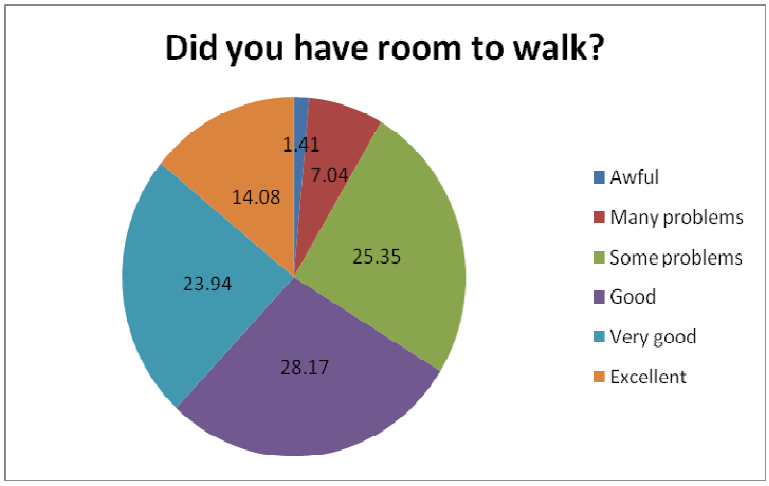
Walkability Assessment Survey Analysis

On April 5, 78 people filled out walkability surveys as they trekked two routes in Ellensburg to assess the walkability of the area. Survey questions were enumerated and analyzed Stata/IC 10.0. Below are the findings from these surveys.

Did you have room to walk?

61% of respondents reported sufficient room to walk, while 39% reported unsufficient room. Many of those reporting sufficient room to walk also reported problems with the sidewalks. The most common complaints included:

- Sidewalks or paths started and stopped (25%)
- Sidewalks were broken or cracked (56%)
- Sidewalks were blocked with poles, signs, shurbbery, dumpsters, etc. (18%)
- No sidewalks, paths, or shoulders (18%)
- Too much traffic (4%)
- Something else (10%)

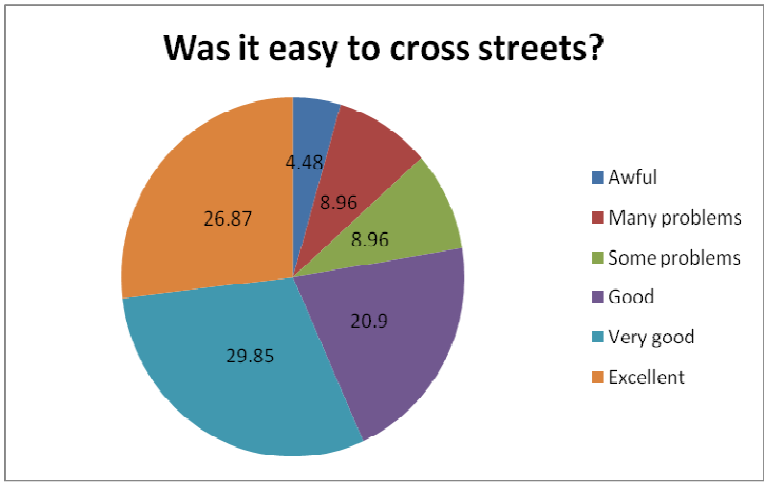


Overall, 66% of walkers rated their room to walk as excellent, very good, or good.

Was it easy to cross streets?

64% of respondents reported ease crossing streets, while 36% reported difficulty. Many of those reporting easy street crossings also reported problems. The most common complaints included:

- Road was too wide (9%)
- Traffic signals made us wait too long or did not give us enough time to cross (20%)
- Needed stried crosswalks or traffic signals (8%)
- Parked cars blocked our view of traffic (1%)
- Needed curb ramps or ramps needed repair (23%)
- Something else (10%)

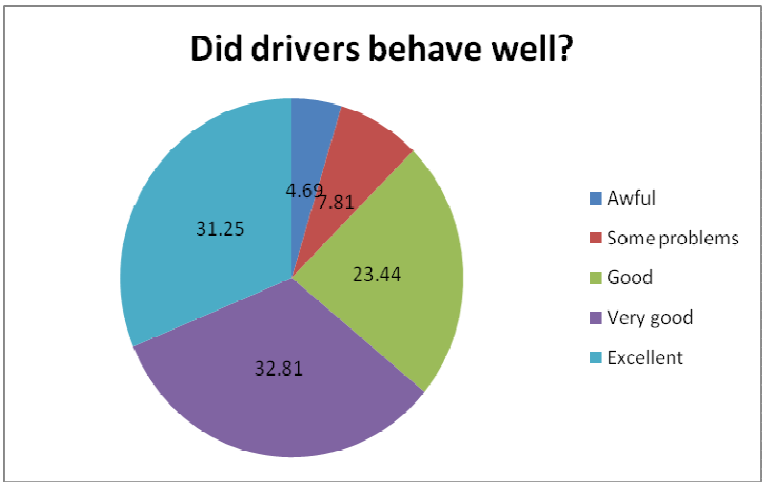


Overall, 78% of walkers thought the ease of street crossing was excellent, very good, or good.

Did drivers behave well?

70% of respondents reported well behaved drivers, while 30% reported poor drivers. Many of those reporting well behaved drivers also reported specific bad driving occurances. The most common complaints included:

- Backed out of driveways without looking (6%)
- Did not yield to people crossing the street (10%)
- Turned into people crossing the street (4%)
- Drove too fast (13%)
- Sped up to make it through traffic lights or drove through traffic lights (4%)
- Something else (4%)



Overall, 88% of walkers rated driver's behavior excellent, very good, or good.

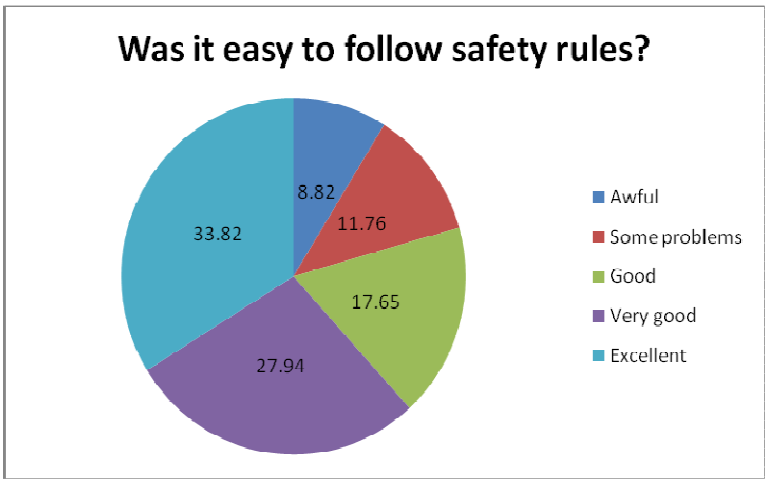
Was it easy to follow safety rules?

91% of respondents reported they (and their child) could cross at crosswalks or where they could see and be seen by drivers.

94% of respondents reported they (and their child) could stop and look left, right, and then left again before crossing streets.

88% of respondents reported they (and their child) could walk on sidewalks or shoulders facing traffic where there were no sidewalks.

81% of respondents reported they (and their child) could cross with the light.

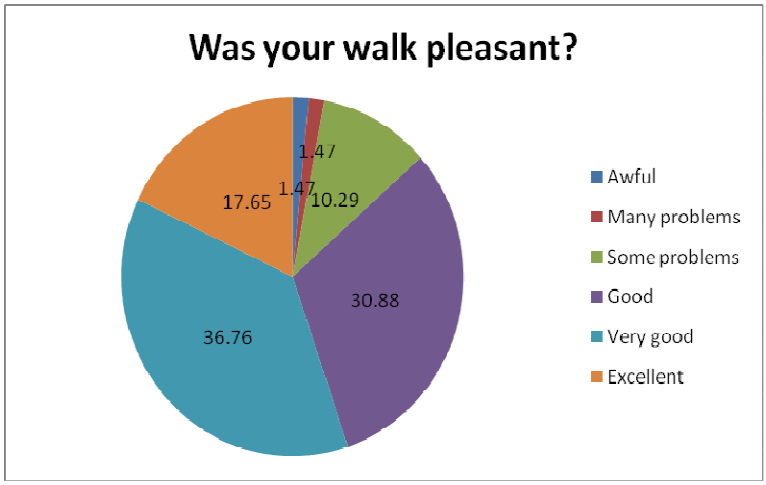


Overall, 79% of walkers thought the ease of following safety rules was excellent, very good, or good.

Was your walk pleasant?

73% of respondents reported their walk to be pleasant, 27% reported unpleasantness in their walk. Several respondents reporting a pleasant walk also identified areas for improvement. The most common complaints included:

- Needed more grass, flowers, or trees (19%)
- Scary dogs (1%)
- Not well lighted (2%)
- Dirty, lots of litter or trash (16%)
- Something else (8%)

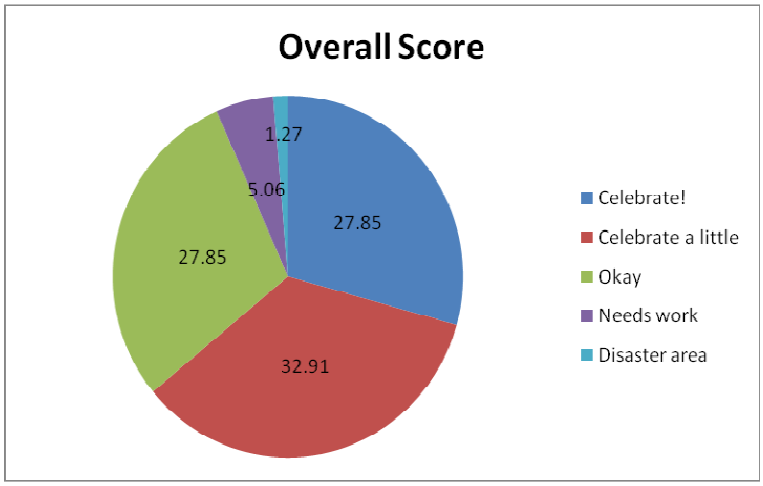


Overall, 85% of walkers rated the pleasantness of their walk excellent, very good, or good.

How does your neighborhood stack up?

Adding the ratings from the previous five sections:

- 28% of walkers decided to "celebrate! You have a great neighborhood for walking"
- 33% of walkers decided to "celebrate a little. Your neighborhood is pretty good"
- 28% of walkers thought that their neighborhood was "okay, but it needs work"
- 5% of walkers thought their neighborhood "needs lots of work. You deserve better than that"
- 1% of walkers thought they should "call out the National Guard before you walk. It's a disaster area"



In their words (other comments):

- Live in country. Walk ditch bank. Is better for joint pain (no pavement)
- Stop signs with buttons on University Way at Pearl great
- Great on campus
- Traffic question should be rated around 8am or 5pm, traffic was low Saturday AM!
- Smoke shop entrance and exit across sidewalk ☹
- Didn't notice lighting, it would be fun to do a night walk survey!
- Downtown businesses have merchandise outside
- Walk was mostly pleasant except University Way – faster cars, noisy, not any big trees in sections; Noisy on University Way, need eatery, espresso, flower stop
- Very ugly behind Kelleher's and Albertsons
- We walk from Sprague & Capitol to the Post Office & it is BAD any way we walk!
- Curb cuts at S. City Hall entrance in the middle of block put the user into traffic Dumb! Dumb! Dumb!
- Poor location of stoplight on University Way. Drivers turning right from Pine do not notice it.
- Crossing main street light is so slow that people dart across when light is RED
- The corner by Dollar Tree has a disadvantage as leaves blow around. However, there is no excuse to not hose the corner by the bench frequently. There is all sorts of mucus (?!) by the bench.
- Sidewalks are rough
- Note – "best" sidewalk is around New City Hall
- We enjoyed the spring flowers just beginning
- Streets and sidewalks same level with no indication of where sidewalk ended and street began. For blind person very dangerous.
- Some streets were missed due to vision and no clear indication of where street began

Specific problem locations:

Problem	*Location*	*Duplicated*
No sidewalks, paths, or shoulders	Pine & 7th	4
Sidewalks or paths started and stopped; sidewalks were broken or cracked; no sidewalks, paths, or shoulders	Pearl & 7th	6
Dirty, lots of litter or trash	Pearl & 7th area	4
Crossing the street – signal not long enough for pedestrians (road too wide); Needed curb ramps or ramps needed repair	University & Pine	8
By the smoke shop there are concrete blocks just sitting on the Blvd	Henry's Smoke shop	2
Pedestrian crosswalk needs repainting	7th & Pine	1
Sidewalks were broken or cracked – needs repairing!	By Kelleher & University Auto	5
Needed more grass, flowers, or trees; no sidewalks	Between Pearl & Pine on 7th	4
Broken and cracked sidewalks	5th , Pearl	2
Needed more grass, flower, or trees	5th,University	1
Bad "rubble" on sidewalk, gravelly	5th, east of Ruby	1
Bad cracks, uneven sidewalk levels	Between 5th & 6th, other places	1
Signal to cross 8th WAY too long a wait, then short time to cross	8th	1
Car parked partly on sidewalk; Cracked sidewalks; Trash	Walnut just before 5th	3
Sidewalk blocked by stop sign	NW corner of 5th & chestnut	4
Slow pedestrian light at chestnut and University Way	Chestnut and University Way	1
No curb cuts at NW corner; Sidewalks were broken or cracked	Chestnut and 7th	2
Concrete barrier at front of central market is in the sidewalk	Central Market	1
Could use a clean up	7th between Pearl & Pine	1
Trim trees, no curb cuts or sidewalk, lots of broken sidewalks, cars parked on sidewalk	7th & Walnut, 6th & Walnut, 8th & Walnut	10
Traffic light [cross walk] too slow; [drivers] sped up to make it through traffic lights or drove through traffic lights, Car ran red light	University Way & Walnut	5
Empty lot – clean up	5th & Sprague	2
Needed more grass, flowers, or trees	Alder & 7th	1
Curb cuts needed repair	9th St.	1
Crossing University St button did not work	University Ave	2