistent laws consistently enforced across the region
- Develop regional bus stop design guidance

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